

Candidates Share Their HIV Positions

The AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) regularly surveys candidates on HIV/AIDS-related policies and publishes the results to educate voters and the general public. This year, AFC mailed a request for candidate statements on HIV/AIDS to all 28 candidates running on November 2 for the offices of Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Comptroller, Treasurer, and United States Senator. AFC also encouraged candidates to address how they would implement the National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS) in Illinois, if elected. In July, President Obama released the NHAS, which establishes national goals for reducing new HIV infections, improving care for people with HIV, and reducing HIV-related health disparities.

AFC requested candidate statements to help inform votes of the policy positions taken by candidates for public office in Illinois.

Ten statewide candidates did so, and their statements are reproduced word-for-word beginning on page 2 in alphabetical order by party affiliation. AFC solicited statements only from active candidates listed on the Illinois State Board of Elections website.

To learn where candidates for U.S. Representative, Illinois Senate, and Illinois House on HIV/AIDS and public health issues, we encourage voters to visit www.aidschicago.org/candidate to view the results of the candidate questionnaire released prior to the February 2010 primary.

While AFC regularly polls candidates to educate them and voters about relevant HIV-related public policy issues, AFC is a non-partisan organization and does not endorse candidate for public office.



Are you a voter in Illinois? If so, you're super-lucky. A new state law makes it easier to vote in the upcoming November General Elections. For the first time, any registered voter can request a **Vote by Mail** ballot to vote at your convenience at home and mail in your ballot. You won't have to go to your polling place, wait in line, use those weird machines, and walk past volunteers egging you to vote every which way. Visit www.votenakedillinois.org to request a form.

VOTE EARLY! You can also vote early. Visit <http://illinois.evoter.com/early-voting> for a list of locations. Early voting ends Thursday, October 28.

STILL NEED TO REGISTER TO VOTE? You can register in-person at your local election authority from October 6-26.

Questions? Illinois Board of Elections at 800-923-VOTE or visit www.elections.state.il.us. For a sample ballot, visit www.evoter.com.

Candidates for U.S. Senate

Democrat Alexi Giannoulis

<http://www.alexiforillinois.com>

We must work together to develop and implement a national HIV/AIDS strategy to stop the spread of the disease and make sure that those who are infected receive the care and support they need.

Ending this devastating disease begins with preventing its spread. I believe we must develop and invest in a comprehensive prevention strategy that includes expanded testing, education about risky behaviors, creating syringe exchange programs and developing new drugs that can prevent a mother from transmitting a virus to her child. Through a comprehensive approach we can help curb the spread of this disease.

To help stop transmission and extend the lives of those living with the disease, we must make sure that every HIV-positive American gets the medical care they need. Congress should pass the Early Treatment for HIV Act, which expands Medicaid for HIV-positive people and invests in public health resources. Moreover, we must reduce the health disparities by combating HIV/AIDS in the communities where there is the greatest need. We must make a greater effort in communities that are hardest hit by offering testing and treatment to people who need it the most.

Globally, we must do more to expand treatment and prevention efforts. The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief is a strong step, but we must do more to make sure there are enough health workers and medical resources in the developing world to effectively combat the disease.

If I am fortunate enough to be elected to the U.S. Senate, I will work tirelessly on these domestic and international strategies to ensure we address the most pressing HIV/AIDS issues of our time.

Green LeAlan Jones

<http://lealanforsenate.org>

I believe that the National HIV/AIDS Strategy introduced in July is a positive landmark in recognizing the cross roads that our country is now at. The new strategy reaffirms the need to target prevention programs to vulnerable people- white, black, Hispanic, Asian, homosexual, and heterosexual. HIV goes beyond color, race and sexual orientation and the quicker people realize this the more lives will be saved.

Our attack on HIV needs to be multi pronged- expand HIV testing, introduce a national public health and end stigma campaign, make counseling and support services available to every person who tests HIV positive, and every school in Illinois needs to have a sexual health class. As your Senator I will work with the Governor to ensure that each and every school in Illinois has a sexual health class.

In the last few years there has been a steady increase in the rates of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs), and in particular Chlamydia and Syphilis. Our state of Illinois is ranked 9th out of 50 states for its high prevalence of Chlamydia. STDs make people more susceptible to contracting HIV. As your Senator, I will ensure that free condoms are available at strategic locations to prevent pregnancy, STDs and HIV.

