

Survey Finds Overwhelming Political Support for Treating Health Care as Important Government Priority

A vast majority of candidates responding to an AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) survey said they view health care as a basic human right, and a substantial majority specifically endorsed expanding Medicaid eligibility for people living with HIV.

Respondents also expressed broad support for spending more public money on AIDS prevention, care, housing and research, and for protecting the confidentiality of HIV testing and medical records.

The AIDS Foundation of Chicago surveyed all candidates running in the November 7 general election on a wide variety of issues (see page 3 for the questions and AFC positions). More than 60 of some 250 candidates running for election to the U.S. House, the Illinois General Assembly and Cook County offices responded to AFC's survey. In addition, both Governor George W. Bush and Vice President Al Gore sent AFC materials on AIDS policy that, while not directly responsive to AFC survey questions, identified many of their positions on issues of concern to AFC. While not endorsing candidates for public office, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago conducts candidate surveys as a service to Illinois AIDS advocates and the general public. A table of all survey responses begins on page 7.

Bush and Gore Share Positions on AIDS

Without providing specific answers to each question in the AFC survey, both Governor Bush and Vice President Gore indicated strong support for AIDS research and prevention efforts, treating AIDS as an important

governmental priority, and for protecting the privacy of those with HIV/AIDS.

Governor Bush and Vice President Gore both specifically identified the Ryan White CARE Act as an important tool in the fight against AIDS, and Vice President Gore specifically indicated that he would fight for increased funding under the CARE Act. Governor Bush specified that he would support significant government-funded research, and that he would work to support tax credits for researchers and companies doing work on AIDS and HIV.

Both candidates expressed support for AFC's position that the privacy of those living with AIDS and HIV must be protected, but neither candidate endorsed programs designed to expand access to sterile syringes for injection drug users—a measure that AFC supports because it has been shown to decrease HIV transmission without increasing drug use.

The full text of each candidate's submission to the AIDS Foundation of Chicago can be viewed at:
www.aidschicago.org/policy/candidate_questionnaire.html

If you are interested in obtaining a hard copy of either candidate's submission, please contact AFC at (312) 922-2322.

Federal, State, and Local Candidates Voice Strong Support for Key AIDS Policy Positions Endorsed by AFC

Among several important trends, a majority of candidates showed support for increasing governmental efforts aimed at meeting the various needs of people living with or at-risk for HIV/AIDS. In keeping with Congress's recent and unanimous reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act, 77% of all candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives indicated support for increasing the amount of federal funds directed towards AIDS prevention, care, housing and research programs.

The vast majority of candidates for state office endorsed legislative efforts to increase health care coverage in the state. In support of AFC's goal that HIV-positive, asymptomatic people have access to the treatments that postpone the onset of AIDS, a full 83% of General Assembly candidates support the expansion of Medicaid eligibility to encompass low-income, uninsured HIV-positive individuals *prior* to disability.

Also in accord with AFC's position that all Americans should have comprehensive, quality health care, virtually all state candidates (98%) endorsed legislation to help small businesses provide such insurance to employees. Also, more than three-quarters (77%) of federal candidates, fully 93% of state candidates, and *all* Cook County candidates, endorsed viewing health care as a basic human right.

There was broad support from state and local candidates (74% and 75%, respectively) for legalized syringe exchange programs, but only

46% of the federal candidates endorsed this proven prevention measure. However, a full 67% of state candidates support the non-prescription pharmacy sale of sterile syringes to adults. This is noteworthy because the Illinois House just passed House Bill 298—a syringe access bill—and AFC is now working with a broad-based coalition of doctors, nurses, and public health advocates to support the passage of this bill in the State Senate.

The AIDS Foundation of Chicago strongly supports all efforts to expand access to sterile syringes in recognition of the conclusive research showing that such measures help reduce the transmission of HIV *without* increasing drug use.

Finally, the following 16 candidates indicated full support of AFC positions: for U.S. Congress, Jesse Jackson, Jr. (D), Danny Davis (D), Janice Schakowsky (D); for Illinois Senate, John Cullerton (D), Carol Ronen (D) and Sue Walton (D); for Illinois House, Judy Erwin (D), Sara Feigenholtz (D), Harry Osterman (D), Barbara Flynn Currie (D), Larry McKeon (D), Richard Sass (D), Robert West (R), Mike Bost (R); for Cook County Clerk, Dorothy Brown (D); for Cook County State's Attorney, Richard Devine (D) and for Cook County Recorder, Eugene Moore (D).

