

2018 Chicago Aldermanic Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Alexandria Willis Ward: 3

1. We live in an era when more Chicagoans from the ages of 8 to 80 are choosing to walk, bike and ride public transit. How do you incorporate walking, biking and public transit into your everyday life? Do you, or a family member, routinely walk, bicycle or use transit for any of the trips listed below? If so, please circle.

Walk: Go to work      Bring child to school      **Errands**      Recreation      Other

Bike: Go to work      Bring child to school      **Errands**      **Recreation**      Other

Transit: **Go to work**      Bring child to school      **Errands**      **Recreation**      Other

Comments:

2. Currently there is no money in the Chicago Department of Transportation's (CDOT) annual capital budget set aside specifically for biking and walking projects. Funding for street safety projects like better-lit crosswalks and curb protected bike lanes instead comes from a patchwork of local, state and federal sources, including aldermanic menu money. Do you support spending a fair share of city transportation dollars on a new, dedicated Bike Walk Fund of \$20 million annually, with funding prioritized for the city's highest-crash corridors on the South and West Sides?

Yes!

Comments:

This issue is very important to me. Youth on the south side regularly bike and walk to places they need to go. My campaign manager was recently doored, and I have many friends who cycle.

3. For low-income families in Chicago, paying for transportation can leave little for food, housing, and other necessities. Residents of many Chicago communities must spend 10 percent or more of their income for a monthly Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) transit pass. In recent years Seattle, Denver, New York and other cities have established discounted transit fares for low-income riders. Do you support establishing a 50 percent discounted CTA, Metra and Pace transit fare for low-income residents at or below the federal poverty line

(approximately \$30,000 income annually for a family of 4)?

Yes!

Comments:

4. Bus ridership in Chicago has declined by 21 percent since 2012 as buses increasingly get stuck in traffic on congested city streets. Chicago has only 4.1 miles of dedicated bus lanes, far less than San Francisco (27 miles), Seattle (34.8 miles), Los Angeles (35.4 miles), Miami (39.8 miles), and New York City (82.8 miles). Bus lanes have proven to boost bus speed and reliability with minimal impact on travel times for cars. Do you support developing and implementing a plan for establishing at least 50 miles of new transit priority streets with dedicated bus lanes and bus priority at traffic lights?

Yes!

Comments:

5. Surveys show that many people don't bike because they aren't comfortable riding amid cars and trucks. Chicago has installed more than 140 miles of bike lanes since 2011 to create safer conditions, and that has contributed to tremendous growth in cycling while reducing crash rates for everyone - not just cyclists. That's because bike lanes create more order on the street and calm traffic by minimizing speeding and weaving. Bike lanes lead to less conflict and more harmony. Still, most bike lanes in Chicago lack physical separation between people biking and moving car and truck traffic, and most streets lack any bike infrastructure. Do you support building at least 100 miles of new on-street bikeways over the next four years, including at least 50 miles of protected bike lanes?

Yes!

Comments:

6. By the end of 2020, 17 of the 27 miles of property along the Chicago River will have trail infrastructure, strengthening an already popular transportation and recreation corridor. But major trail gaps still exist along the river, especially on the South Branch. Do you support completing a nearly continuous Chicago River Trail system over the next four years on the North, Central and Southwest Sides – closing the gap from downtown to the North Branch Trail and extending on the South Side to city limits?

Yes!

Comments:

7. Forcing people to own a car to get around is fundamentally unfair and unjust, and many transportation and development decisions contribute to inequity by increasing the burden on the city's most vulnerable people. Do you support developing a transportation and infrastructure equity plan for Chicago, based on input from a working group of community leaders, advocates, agency staff and elected officials?

Yes!

Comments:

8. During the morning and evening rush, many of the city's busiest corridors are clogged with cars and trucks carrying just one or two passengers – increasing travel times for everyone. Chicago can't build its way out of traffic congestion and, therefore, can't grow and thrive if more and more people drive cars. Do you support reducing congestion and improving safety by adopting vehicle pricing policies that encourage multi-passenger trips and discourage drive-alone personal car trips, especially during rush hour (e.g. Uber/Lyft pay a higher city fee when driving in congested areas during rush hour with no or only one passenger)?

Yes!

Comments:

9. Adding walking, biking and transit infrastructure to city streets has proven to contribute to safer, healthier, more sustainable and more equitable communities in Chicago and cities across the U.S. Cities can often add infrastructure like pedestrian refuge islands or protected bike lanes with a modest increase in travel times for cars and trucks – if any. Do you support prioritizing safety, equity, public health and the environment above travel times when designing city streets?

Yes!

Comments:

