

2019 IVI-IPO CHICAGO ALDERMAN QUESTIONNAIRE

Part I: Instructions for questionnaire completion, file naming and saving, and submission.

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From within your Word processor, please answer all questions in Part I (Instructions and Candidate Details) and Part II (Issue Questionnaire). This questionnaire uses special formatting features: please see the specific instructions below for each type of question.

Question Type: Yes/No and Short Answer

- Please click within the appropriate box to mark your answer for each yes/no question.
- If you wish to add comments to a yes/no question, or if elaboration is requested, you may click within the gray rectangle directly below the question text (next line, flush-left) to type your answer. The rectangle will expand to accommodate the length of your entry.
- by adding a paragraph return at the end of the question and typing your comments in the same cell as the question. Use such comments only when clarification is necessary.

Question Type: Select Choice(s), rank choices, etc.

- These begin with a prompt (e.g., “I am a member of the following groups:”) then ask you variously to “select one” or “select all that apply” or “rank from 1 highest to 4 lowest”). If you wish to elaborate, you may click within the gray rectangle directly below the question text (next line, flush-left) to add text.

Question Type: Essay

- Click within the gray rectangle directly below the question text (next line, flush-left) to type your answer. The rectangle will expand to accommodate the length of your entry. Please answer the questions at the length you deem sufficient. It is OK if your comments cause tables, etc., to shift pages.

Saving and Naming Your Questionnaire

Please follow the form detailed below exactly. Your questionnaire was downloaded to your computer as a Microsoft Word file (docx) with a generic name that identifies the office for which you are running. After you complete your questionnaire, but before submitting, you must save your questionnaire as a PDF file and give it a new name to which you will append your personal name and the election year as specified below.

General Form:

- If you were running for a suburban mayor’s office, your downloaded file (doc) name would be: Mayor_SUB_f
- You must save-as a PDF file (.pdf) and replace the “f” part of the downloaded file name with your last and first name and add the election year.
- Use capitals for the first letter of your last and first name and lowercase for the rest.

2019 IVI-IPO CHICAGO ALDERMAN QUESTIONNAIRE

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Specific Example:

- Suburban Mayor candidate Elizabeth Rias would rename the Mayor_SUB_f file to:
Mayor_SUB_RiasElizabeth2019

If you are familiar with file saving routines, you may skip the step-by-step instructions below.

Step-by-Step Instructions for saving as a PDF file and personalizing your questionnaire file name:

1. Open your completed questionnaire in your word processor.
2. From the FILE menu, select "Save a Copy" (or "Save As").
 - 2.1. In the dialogue box that appears, find the pull-down list that shows the file type. It will show .doc or .docx.
 - 2.2. Click on the small triangle within the file-type box and select the "PDF" (.pdf) option from the menu.
 - 2.3. BEFORE selecting the "save" or "export as" option (varies depending on your computer platform set-up), rename your file.
 - 2.4. You will see the generic questionnaire title in a fill-in box (e.g. Mayor_SUB_f) with the first word identifying the office for which you are a candidate and the second indicating the jurisdiction (in the example, Mayor, suburban) followed by an underscore and the letter "f."
 - 2.5. Click on the generic name field to highlight the name.
 - 2.6. Then, click just after the END of the generic title (so that the entire file title is no longer highlighted but the field is active).
 - 2.7. Backspace once to eliminate the "f."
 - 2.8. Type your last name then first name, using appropriate capitals and lower-case letters (no space necessary: e.g., JohnsonJuan).
 - 2.9. Add 2019 (the election year).
 - 2.10. **Your file name should look like this (but with your specific office and name):**
Mayor_SUB_JohnsonJuan2019
3. BEFORE SELECTING "Save" look to be sure you are saving the file to the location you want (if you need to change the location, click on the file path and navigate to the location you wish to save the file (e.g., your desktop, a specific folder, etc.)
4. Make sure you remember this location: this is the location you must navigate to when you attach your file to an e-mail and submit to the IVI-IPO.

Submitting Your Completed Questionnaire to the IVI-IPO

- Your properly named PDF file (see above) completed questionnaire should be attached to an e-mail and sent to: : iviipopac@gmail.com.

Please go to the next page to begin your questionnaire.

2019 IVI-IPO CHICAGO ALDERMAN QUESTIONNAIRE

Part II: Candidate Contact Information

Part II: Candidate Contact Information

Answers to Part II questions with an asterisk will be redacted prior to public distribution.