Established in 1985 to coordinate local response to the epidemic, AFC educates the general public, lawmakers and others about health care policy and laws related to HIV and AIDS as a central part of its mission. Learn more about AFC by visiting us online at www.aidschicago.org

AIDS Foundation of Chicago 2000 Candidate Questionnaire

The survey consisted of 16 questions: seven posed to all candidates; two just for U.S. House candidates; five for Illinois General Assembly candidates; and two for Cook County candidates. Respondents were asked to answer “yes,” “no,” or “don’t know” to each. Text of the questions, with AFC’s corresponding position, follow:

Questions for all candidates:

A. Do you support free, anonymous and confidential HIV antibody testing and counseling?

AFC answer: YES. Free, anonymous and confidential testing is a critical way to reach individuals at high-risk with HIV prevention education, as well as appropriate counseling and referral services for those who test HIV-positive.

B. Do you support mandatory HIV testing under any circumstances? *AFC answer: NO.*

Voluntary testing with counseling is a useful medical practice, but mandatory HIV testing constitutes a poor use of resources, breaches confidentiality, and may alienate individuals at high-risk for HIV from health care and treatment.

C. Do you believe that health care workers should have the right to refuse to treat people living with HIV or AIDS? *AFC answer: NO.* Standard medical practice requires adherence to federal regulations to protect both health care workers and patients against blood-borne pathogens, including HIV. These precautions make it medically unnecessary to discriminate against HIV-positive patients or health care workers.

D. Do you support legalized syringe exchange programs as a way to prevent the spread of HIV among injection drug users, their partners, and their children? *AFC answer: YES.* Syringe exchange programs have been proven to help stem the spread of HIV without increasing drug use.

E. Do you believe that jails and prisons should segregate HIV-positive inmates from the rest of the incarcerated population? *AFC answer: NO.* Requiring vast resources that are better spent on HIV prevention and care services, such segregation promotes a false sense of security among inmates and corrections personnel, violates inmates’ confidentiality, and does little to stem the spread of HIV in correctional facilities.

F. Do you believe that health care is a basic human right? *AFC answer: YES.* Until health care is treated as a basic human right, those living with chronic and terminal illnesses will continue to face inordinate obstacles in accessing adequate and high-quality health care.

G. Do you support mandatory HIV testing of pregnant women or newborns as a way to prevent mother-to-child HIV transmission? *AFC answer: NO.* Mandatory testing programs discourage women from seeking prenatal health care for fear of AIDS-related discrimination and stigmatization. Supporting HIV counseling and voluntary HIV testing of all pregnant women, and increasing access to prenatal care for HIV-positive women is the best, most cost-effective method for reducing the rate of perinatal HIV transmission.

Questions for candidates for federal offices:

H. Do you support increased federal funding for AIDS prevention, care, housing and research programs? *AFC answer: YES.* A sound government response to the expanding AIDS epidemic must ensure adequate funding for prevention, care, housing and research programs.

I. Do you support federal legislation to protect the confidentiality of medical record information? *AFC answer: YES.* Affirming individuals' rights to privacy, Congress should enact laws to strengthen existing state laws about medical record confidentiality.

Questions for candidates for Illinois state offices:

J. Do you support comprehensive, age-appropriate health education that includes sexuality and HIV prevention education for grades kindergarten through 12 in all Illinois public schools? *AFC answer: YES.* Young people who receive comprehensive, age-appropriate, health, sexuality and HIV/STD prevention education are more likely to delay having their first sexual experience than those who do not receive such education. Once sexually active, the former group is more likely than the latter to use condoms.

K. Would you support expanding Medicaid coverage for low-income, uninsured HIV-positive individuals who are not yet disabled? *AFC answer: YES.* Current rules prevent low-income uninsured HIV-positive people from accessing Medicaid coverage until they are disabled by AIDS. A humane and more cost-effective policy would allow income eligible, asymptomatic HIV-positive people, to access Medicaid coverage for the medical care that postpones the onset of AIDS and increases the quality of life of those living with HIV.

L. Do you support non-prescription pharmacy sales of sterile syringes to adults as a means of preventing the spread of HIV among syringe users, their partners, and their children? *AFC answer: YES.* Increasing access to sterile syringes has been scientifically proven to reduce the transmission of HIV without increasing or promoting drug use. Currently, Illinois is one of five states in the United States that requires a prescription for an adult to purchase sterile syringes.

M. Do you support requiring internet filters in public schools and libraries that limit access to web sites that contain sexually explicit, HIV prevention information? *AFC answer: NO.* Restrictive and ineffective filtering software prohibits students from accessing a wide variety of valuable and necessary health information, including critical information about preventing HIV transmission.

N. Would you support state legislation to make it easier for small businesses to offer insurance to their employees with disabilities or chronic health problems? *AFC answer: YES.* Many small businesses—particularly those with employees who are living with HIV or other chronic diseases—cannot provide health insurance to their workers, due to the high cost of premiums and prescription drug benefits, leaving thousands of workers in Illinois uninsured and dependent upon publically funded health services. Legislation should increase access to adequate and high quality health care for all workers and especially for those with disabilities or chronic health problems.

