



CENTRAL STREET NEIGHBORS ASSOCIATION ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE

Name: **Mark Tendam**

Ward: **6**

Voting Address: **2448 Lincolnwood Drive, Evanston, IL 60201**

Years you have lived in Evanston: **15** Years lived in ward: **15**

Campaign Website URL: **www.marktendam.com**

Campaign Phone: **847.899.6190**

Best E-Mail for campaign purposes: **mark.tendam@comcast.net**

Other websites on which you post campaign statements or positions:

www.centralstreetneighbors.com, www.evanstonnow.com

Campaign Chair: **Anne Murdoch** Treasurer: **Linda Valenti**

Campaign Manager or consultant(s): **Tiffany Farriss, Alex Armour**

No. of petition signatures filed: **190**

Elective or appointive public or party offices previously held including dates:

Democratic Party of Evanston, Director of Communications; City of Evanston Sign Review and Appeals Board

Other elective offices for which you have been a candidate:

None

What is your primary occupation? **Graphic Design**

Briefly list your past civic activities. If numerous, list here the 5 most important.

BEHIV Board and President, McGaw YMCA Board, DPOE Board and Communications Director, Leadership Evanston Steering Committee, City's Sign Review and Appeals Board

What subjects have you studied and what experience have you had which will be most helpful to you in the office you seek?

Visual Communications, Design Methodology (problem solving), Psychology; Owner of Tendam Design for 20 years

What candidates have you supported? Please describe your specific role in any campaign.

In college, I campaigned for Jimmy Carter. Right out of college I campaigned for Harold Washington. More recently I canvassed for Barack Obama's senate race. I was a committee member of the Larry Axelrood (for judge), Julie Chernoff (for D65) and Daniel Biss (for state legislator) campaigns.

Please list all endorsements you have received so far.

Jan Schakowsky, Jeff Schoenberg, Julie Hamos, Larry Suffredin, Debra Shore, Mayor Morton, Jay Lytle (former mayor and alderman), Omar Khuri and Rachel Hayman (D202) Keith Terry (D65), Evanston Firefighters Local 742

Campaign budget: **\$ 5,000** How much have you raised so far? **\$ 1,800**

How many people are on your campaign staff? **14 on my committee; no paid staff** How many volunteers are on your list? **20**

1. How many of the following have you attended in the past 2 years? (approx.)

8 City Council meetings

0 Plan Commission meetings

0 Planning & Development Committee meetings

2 Zoning Board of Appeals meetings

0 Site Plan and Review Committee meetings

25 Other: Sign Review and Appeals Board, Mental Health Board, Preservation Board

2. In recent years, the City undertook the Central Street Master Plan, the Downtown Plan, the Lakefront Plan, and the West Side Plan, a Bicycle Plan, and a Multimodal Transportation plan. Please identify which you participated in, and your contributions.

Central Street Master Plan, presentation and discussion groups; City of Evanston Strategic Plan, focus group; Community Works (ECF), facilitator for break out groups and facilitator at Community Works/City of Evanston Strategic Plan meeting

3. Many Evanston residents feel they are not being listened to. Do you agree? If you agree, please give examples and state what will you do about it. If you disagree, please state why, and how will you combat the perception.

I do NOT believe that the City Council listens to the residents. Citizen Comment is not interactive and, as far as I know, there is little follow-up by alderman. I would require all citizens to submit their comments in writing prior to speaking. Their written comments accompanied by email or telephone number would provide a vehicle by which alderman would respond. I would establish regular office hours to meet residents of the 6th Ward face-to-face and encourage other aldermen to do the same. I would also ask to be invite to neighborhood events, like block parties, to discuss issues in a less formal atmosphere.

4. Would you support any change in executive session or how it is used?

I believe we must strictly follow the rules of the Open Meetings Act.

5. The City building code is not online. To see if their property meets "Code," a citizen has to go to the library or purchase a copy at the Civic Center. Would you support making all City ordinances available online for free?

Yes. The City Building Code should be easy to access online and digital information is a better choice for the environment.