The Illinois budget deficit is unsustainable and if it is allowed to grow further it threatens to undermine the basic infrastructure that we need for the survival, growth and well-being of us all. At the height of World War 2, America asked its richest citizens to help pay for the war with a short-term Super Tax. With wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and the Great Recession, we must bring back this tax for any incomes above \$1,000,000. We must immediately bring back the estate tax once championed by Teddy Roosevelt and raise it to 90% for anyone inheriting \$1,000,000 or more.

The War on Drugs has been a failure and has only alienated drug addicts to the point where getting clean is not an option. Illinois does not have the proper infrastructure to help addicts take back their lives and become contributing members of our society. As your Senator I will work to have needle exchanges located in strategic places around the state so that addicts can safely dispose of used and dirty needles. I will fight to have enough drug rehabilitation positions available so that day or night if an addict is ready to change the right help will be in place.

I strongly support the legalization and taxation of marijuana. By releasing all non-violent drug offenders and offering them a strong transitional program, we can save billions of dollars in prison and law enforcement costs and raise millions in badly-needed tax revenue. Also marijuana is an important medicinal drug for people living with HIV. It can act as a pain reliever and increase appetite so that HIV does not have to be a life sentence.

The Affordable Health Care Act or 'Obamacare' does not meet the shortfall in healthcare for people living with HIV. Many people living with HIV have sick days or are unable to work due to doctor's appointments or illness, and cannot afford to buy healthcare even at a reduced price. As your Senator, I will expand the Medicare program to everybody in the country. This simple program will control skyrocketing costs, assure access to everyone, and achieve the highest quality our first-rate medical resources can provide.

Libertarian Mike Labno

<http://www.labno4senate.com>

No statement received.

Republican Mark Kirk

<http://www.kirkforsenate.com>

No statement received.

Candidates for Governor

Democrat Pat Quinn

<http://www.quinnforillinois.com>

In these difficult economic times, it is critically important to address public health issues in a just, forthright, and effective way, and to make sure that those who are living with chronic illnesses, including HIV, are not overlooked or forgotten as we grapple with historic budget deficits. We must remain vigilant to protect the people of Illinois from new threats to public health. Illinois must also take advantage of unprecedented opportunities to impact the AIDS epidemic, including implementation of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy and national health reform.

The National HIV/AIDS Strategy is a historic document that gives the nation a roadmap to reduce new HIV infections, improve care for people with HIV, and reduce health disparities. Illinois can play a role in implementing the Strategy's recommendations by targeting state and federal dollars to populations at greatest risk and need, including gay men and men who have sex with men of all races, African Americans and Latinos, and women of color. We must examine every dollar of spending to ensure it yields the greatest outcome possible.

Implementation of national health care reform is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to improve the health of hundreds of thousands of uninsured Illinoisans, including people with chronic diseases such as HIV. Medicaid, the foundation of health reform, must remain strong program that provides an adequate benefit package for new enrollees, including tens of thousands with HIV. Today, health insurance companies have an unfair advantage over consumers, and I'm committed giving the state's insurance commissioner the authority to reject unnecessary premium increases, enforce provisions of the new federal law, and implement decisions that level the playing field for businesses and consumers.

I'm proud of my record on HIV/AIDS issues. Highlights include:

- **Quality of Life Lottery:** Last December, in recognition of World AIDS Day, the Illinois Lottery and the Illinois Department of Public Health unveiled a new Quality of Life scratch-off-ticket, "Red Ribbon Bonus Bucks," which directs 100 percent of net proceeds to support HIV/AIDS-prevention education and awareness across Illinois. Through this effort, the state of Illinois can provide grants to HIV/AIDS organizations while raising awareness of HIV transmission and prevention.
- **Maintaining the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP):** We cannot afford the financial or personal cost of failing to fight HIV infections. Last fiscal year, I averted ADAP waiting lists and kept the program open to people who are newly diagnosed with HIV by nearly tripling the amount of state funding provided to the program, from \$7 million in FY 09 to over \$20 million in FY 2010. While other states cut support and risked the lives and health of people with HIV, I'm proud that we were able to maintain our long-standing commitment to strong public health programs. I call on the federal government to do its part in meeting the growing need for ADAP by increasing funding for the program.
- **Funding for age-appropriate, medically accurate sexual health education:** We must also continue to educate our youth to make responsible, safe decisions with age-appropriate,

medically accurate, evidence-based sexual health education. In September, I rejected funds for the Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage program (Title V) and applied for the Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) funding for evidence-based programs.