Questions for candidates for Cook County offices:

O. Do you support County funding for AIDS education, prevention and care programs – including pharmaceuticals – within the Bureau of Health Services? *AFC answer: YES.* Continued funding is necessary to sustain County-wide AIDS services.

P. Do you support continued County funding for indigent care through clinics of Cook County Health Services? *AFC answer: YES.* As the epidemic continues to spread among the economically disadvantaged, Cook County clinic services remain critical to meeting the emerging medical needs, including HIV, of this vulnerable population.

Candidate Responses to Survey

Responses to the survey are presented in the table beginning below. Based on information provided by the Illinois State Board of Elections, AFC sent questionnaires to candidates running in Illinois for U.S. House, State Senate, State House, and Cook County offices in the November general election. The table reflects the complete list (not including presidential candidates) of the races for which AFC received at least one completed questionnaire. Only where responding candidates are running unopposed are they the only candidate listed under their district. Where applicable, the incumbent candidate's name is in bold. Party affiliation is included in parentheses: "D" for Democrat, "R" for Republican.

Each time a candidate answer was in agreement with the policy endorsed by the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, a "+" was entered in the box corresponding to the question. Likewise, a "-" was entered for an answer that opposed AFC's position, a "?" was assigned to every question answered with "don't know," and "n" signifies that no response was provided. Finally, "L" appears on a few occasions, and indicates that the candidate indicated their preference for "local control" of the issue. Percentages that appear at the end of each row were calculated by dividing the number of times the candidate's response matched the position of AFC by the total number of questions posed to that candidate.

FEDERAL – UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES										
+ = supports AFC position - = opposes AFC position ? = doesn't know n = no answer										
· All Candidates · • Federal Offices •										
US HOUSE	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	
1ST DISTRICT										
Bobby Rush (D)										
Raymond Wardingly (R)	?	-	-	-	-	?	?	?	+	11%
2ND DISTRICT										
Jesse Jackson, Jr. (D)										
Robert Gordon III (R)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
3RD DISTRICT										
William Lipinski (D)										
Karl Groth (R)	-	-	+	-	+	-	?	-	+	33%
7TH DISTRICT										
Danny Davis (D)										
Robert Dallas (R)	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	+	66%
9TH DISTRICT										
Janice Schakowsky (D)										
Dennis Driscoll (R)	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	33%
10TH DISTRICT										
Lauren Gash (D)										
Mark Kirk (R)	+	+	+	?	+	+	?	+	+	78%
11TH DISTRICT										
James Stevenson (D)										
Jerry Weller (R)	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	44%
13TH DISTRICT										
Thomas Mason (D)										
Judy Biggert (R)	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	78%

FEDERAL – UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

+ = supports AFC position - = opposes AFC position ? = doesn't know n = no answer

US HOUSE	All Candidates							Federal Offices		
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	
17TH DISTRICT										
Lane Evans (D)	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	89%
Mark Baker (R)										
18TH DISTRICT										
Joyce Harant (D)	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	+	+	89%
Ray LaHood (R)										
19TH DISTRICT										
David Phelps (D)										
Jim Eatherly (R)	+	?	+	-	?	+	-	?	+	44%
20TH DISTRICT										
Jeffrey Cooper (D)										
John Shimkus (R)	+	n	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	67%

ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SENATE

+ = supports AFC position - = opposes AFC position ? = doesn't know n = no answer

ILLINOIS SENATE	All Candidates							Illinois State Offices					
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	J	K	L	M	N	
6TH DISTRICT													
John Cullerton (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Eric Solis (R)													
9TH DISTRICT													
Carol Ronen (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
27TH DISTRICT													
Sue Walton (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Wendell Jones (R)													
28TH DISTRICT													
Phil Pritzker (D)	+	+	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	83%
Dave Sullivan (R)													
33RD DISTRICT													
Steve Rauschenberger (R)	+	+	+	+	+	n	+	n	+	+	+	+	83%

ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

+ = supports AFC position - = opposes AFC position ? = doesn't know n = no answer

