

AFC Polls Candidates on AIDS-Related Issues

Respondents Support Healthcare Expansion for People with HIV/AIDS

Sixty-three Illinois candidates for public office responded to the AIDS Foundation of Chicago's (AFC) 2004 candidate survey. More than three-quarters of respondents indicated strong support for AFC's positions.

Most respondents endorsed efforts to expand access to healthcare programs for people living with HIV/AIDS. They also expressed support for comprehensive, science-based sexuality education in schools.

Most federal candidates supported increased research into new HIV prevention technology and expanded public benefits for people with HIV/AIDS. Among candidates seeking state elected office, there was strong support for HIV education and outreach within correctional facilities.

In addition to the survey, AFC invited U.S. Senate candidates Albert J. Franzen (I), Alan Keyes (R), Jerry Kohn (L), and Barack Obama (D) to submit statements on their HIV/AIDS positions. Only State Senator Obama responded; his statement can be viewed online at www.aidschicago.org.

About the survey:

AFC asked congressional candidates 16 questions on healthcare, disease prevention, research, public benefits, immigration, anti-discrimination policies, and housing. The questions and responses can be found in the first section of this report on pages 2-4.

AFC asked candidates running for the Illinois General Assembly 11 questions regarding healthcare, disease prevention, corrections, and housing. The questions and responses

can be found in the second section of this report on pages 5-7.

Candidates were asked to answer "yes", "no" or "don't know" to HIV/AIDS policy questions. Only races in which one or more candidate responded to the survey are included in this report.

AFC sent the survey to a total of 266 candidates who registered for U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, Illinois Senate, and Illinois House of Representatives elections, and received responses from 63 of them for a return rate of 24%.

Each election year, AFC surveys candidates on AIDS-related policies and publishes the results to educate voters and the general public. AFC is a non-partisan organization and does not endorse candidates for public office.

Vote on November 2

AFC urges all eligible individuals to vote in the general election on **Tuesday, November 2, 2004**. For additional information or to find your polling place, please contact the Illinois Board of Elections at 800-923-VOTE or visit www.elections.state.il.us.

If you will be out of your voting area on election day or are physically unable to travel to your polling place, you may request an absentee ballot application, due no later than October 28, 2004. Request an absentee application in person at your local Board of Elections office or call the Illinois State Board of Elections at 1-800-923-VOTE to receive your application in the mail.

Questions Posed to Candidates for Congress

HEALTHCARE

1. Do you support upholding Medicaid's entitlement status and continuing federal matching funds for state Medicaid expenses?

AFC ANSWER: Yes—Medicaid is the single largest payer of AIDS care in the United States. The entitlement status of Medicaid affords low-income people who qualify for Medicaid access to the comprehensive medical services and life-saving medications they need to survive.

2. Do you support Medicaid funding given to states in a block grant?

AFC ANSWER: No—Proposals to block grant Medicaid do not guarantee that states will have adequate resources to provide care to all eligible individuals.

3. Do you support the Early Treatment for HIV Act, which would allow state Medicaid programs to cover economically eligible people living with HIV before the disease renders them totally work-impaired?

AFC ANSWER: Yes—Providing Medicaid coverage to low-income, non-disabled people with HIV will help them prevent a disabling decline in health and save public programs money that would otherwise be spent on costly hospitalizations and emergency room visits.

4. Do you support significantly increased government funding for all titles of the Ryan White CARE Act, including the AIDS Drug Assistance Program, to provide medical and supportive services for the increasing number of people living with HIV/AIDS?

AFC ANSWER: Yes—ADAP provides life-saving medications to uninsured and under-insured people living with HIV/AIDS who would otherwise have no access to treatment.

5. Do you support a Ryan White CARE Act program that continues to target funds for primary care and essential support services in order to meet the complex needs of people living with HIV/AIDS?

AFC ANSWER: Yes—CARE Act programs are a lifeline for hundreds of thousands of low-income, uninsured Americans with HIV/AIDS and must be expanded to meet the needs of the growing HIV-positive population.