6. Which of the governmental changes, if any, would you support:

No Returning the Council to 2 aldermen per ward

No Increasing the number of wards

Yes (in even numbers) Adding one or more at-large aldermen to the Council

No Making mayor a ____ full-time paid position ____ half-time paid position

No Making alderman a ____ full-time paid position ____ half-time paid position

No Eliminating the city manager position; department heads report to mayor

No Mayor-manager form of city government

TBD Other:

7. Which of the following constituency communication methods will you commit to?

Yes Answer all e-mails within 48 hours

Yes Maintain my own aldermanic website

Yes Regular posts or blogs on community websites

No Monthly ward meetings

Yes Regular but less frequent ward meetings

No Open a ward office with regular hours

Yes Regular office hours at fixed location

Yes Regular newsletter

Yes Other: **Social events for the ward or in partnership with another ward. (like Bike the Ridge)**

8. What is your position on the Civic Center?

I agree with spending the necessary money to make the Civic Center safe and dry. I would also improve accessibility for people with disabilities. As a long-term goal, I believe we need to think in terms of decentralizing the Civic Center by providing services accessed by residents in a smaller downtown location. This building might also include a community theater or some other revenue-generating venue at street level. Other services (Fleet, Forestry) could be located on less expensive property.

If you selected "stay," should the City sell or lease part of its land at the Civic Center location to pay for repairs and/or remodeling/expansion?

If you believe a new Civic Center should be built, please identify what location and cost level you would support:

The concept of a smaller Civic Center opens up more possibilities of property and reduces the cost considerably.

9. Should the City of Evanston have an affordable housing plan? **Yes** If yes, what should be the main components? If your answer is no, why not?

The City should have an affordable housing plan that helps maintain our current diversity. Components might include help with down payments for first-time buyers, incentives for building or renovating affordable rental properties and tax incentives that encourage more city employees to live in Evanston.

10. Many scientists warn that the earth is at a critical juncture because of manmade greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Do you agree? **Yes** If so, what recommendations of the Climate Action Plan, if any, will you work to implement in your first year of office?

I believe our world is in serious danger due to man-made greenhouse gasses. I believe communities like Evanston must assume the role of "leading by example" and the Climate Action Plan is realistic and exciting beginning.

11. Would you have voted for the planned development ordinance for 1700-1722 Central Street? **Yes** Will you support or oppose another extension of time for the development of the site? **Support**

12. Has Evanston gotten equivalent value for what it has spent on consultants in the past 2 years? What changes, if any, would you make in the use of consultants, especially for planning and development?

I believe the best value is here at home. Evanston ranks 4th highest in the nation among cities with post graduate education and the University is a constant source for consulting work in a wide range of fields.

13. Is the current blend of City revenues sources fair? **No** How would you change it?

The current City revenue structure burdens the property owner. We must also be mindful, in these difficult economic times, of the revenue issues face by local businesses. A freeze on property taxes and nuisance fees would create a more optimistic working relationship with the City.

14. What reductions in City spending would you support? Please identify specific measures, departments, programs, etc., and the amounts you believe would be saved.

I support reductions in spending in areas across the board where we can work cooperatively with other intuitions like D202, D65, NU and the hospitals. Health and human services programs are likely candidates for this type of partnership. We must consider consolidating services and purchases with neighboring communities. In addition, we must keep a close watch on growing expenses like health insurance costs.

15. Are there any specific ordinances that should be repealed, modified, or enacted?

The Climate Action Plan and Multimodal Transportation Plan should be enacted. Other good programs are pending codification (Local Employment Program, Firearms-related Businesses).

16. What changes, if any, would you like to see the City make in how it has used tax increment financing (TIF)? If none, please state that.

None. Tifs are strong tools and we have used them well.

17. What changes if any would you support in how the City regulates parking in north Evanston, including hours, permit parking zones, tickets, and towing?

I would promote three-hour meters in areas where there is shopping and dining and longer activities like pilates and yoga.

18. Check whether you support or oppose the following:

Support Oppose

Oppose Initial proposal for a 49-story building at 708 Church

Oppose Revised proposal for a 38-story building at 708 Church

Oppose Raising as-of-right height in the Central Core Dist. to 275'/35 stories

Oppose Raising max. height in the Central Core District to 385'/35 stories

Support Raising the West Traditional (Davis St.) district to 42'/88'

If you oppose any of the above, state what you intend to do to about it.

It is the as-of-right inclusion that concerns me most. Our City streetscape is valuable pedestrian way that promotes downtown as a destination accessible by some means other than motor vehicle. Without control of the very street level space we risk loosing that "prize."

YOU MAY USE THIS SPACE TO ELABORATE ON ANY OF THE ABOVE. Please reference what question you are adding to.