1.	DATE:	December 10, 2018
2.	NAME:	Gabriel Piemonte
3.	WARD:	5
4.	PARTY AFFILIATION:	none/independent
5.	VOTING ADDRESS*:	
6.	MAIN PERSONAL PHONE*:	
7.	BUSINESS PHONE*:	
8.	CAMPAIGN PHONE	773-717-2842
9.	CAMPAIGN FAX:	none
10.	PERSONAL EMAIL*:	
11.	CAMPAIGN ADDRESS:	2136 E. 71 st St.
12.	CAMPAIGN WEBSITE	gabrielpiemonte.com
13.	CAMPAIGN MANAGER:	n/a
14.	CAMPAIGN MANAGER PHONE:	n/a
15.	CAMPAIGN MANAGER EMAIL:	n/a

2019 IVI-IPO CHICAGO ALDERMAN QUESTIONNAIRE

Part III: Candidate Background Information

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16.	How many petition signatures were you required to file? 473
17.	How many petition signatures did you file? 750
18.	Elective or appointive, public or party, offices previously held (<i>including dates</i>). none
19.	Other elective offices for which you have been a candidate. none
20.	What is your primary occupation? Writer, writing coach, and editor. Recently, co-founder and instructor of a program teaching narrative skills, videography, and critical thinking to high school-aged, primarily South Side youth.
21.	Briefly list your civic activities of the past ten years. Co-founder, Woodlawn Voices and Visions; co-founder, Coalition to Save the Shrine and Save the Shrine, NFP; founder, hydeparkhelps.org; convener, Fourth Ward civic meeting series following the resignation of 4 th Ward Ald. Will Burns; board president, St. Martin de Porres House of Hope; board member, Northern Illinois Historic League; author, southsideunited.org; co-developer, Care Free Community Garden (60 th and Vernon), Kumunda Garden (65 th and Kimbark); advocate for a community center in Woodlawn at the former site of the Dumas Child and Parent Center; convener of a selection process for the Chicago Plays park restoration initiative; co-organizer of two community meetings in response to school closures.
22.	What experience have you had which will be most helpful to you in the office you seek? In my professional life, the intellectual training and the civic education one acquires as a reporter and as an editor of a community newspaper is capacious and encompassing. My work as a civic advocate has included community outreach, inspiring participation, and endeavoring to achieve consensus. My work at Save the Shrine NFP, St. Martin de Porres House of Hope and the Hyde Park Herald has provided extensive experience in managing staff and budgets of a size comparable enough to a ward office to be instructive. My job as an editor and as director of Voices and Visions have together given me intimate knowledge of the issues that are important to people of the Fifth Ward.
23.	Please list any candidates have you supported in past elections and specify your role in each campaign. None
a.	Which candidate, if any, are you supporting for Mayor? Amara Enyia (Enyia is the best choice, in my view, for the Fifth Ward.)
24.	Please list all endorsements you have received. Democracy for America – South Side
25.	Who are your top 5 contributors and how much has each contributed to your campaign? Emily Nielsen - \$5,600 Chris Nielsen - \$5,600 Laurie Cherbonnier - \$5,600

2019 IVI-IPO CHICAGO ALDERMAN QUESTIONNAIRE

Part III: Candidate Background Information

16.	How many petition signatures were you required to file? 473
	Janet Geovanis - \$5,000 Steven and Astrida Tantillo - \$1,000
26.	<p>Please concisely state (a) why you feel you should be endorsed over the other candidate(s) and (b) what goals for the office you seek are most important to you personally?</p> <p>The opportunity of improving the economic circumstances and the political power of my neighbors are of great importance to me. I am driven by a desire to respond to nearly two decades of injustice on the South Side and a wish to mitigate what I perceive as additional, imminent disenfranchisement. I wish to see a Fifth Ward in which everyone who wants to work can work, where no one is unable to go to college based on finances, where crime is minimal, and in which everyone is able to get a quality education in the ward through high school. I further wish to see a robust civic life, a dynamic political and creative culture on display and accessible to all, and broad economic prosperity.</p>
27.	<p>What is your campaign budget and (b) how much have you raised to date?</p> <p>We have a (bare bones) budget of \$80, 000 and have raised \$23,100</p>
28.	<p>How many paid staffers and (b) how many volunteers do you have on your campaign?</p> <p>No paid staffers, although my fundraising team and attorneys are paid. More than 30 people have contributed substantial volunteer time to our campaign.</p>

2019 IVI-IPO CHICAGO ALDERMAN QUESTIONNAIRE

Part IV: Issue Questions

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City Council Reform and Ethics

Yes/No			
	YES	NO	
29.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Will you employ or have you employed staff, in your office who hold other public sector jobs concurrently?
30.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are you in favor of procedures to ensure that privatization arrangements are not being used to move patronage workers outside of the scope of anti-patronage rules or protocols?
31.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you support an ordinance that bars city employees and elected and appointed officials from taking on any outside employment, or other responsibility for which they receive compensation, which conflicts with the city's interests?
32.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you employ or have you employed staff, in your office who have either outside employment or contracts with entities which do business with the City?
33.	<input type="checkbox"/>		Will you vote for an ordinance mandating that the City contest unemployment claims by former employees who were fired for cause?
34.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you vote for an ordinance forbidding the City to hire or contract the services of anyone previously fired for cause from the City or any other unit of government?
35.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Have you joined, or will you join the Progressive Reform Caucus?
36.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support changing the state statute to return to filling aldermanic vacancies by special election, rather than Mayoral appointment?
37.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you vote for an ordinance requiring redistricting of the wards to be based on non-partisan criteria and not to benefit any specific individual or political party?
38.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support a limit of two 4-year terms for Mayor?