DISEASE PREVENTION

1. Do you support increased funding for comprehensive and science-based HIV prevention strategies to reduce the spread of HIV infection?

AFC ANSWER: Yes—Until there is an effective vaccine, microbicide, or cure, comprehensive and science-based HIV education and prevention services are the best weapon in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

2. Given the overwhelming body of evidence demonstrating the efficacy of needle exchange as HIV prevention, do you support lifting the ban on federal funding for needle exchange programs as a strategy to reduce HIV transmission among injection drug users, their partners, and children?

AFC ANSWER: Yes—Scientific research has proven that increased access to sterile syringes reduces new HIV infections without increasing drug use.

3. Do you support financial incentives for “abstinence-only” sexuality education, and disincentives for medically accurate, comprehensive “abstinence-plus” sexuality education?

AFC ANSWER: No—All public school students should receive health education that is comprehensive, age-appropriate, and medically accurate so that they learn about abstinence and risk-reduction and can make informed choices about how to protect themselves from HIV, other sexually transmitted diseases, and unintended pregnancy.

RESEARCH

1. Do you support increased government funding and incentives for anti-HIV vaccines, microbicides, simplified antiretroviral therapies, and other needed global health technology?

AFC ANSWER: Yes—The United States must remain at the forefront of biomedical research to ensure continued scientific breakthroughs in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

PUBLIC BENEFITS

1. Do you support new disability protections as part of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) reauthorization that would require a medically appropriate assessment of barriers to employment for beneficiaries with chronic, pre-disabling conditions to promote independence?

AFC ANSWER: Yes—TANF should provide disabled recipients with individualized training, education, and accommodation plans that help them address barriers to work. Those too sick to meet TANF's work requirements should not be penalized or denied benefits.

2. Do you support an HIV welfare sanction exemption that would allow participation in workforce, training, and other programs but protect HIV-positive welfare beneficiaries from losing healthcare and other supports due to welfare sanctions?

AFC ANSWER: Yes—HIV-positive welfare recipients who are well enough to pursue workforce training and development opportunities should be allowed to do so without risking a loss or interruption in essential healthcare benefits.

IMMIGRATION AND ANTI-DISCRIMINATION POLICIES

1. Do you support the removal of the discriminatory and unnecessary ban against HIV-positive people seeking to enter and/or immigrate to the United States?

AFC ANSWER: Yes—Barring HIV-positive individuals from entering the U.S. is discriminatory and ineffective as an HIV prevention strategy.

2. Do you support increasing access to housing and healthcare services for HIV-positive, undocumented immigrants?

AFC ANSWER: Yes—All individuals with HIV/AIDS need access to healthcare regardless of their immigration status. This access not only helps them maintain their health, but also provides them with essential HIV prevention services.

3. Do you support strengthening the Americans with Disabilities Act with legislation to ensure equal opportunities for employment, healthcare, government services, and accommodations for disabled Americans with disabilities?

AFC ANSWER: Yes—The federal government must work to end the stigma and discrimination faced by many people living with HIV/AIDS so they can live full and productive lives.

HOUSING

1. Do you support increased funding for the Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) program, rent subsidies for people with disabilities, and incentives for affordable housing development?

AFC ANSWER: Yes—Safe, affordable, and stable housing is critical to maintaining the health and well-being of people with HIV/AIDS. Housing instability and homelessness are associated with increased risk for contracting HIV and can make it impossible for people with HIV/AIDS to adhere to their medication regimens.

2. Do you believe Section 8 funding should be given to states as a block grant?

AFC ANSWER: No—States are likely to receive less federal funding under a block grant than they receive currently for the low-income housing vouchers program. With block grants, states could also offer fewer consumer protections and allot fewer units to people with disabilities.

GLOBAL AIDS

1. Will you support increased funding for international HIV/AIDS programs and initiatives to at least \$30 billion by 2008 with at least half directed to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria?