- **Leading by example:** To battle this recession and put the Illinois economy back on its feet, we must make sure that employers reach out to every talented and productive person in Illinois, regardless of HIV status. As Governor, I have appointed Brent Adams as Secretary of Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, making him the first openly HIV-positive cabinet-level official in Illinois history. Secretary Adams is well-regarded and effective leader, and his contributions to the efforts of my Administration benefit the entire state.

My approach to public health has been shaped by my longtime physician, Dr. Quentin Young, the former president of the American Public Health Association, who has been recognized as a national leader in public health policy and medical and social issues. In 2001, I walked alongside Quentin Young from the Mississippi River in Rock Island to Lake Michigan in Chicago to promote the need to provide decent health care for everyone.

We cannot allow the economic downturn to diminish our efforts to fight for public health. In these tough times, we must wield the time-tested tools of public health advocacy – factual, targeted, repeated messages, combined with affordable access to health care. Today, the state of Illinois is facing a double-digit deficit for the coming fiscal year. We must deal with the financial reality of our times. However, we also must remember that public health programs are tremendously cost-effective – sharply reducing state expense while preserving the health and economic well-being of individual men and women. This is why I maintained funding for ADAP this year, despite budget cutbacks.

My administration is making every effort to protect vital programs and achieve new, much-needed revenue sources. We must face this tough fiscal reality together, working in partnership to find innovative, affordable and effective ways to protect and promote the health of everyone in Illinois.

Green Rich Whitney

<http://www.whitneyforgov.org>

Note: This statement was originally submitted to AFC prior to the primary. The candidate did not respond to requests to provide an updated statement.

I am an uncompromising advocate for a comprehensive single-payer, Medicare-for-all public health insurance system in Illinois. Under such a system, persons with HIV/AIDS will be guaranteed complete, uninterrupted care and treatment, irrespective of employment status or ability to pay.

An essential concomitant of a single-payer system is for government to take an aggressive, proactive approach to preventive medicine and public health. This includes public health education, with emphasis on nutrition and fitness, parental and life skills education and training and regular health screening and check-ups. Along with education itself, this needs to be a top priority of government. The focus of a Whitney administration would be to invest in people.

Independent Scott Lee Cohen

<http://scottleecohen.com>

As Governor of Illinois, my administration will address HIV/AIDS issues as a priority. I have previously gone on record with my support for increased funding for HIV/AIDS housing, HIV prevention strategies such as condom distribution and culturally and linguistically appropriate HIV prevention interventions, targeted efforts by the state to reduce HIV transmissions among populations at elevated risk for HIV, and funding for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program to provide HIV/AIDS medications to low income Illinoisans who have no other means of obtaining their lifesaving HIV treatments. I have gone on record as supporting legislation that would require schools to teach medically accurate sexual health education classes that include abstinence and for using public dollars to fund needle exchange programs which effectively decrease transmission of HIV and Hepatitis C. I also support enacting legislation and providing the necessary funding to expand HIV testing in medical settings.

I believe all of these positions complement, and thus will make it easier as Governor to implement, the new national HIV/AIDS plan, which has as its goals the reduction of new infections, increased access to care, and reduced HIV/AIDS related health disparities and inequities. The national plan also relies on cooperation and coordination of activities among agencies and states, and as Governor I will work to provide that cooperation and coordination. I will also, at the state level, work to simplify grant administration activities to reduce costs, work to standardize data collection, consolidate grant announcements, and guarantee reporting requirements.

To further ensure implementation of the national plan, I will meet the national plan's goal of states providing annual reports to OANP and HHSOS on progress made implementing the national comprehensive HIV/AIDS plan. ONAP will incorporate the state reports into the national progress report at the end of each year to better track and monitor progress of the plan and its components.

A key element of the national plan and my approach to Illinois' current budget crisis is the need to make tough choices. There will be funding cuts in Illinois; the question is where. I believe in investing in preventive programs, and as the national plan outlines, as Governor, I will make HIV/AIDS funding choices based on need; I will fund who is most affected and the most urgent needs. I also agree with the national plan on the need to look at funding pilot programs, and this is where I believe my comprehensive approach to economic reform that is based on a partnership with public, private, charitable, faith based, and other community organizations is a perfect fit for the national HIV/AIDS plan. I have also based my economic recovery plan on reviewing state, local and private sector programs to identify overlap and gaps, and again this allows the state to integrate services and reduce redundancy and encourage collaboration. This approach saves money and by eliminating waste it frees limited dollars for the necessary programs.