ILLINOIS HOUSE	All Candidates							Illinois State Offices					
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	J	K	L	M	N	
7TH DISTRICT													
Karen Yarbrough (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	+	83%
11TH DISTRICT													
Judy Erwin (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Shawn Hanley (R)													
12TH DISTRICT													
Sara Feigenholtz (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Robert Huntington (R)													
16TH DISTRICT													
Louis Lang (D)	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	92%
17TH DISTRICT													
Harry Osterman (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Paul Bonilla (R)	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	42%
18TH DISTRICT													
Julie Hamos (D)	+	-	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	83%
20TH DISTRICT													
Richard Bradley (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	92%
Joseph Anthony Hornowski (R)													
25TH DISTRICT													
Barbara Flynn Currie (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
29TH DISTRICT													
David Miller (D)	+	+	+	+	?	+	?	+	+	-	?	+	67%
31ST DISTRICT													
Todd Stroger (D)	+	+	+	+	?	+	?	+	?	?	+	+	67%
34TH DISTRICT													
Larry McKeon (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Vincent Lengerich (R)	+	?	+	?	+	?	+	+	+	?	+	+	67%
35TH DISTRICT													
Maggie Crotty (D)	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	L	+	?	-	+	67%
Wendy Loftus (R)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	?	+	83%
41ST DISTRICT													
Gene Tenner (D)	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	83%
Mary Lou Cowlishaw (R)													
42ND DISTRICT													
Bonnie Kunkel (D)	+	-	+	+	?	+	n	+	+	+	+	+	75%
Timothy Schmitz (R)													
50TH DISTRICT													
Stephen Brueswitz (D)	+	n	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	92%
Tom Johnson (R)													

ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

+ = supports AFC position - = opposes AFC position ? = doesn't know n = no answer

ILLINOIS HOUSE	All Candidates							Illinois State Offices						
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	J	K	L	M	N		
51ST DISTRICT														
Barbara Nash (D)	+	-	+	+	?	+	+		+	+	-	+	+	75%
Sidney Mathias (R)														
52ND DISTRICT														
Mark Beaubien (R)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		+	?	+	?	N	75%
53RD DISTRICT														
Richard Sass (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	100%
Terry Parke (R)														
55TH DISTRICT														
Mary Beth Tighe (D)	+	+	+	-	+	+	+		?	+	-	-	+	67%
Rosemary Mulligan (R)	+	+	+	+	?	+	+		+	?	+	+	+	83%
57TH DISTRICT														
Jody Wadhwa (D)														
Elizabeth Coulson (R)	+	?	+	+	+	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	92%
59TH DISTRICT														
Susan Garrett (D)	+	+	+	+	?	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	92%
Cesilie Price (R)														
60TH DISTRICT														
Karen May (D)	+	+	+	+	?	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	92%
Nancy Flouret (R)														
62ND DISTRICT														
Spiro Georgeson (D)	+	?	+	?	?	+	-		?	+	-	+	+	50%
Timothy Osmond (R)	+	-	+	+	+	-	?		+	-	+	+	+	67%
64TH DISTRICT														
Jeannine Smith (D)														
Rosemary Kurtz (R)	+	+	?	?	?	+	+		+	?	+	?	+	58%
67TH DISTRICT														
Douglas Scott (D)	+	?	+	+	+	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	92%
74TH DISTRICT														
Gerald Bork (D)	+	-	-	-	-	+	-		+	?	-	?	+	33%
Ronald Lawfer (R)														
79TH DISTRICT														
Robert Ryan (D)														
Robert West (R)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	100%
83RD DISTRICT														
Phil Mullins (D)	+	+	+	?	+	+	?		+	+	?	+	+	75%
Brent Hassert (R)														
85TH DISTRICT														
J. Philip Novak (D)	+	?	?	+	?	+	-		+	+	+	?	+	58%
Steve Barach (R)														

ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES													
+ = supports AFC position - = opposes AFC position ? = doesn't know n = no answer													
ILLINOIS HOUSE	· All Candidates ·							· Illinois State Offices ·					
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	J	K	L	M	N	
88TH DISTRICT													
John Owen (D)	+	?	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	75%
Dan Brady (R)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	L	+	+	L	+	83%
92ND DISTRICT													
Ricca Slone (D)	+	-	?	+	+	+	?	+	?	+	+	?	58%
94TH DISTRICT													
Josh Watson (D)	+	+	+	?	+	+	?	+	+	?	?	+	67%
Donald Moffit (R)													
107TH DISTRICT													
Ben Klebba (D)													
John Jones (R)	+	?	-	-	-	?	?	?	+	-	?	+	25%
DISTRICT													
Chuck Hartke (D)	+	+	+	?	?	+	?	?	?	?	+	+	50%
115TH DISTRICT													
Mike Bost (R)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%

COOK COUNTY OFFICES										
+ = supports AFC - = opposes AFC ? = doesn't know n = no answer										
COOK COUNTY	· All Candidates ·							• Cook Co •		
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	O	P	
CLERK										
Dorothy Brown (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Nancy Mynard (R)	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	78%
Joseph Schreiner (LIB)										
STATE'S ATTORNEY										
Richard Devine (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
David Gaughan (R)										
RECORDER										
Eugene Moore (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Arthur Sutton (R)										