AFC ANSWER: Yes—The United States must lead the global fight against AIDS and ensure that all people living with and at risk for HIV receive immediate and high-quality HIV prevention and care services.

Candidates for United States Senate

To read the candidates' written responses, visit www.adsichicago.org.

Y= Yes N = No ? = Doesn't know ()=no answer *Italics* denote incumbent candidates. *Answers in **Bold** denote agreement with AFC.

	1 Healthcare	2 Healthcare	3 Healthcare	4 Healthcare	5 Healthcare	1 Prevention	2 Prevention	3 Prevention	1 Research	1 Public Benefits	2 Public Benefits	1 Immigration & Discrimination	2 Immigration & Discrimination	3 Immigration & Discrimination	1 Housing	2 Housing	1 Global AIDS
U.S. Senate																	
Albert J. Franzen (I)																	
Alan Keyes (R)																	
Jerry Kohn (L)																	
Barack Obama (D)	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y

Candidates for United States House of Representatives

Y= Yes N = No ? = Doesn't know ()=no answer *Italics* denote incumbent candidates. *Answers in **Bold** denote agreement with AFC.

	1 Healthcare	2 Healthcare	3 Healthcare	4 Healthcare	5 Healthcare	1 Prevention	2 Prevention	3 Prevention	1 Research	1 Public Benefits	2 Public Benefits	1 Immigration & Discrimination	2 Immigration & Discrimination	3 Immigration & Discrimination	1 Housing	2 Housing	1 Global AIDS
U.S. House																	
1st District																	
Bobby L. Rush (D)	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Raymond G. Wardingley (R)	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	?	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	?	Y	Y	Y
2nd District																	
Jesse L. Jackson, Jr. (D)	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Stephanie Sailor (L)																	
5th District																	
Bruce Best (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
Rahm Emanuel (D)	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y		N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
6th District																	
Christine Cegelis (D)	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	?	Y	Y	Y	?	Y
Henry J. Hyde (R)																	
7th District																	
Danny K. Davis (D)	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Antonio Davis-Fairman (R)																	
8th District																	
Melissa Bean (D)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			N	Y			Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Philip Crane (R)																	
9th District																	
Kurt J. Eckhardt (R)																	
Janice D. Schakowsky (D)	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
13th District																	
Gloria Schor Anderson (D)	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	?	?	Y	Y	N	?
Judy Biggert (R)																	
14th District																	
J. Dennis Hastert (R)																	
Ruben Zamora (D)	Y	?	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	Y
15th District																	
David Gill (D)	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	Y	Y	N	Y
Tim Johnson (R)																	
16th District																	
John H. Kutsch (D)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	?	Y	Y	?	Y
Donald A. Manzullo (R)																	
17th District																	
Lane A. Evans (D)	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y			Y	Y	N	Y
Andrea Lane Zinga (R)																	
19th District																	
Tim Bagwell (D)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
John M. Shimkus (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y			Y	Y	N	Y

Questions Posed to State Legislative Candidates

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

1. **Would you support the state of Illinois receiving federal Medicaid funds in the form of a block grant as opposed to the current system through which the federal government provides Illinois with funds to match a portion of state expenditures?**

AFC ANSWER: No—Proposals to block grant Medicaid do not guarantee that states will have adequate resources to provide care to all eligible individuals.

2. **Do you support the state's AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) that relies on a strong federal-state funding partnership to provide life-saving medications to low-income people with HIV/AIDS who have no other access to treatment?**

AFC ANSWER: Yes—ADAP provides life-saving medications to uninsured and under-insured people living with HIV/AIDS who would otherwise have no access to HIV/AIDS treatment.

3. **Do you support increasing state funding for substance abuse treatment programs so that people struggling with addiction have access to drug treatment on demand?**

AFC ANSWER: Yes—The link between addiction and HIV is well established. Individuals who successfully complete drug or alcohol treatment are less likely to share syringes or engage in high-risk sexual behaviors.

HIV PREVENTION

1. **Do you support creating a statewide standard for comprehensive, age-appropriate, and medically accurate health education, which includes sexuality and HIV prevention, for all public school students?**

AFC ANSWER: Yes—All public school students should receive health education that is comprehensive, age-appropriate, and medically accurate so that they learn about abstinence and risk-reduction and can make informed choices to prevent HIV infection, other sexually transmitted infections, and unintended pregnancy.

2. **Do you support increasing state funding for community-based HIV prevention services that provide scientifically-proven interventions?**

AFC ANSWER: Yes—Until there is an effective vaccine, microbicide, or cure, comprehensive HIV prevention services remain our best hope to control the spread of the epidemic.

3. **Do you think the Illinois Department of Public Health should work to raise awareness of Illinois' AIDS epidemic through increased community outreach and public awareness campaigns?**

AFC ANSWER: Yes—Raising public awareness and promoting HIV prevention are our best tools for slowing the epidemic and improving the lives of those who are affected by HIV/AIDS.

4. **Do you support making HIV counseling, testing services, prevention information, and prevention supplies available at public buildings including Public Aid offices and drivers license facilities?**

AFC ANSWER: Yes—State government must explore new and innovative ways to reach the public with essential HIV prevention, counseling, and testing services.

CORRECTIONS

1. **Do you support mandatory HIV prevention education for all inmates in state correctional facilities?**

AFC ANSWER: Yes—Rates of HIV can be two or three times higher in correctional settings than among the general public. Inmates given HIV prevention education will be more likely to seek HIV testing and take steps to protect themselves and their loved ones from infection.

2. **Do you support mandating the Illinois Department of Corrections to ensure that all HIV-positive inmates are given referrals to community-based HIV prevention and care programs when they are released or paroled?**

AFC ANSWER: Yes—Ensuring that HIV-positive inmates link to medical and social services upon release will not only help them maintain good health, but will also help them effectively implement HIV prevention strategies.

HOUSING

1. **Do you support prohibiting discrimination in housing based on a renter's lawful source of income?**
AFC ANSWER: Yes—Safe, affordable, and stable housing is critical to maintaining the health and well-being of people living with HIV/AIDS. Housing instability and homelessness are associated with increased risk for contracting HIV and can make it impossible for people with HIV/AIDS to adhere to their medication regimens.

2. **Do you support establishing a rental assistance program for low-income individuals and families in need of stable and affordable housing by increasing fees on recorded real-estate documents?**
AFC ANSWER: Yes—Illinois is facing a severe shortage of safe and affordable housing for low-income individuals and families. Increasing the fee on real estate records to create a rental assistance fund for those who need it will help ensure that more people are able to live in safe and decent housing.

Candidates for Illinois State Senate

Y= Yes N= No ? = Doesn't know ()=no answer *Italics denote incumbent candidates.* *Answers in **Bold** denote agreement with AFC.

Candidates	1 Healthcare	2 Healthcare	3 Healthcare	1 Prevention	2 Prevention	3 Prevention	4 Prevention	1 Corrections	2 Corrections	1 Housing	2 Housing	Candidates	1 Healthcare	2 Healthcare	3 Healthcare	1 Prevention	2 Prevention	3 Prevention	4 Prevention	1 Corrections	2 Corrections	1 Housing	2 Housing	
3rd District												29th District												
<i>Mattie Hunter (D)</i>	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	Daniel R. Bryant (R)	?	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	?	Y	Y	Y	N	
8th District												<i>Susan Garrett (D)</i>	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Joseph R. Hedrick (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	32nd District												
<i>Ira I. Silverstein (D)</i>												<i>Pamela J. Althoff (R)</i>		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	
20th District												Patrick Ouimet (D)												
<i>Iris Y. Martinez (D)</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	35th District												
26th District												<i>J. Bradley Burzynski (R)</i>												
Nancy L. Peterson (D)												Bruce T. Washington (D)	?	Y	?	Y	?	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	Y	
<i>William E. Peterson (R)</i>	Y	Y	Y	?	Y	Y	?	Y	Y	Y	?													