There is one part of the national plan that I take exception to and feel as Governor I will need to address in a more in depth manner if we are to successfully address HIV/AIDS in Illinois. That is the portion where the plan states that "Another issue involves trying to assess the affect of incarceration on these communities and the impact it has on HIV transmission. Although the available data suggests that relatively few infections occur in prison settings..." I believe that the data has established the Illinois prison population has a significant HIV/AIDS problem, and it is not being addressed through proper screenings, testing, provision of necessary medicines, and follow up and linkage to services upon release. There is also a need to examine the need

for condoms in the jails as a preventive measure. As Governor I will address the issue of HIV/AIDS within the large Illinois criminal justice system.

In summary, I will work to implement an HIV/AIDS program as Governor that compliments and implements the national HIV/AIDS plan. I will:

- Make the tough funding choices based on need determined by the data;
- Form a Statewide Advisory Council to serve as a valuable tool for input in setting policy – the Council will include members of all communities affected by HIV/AIDS, social service providers, health care professionals, people living with HIV/AIDS, and current elected leaders who have been at the forefront of the issue – Rep. Greg Harris, Rep. Connie Howard, and Cong. Danny Davis. It is important to recognize and utilize the value that people living with HIV/AIDS can provide to decision makers;
- Allocate limited public funding to the community level;
- Support continued research – form Committee to examine how we can better use and leverage research capabilities and existing dollars at Illinois universities and research facilities;
- Address the criminal justice system and HIV/AIDS;
- Support public HIV/AIDS education at the state level;
- Remember to always approach HIV/AIDS in a holistic manner recognizing that individuals with HIV/AIDS often need other assistance, whether it be housing, health care, transportation, or jobs. Complex issues never stand alone and cannot be solved alone.

Libertarian Green Lex

<http://www.electlex.com>

No statement received.

Republican Bill Brady

<http://www.bradyforillinois.com/>

No statement received.

Candidates for Lieutenant Governor

AFC did not ask Lieutenant Governor candidates for statements because they run on the same ticket as the candidate for governor from their party.

Candidates for Attorney General

Democrat Lisa Madigan

<http://www.lisamadigan.org/splash>

Throughout my service in public office, I have consistently supported measures to increase education and prevention programs to stop the spread of HIV and AIDS and to reduce preventable diseases. As a State Senator, for example, I supported legislative measures to expand comprehensive sex education for youth, provide for a needle exchange program to help stop the spread of HIV, and increase resources for organizations that provide necessary support to those living with HIV and AIDS. As Attorney General, I have continued to support efforts to stop the spread of HIV and AIDS and improve public health education and prevention programs. For example, I have worked closely with public health advocates and taken aggressive action to stop cigarette manufacturers from advertising that is aimed at encouraging youth to smoke.

From the start of my first term as Attorney General, I have fought to stop the manufacturing, sale and use of methamphetamine. To help stem the flow of methamphetamine from rural areas to urban areas and across state lines, I proposed legislation that became law to make it more difficult for meth manufacturers to get the ingredients they need to make the drug and I have held workshops on methamphetamine for law enforcement so that they have all the tools they need in the fight against meth.

Meth has become particularly troubling in the gay community where there are significant concerns that its use will increase the spread of HIV/AIDS because of its tendency to lead users to unsafe sex practices. To that end, I have worked with many organizations in the LGBT community to explore the issues presented by meth and to make sure that my office is effectively involved in the fight against meth in the gay community.

As Illinois Attorney General, I am proud to continue my collaboration with legislators, public health advocates, community organizations like AIDS Foundation of Chicago and members of the public to support people living with HIV and AIDS and to expend other public health prevention and education efforts.

Green David F. Black

<http://www.blackforattorneygeneral.com>

No statement received.

Libertarian Bill Malan

<http://www.bill4ag.org>

No statement received.

Republican Steve Kim

<http://www.stevekimforag.com>

No statement received.

Candidates for Secretary of State

Democrat Jesse White

<http://www.jessewhite2010.com/home>

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the AIDS Foundation of Chicago on its 25 years of outstanding work in the struggle against HIV/AIDS. It is my hope to serve as Secretary of State for another four years and continue our fight against corruption, to make the roads of Illinois the safest ever, and our ongoing effort to improve customer service. We share a commitment to public service and wanting to make this a better society.

Libertarian Josh Hanson

<http://joshhanson2010.com>

No statement received.

Republican Robert Enriquez

<http://www.ilstatesec.com>

No statement received.

Candidates for Comptroller

Democrat David E. Miller

<http://www.davidmillerforillinois.com>

In the legislature, I have been a strong supporter of programs for Illinois residents with HIV/AIDS. I have consistently supported increased funding levels for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) and believe that ADAP should be a top priority- even in these difficult fiscal times.

As Comptroller, I will work hard to improve the flow of state payments to organizations that serve Illinois residents with HIV/AIDS.

In addition to serving in the legislature, I am a practicing dentist. As someone who has personally provided healthcare to underserved communities, I understand firsthand how slow state payments can jeopardize the delivery of care. Many service providers who work with people with HIV/AIDS cannot continue to function if their state payments continue to be delayed. Many are at risk of shutting down entirely- shredding jobs and delivering a further blow to our economy. Many potential providers are deterred from working with low-income residents with HIV/AIDS because they know they won't receive state payments on time. We must help service providers with their cash flow needs.

I can help organizations which serve Illinois residents with HIV/AIDS by helping cash flow through streamlining payment procedures and increasing electronic payments. In the long term, I believe that the state can meet its obligations to providers who serve Illinois residents with HIV/AIDS in both good and tough economic times. It is an absolute priority of mine to ensure that service providers are put on a normalized and predictable payment schedule. If our state

cannot accomplish this, we will have abrogated our responsibility to those who serve our most vulnerable residents.

By partnering with service providers, we can help speed reimbursements to them so they will not be penalized for treating someone who cannot afford insurance. When we lose these types of providers, we put people's lives at risk. We also place stress on the entire healthcare system. I would prevent that from happening by making sure those directly treating the uninsured receive timely payments.

As Comptroller, I will be a strong voice for Illinois residents with HIV/AIDS and for the implementation of President Obama's National HIV/AIDS Strategy.

Green Erika R. Schafer

<http://www.electerika2010.com>

No statement received.

Libertarian Julie Fox

<http://www.foxforcomptroller.com>

No statement received.

Republican Judy Baar Topinka

<http://www.judybaartopinka.com>

As State Comptroller, I will not have a formal role in setting HIV-AIDS policy. However, I plan to use the position of chief fiscal officer to improve the access to care for those suffering chronic diseases like AIDS. Currently, because of the states massive backlog of bills, many hospitals and pharmacies do not want to accept Medicaid patients. They know the state will not reimburse them for 6 months to a year. This is devastating for individuals who have conditions such as HIV-AIDS and need regular access to medical and pharmaceutical care. As Comptroller, I will work to ensure that the state reimburses for the neediest cases on a timely basis, so treatment will never be withheld because the state is delinquent on its bills.

Candidates for Treasurer

Democrat Robin Kelly

<http://www.robinfortreasurer.com>

Over the last four years I have served on the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies National Healthcare Disparities Task Force. Serving on this task force has increased my awareness of the importance of quality public health systems. In particular, this work focused on the disparities in healthcare systems across the United State in regard to black and brown communities. As Treasurer, this information will help me determine whether to invest in projects that promote better access to healthcare – bringing focus to the connection between access to healthcare and the economic viability of communities.

I also believe that it is important for the Illinois State Treasurer to be seen as a dependable fiscal advisor by legislators, constitutional officers and the citizens of Illinois. I pledge to partner with the community to urge our next Governor to implement the National HIV/AIDS Strategy in Illinois, as we look for ways to balance the budget and reduce overall spending. The Strategy's

focus on effectiveness and results gives us an opportunity to re-examine every aspect of spending on HIV/AIDS, at every level of government. In the current fiscal environment, every dollar spent must have maximum impact. In addition, implementation of the Strategy could reduce new HIV cases, giving Illinois taxpayers an opportunity to reap significant financial savings in Medicaid and other state programs.

Green Scott K. Summers

<http://www.summersfortreasurer.org>

The office of the Illinois state treasurer has little ability to effectuate policy. However, if elected, I'll do everything in my power to implement the National AIDS Strategy. In solidarity and support -- and by way of education, empathy, and example -- I shall labor tirelessly in the struggle against HIV/AIDS.

Libertarian James Pauly

<http://pauly4illinois.com>

No statement received.

Republican Dan Rutherford

<http://www.danrutherford.org>

No statement received.