Candidates for Illinois State House of Representatives

Y= Yes N= No ? = Doesn't know ()=no answer *Italics* denote incumbent candidates. *Answers in **Bold** denote agreement with AFC.

Candidates	1 Healthcare	2 Healthcare	3 Healthcare	1 Prevention	2 Prevention	3 Prevention	4 Prevention	1 Corrections	2 Corrections	1 Housing	2 Housing	Candidates	1 Healthcare	2 Healthcare	3 Healthcare	1 Prevention	2 Prevention	3 Prevention	4 Prevention	1 Corrections	2 Corrections	1 Housing	2 Housing	
6th District												47th District												
<i>Patricia A. Bailey (D)</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	<i>Patricia R. Bellock (R)</i>		Y	Y		Y	Y	?	Y	Y			
7th District												James Cavallo (D)												
<i>Karen A. Yarbrough (D)</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	48th District												
8th District												<i>James H. Meyer (R)</i>												
<i>Calvin Giles (D)</i>												Guy Rosenthal (D)	?	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	?
Glenn L. Harris (R)												51st District												
Julie Samuels (G)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Nancy Shepherds on (D)	?	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
10th District												<i>Ed Sullivan, Jr. (R)</i>												
<i>Annazette R. Collins (D)</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	52nd District												
Thomas M. Swiss (R)												<i>Mark H. Beaubien, Jr. (R)</i>	?	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
11th District												Larry Feigen (D)	?	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	?
Jason J. Briggeman (L)	?	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	57th District												
<i>John A. Fritchey (D)</i>	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	?	<i>Elaine Nekritz (D)</i>	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	?
Doug Nelson (R)												Steven Szayevicz (R)	N	Y	Y	?	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	N
12th District												59th District												
<i>Sara Feigenholtz (D)</i>	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	<i>Kathleen A. Ryg (D)</i>		Y	Y		Y	Y		Y	Y	Y		
Marie-Elana Leone (R)												Paul S. Tully (R)												
14th District												65th District												
<i>Harry Osterman (D)</i>	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	<i>Rosemary Mulligan (R)</i>	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	?
15th District												Michael Tashman (D)	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	?
John C. D'Amico (D)		Y	Y		Y	Y		Y	Y			71st District												
William C. Miceli (R)	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	<i>Mike Boland (D)</i>	?	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	?
16th District												Steven M. Haring (R)												
<i>Lou Lang (D)</i>	?	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	77th District												
Thomas T. Morris (R)												<i>Angelo Saviano (R)</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	Y
17th District												82nd District												
Michele Bromberg (D)	?	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	<i>Eileen Lyons (R)</i>												
<i>Elizabeth Coulson (R)</i>	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	Y	Y			Kim Savage (D)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
18th District												88th District												
Julianne E. Curtis (R)	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y		N	<i>Dan Brady (R)</i>												
<i>Julie Hamos (D)</i>												Phil Huckelberry (G)	?	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	?
19th District												89th District												
<i>Joseph M. Lyons (D)</i>	?	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	?	?	<i>Jim Sacia (R)</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	?	
Roman Wiewiora (R)												95th District												
25th District												Steve Dubovik (L)												
<i>Barbara Flynn Currie (D)</i>	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Dirk Enger (D)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
27th District												<i>Randall M. Hultgren (R)</i>												
<i>Monique D. Davis (D)</i>	?	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	99th District												
33rd District												Carol J. Higgason (D)		Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
<i>Marlow H. Colvin (D)</i>	?	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	Y	Y	Y	?	<i>Raymond Poe (R)</i>												
38th District												109th District												
<i>Robin Kelly (D)</i>	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	<i>Roger L. Eddy (R)</i>												
Jack McInerney (R)												Terry Edwards (D)	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
40th District																								
<i>Richard T. Bradley (D)</i>	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y													
Thomas G. Czachorowski (R)																								