2019 IVI-IPO CHICAGO ALDERMAN QUESTIONNAIRE

Part IV: Issue Questions

Yes/No			
	YES	NO	
39.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Will you or have you accepted campaign donations from people or businesses seeking zoning changes in your ward?

Select all that apply

40.	Do you support an ordinance banning contributions in any amount from:	
41 a.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	city vendors and contractors?
41 b.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	entities seeking licenses, permits or zoning changes?
41 c.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	registered lobbyists?

Essay:

4 1.	Should the Inspector General be authorized to independently initiate his or her own investigations of Alderman, in the absence of a complaint from someone outside of the Inspector General's office. Please explain your position. Yes. The job of the IG should be seen as an ongoing monitor of the work of the City Council and not a reactionary one. The Council should be able to explain its work at any time in such a way as to obviate the need for an inspection, but that does not mean such investigations should not take place. It can be compared to quality control. Further, given the current state of the Council, there is a tremendous amount of work to be done in terms of rooting out corruption, and the IG should not be bound by what others indicate is or is not a problem.
4 2.	Do you support public financing of municipal campaigns? Please explain your position. Yes. My preferred approach would be along the lines of the Seattle voucher system, in which residents are given vouchers to spend on candidates of their choice. I believe the ideal would be for every citizen to receive these vouchers for all campaigns and for no other forms of donation to be allowed.

Revenue and Budget

Yes/No			
	YES	NO	
43.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support a progressive City income tax for Chicago?
44.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you institute participatory budgeting to allow ward residents to vote on discretionary spending in your ward?

2019 IVI-IPO CHICAGO ALDERMAN QUESTIONNAIRE

Part IV: Issue Questions

Yes/No		
		With due respect to the citizens who worked so hard for the first attempt at a participatory budget process for the Fifth Ward, I believe that flaws in the way in which it was conceived, implemented and applied in the ward by the alderman prevented its successful use.
45.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Do you support creation of a public bank for Chicago? In the early 2000s, I was part of an organizing effort that opened the South Side Community Federal Credit Union, which has a special charter that ensures it serves low-income residents as well as the broader community and which now has nearly \$4 million in deposits. I believe that alternative financial institutions are essential to the fiscal health of any large municipality and have worked hard to make sure that the South Side has at least one such institution. A public bank would save the city massive amounts of money in financing and provide opportunity to grow and strengthen the landscape of community banks and financial institutions in Chicago.
46.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Will you vote to hire independent analysts to conduct a forensic audit of past City spending?

Choose One

47.	Should discretionary funds for ward services and infrastructure improvements be allocated:	
48 a.	<input type="checkbox"/>	in equal amounts to each ward
48 b.	<input type="checkbox"/>	based on the size of each ward
48 c.	<input type="checkbox"/>	based on the needs of each ward
48 c.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other-please specify Need-driven but with a baseline that allows for some fundamental fairness. Also, there should be incentives aimed at communities with more affluence (but available to all) to leverage private investment to receive some smaller but significant amount of public investment.

Select all that apply

48.	Will you vote for a budget ordinance which would require:	
49 a.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public questioning of city department heads concerning their departments' specific budget requests?
49 b.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	making budget copies available to the public 30 days in advance of hearings? Minimum 30 days – I am not convinced that is a sufficient period of time

2019 IVI-IPO CHICAGO ALDERMAN QUESTIONNAIRE

Part IV: Issue Questions

Select all that apply

48.	Will you vote for a budget ordinance which would require:	
49 c.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	restoring city-wide community group budget hearings several months prior to the publication of the budget, as were held under the Washington and Sawyer administrations?

Essay

49.	<p>What measures will you vote for to reform the city pension plan and ensure its solvency? I would support reform that creates an independent body to invest pension contributions with the power to force contribution amounts be met, along the lines of the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund.</p>
50.	<p>What additional revenue sources, if any, would you propose? I would support reforms that reduce costs in other areas and in turn divert the increment to bring the pension crisis under control. The entire TIF system ought to be dismantled, with some percentage of funds being used to address the pension crisis and the rest restored to the infrastructure areas from which it was taken, such as schools and city services. Police reform through CPAC can be expected to reduce the civil settlements for police abuse, which are costly, especially lethal police abuse. Police abuse settlements now top \$100 million annually. If the city could demonstrate fiscal self-control over a five-year period, some borrowing is possible. Government has other means of producing revenue. For example, I believe that spurring the green energy sector through government initiatives could produce companies that could provide short-term revenue until being spun off into the private industry. I oppose expanding the categories of legalized controlled substances or legalizing gambling as means to address our pension obligations. I might support legalization of marijuana (depending on how it is introduced) but would oppose use of proceeds for this purpose.</p>

Planning, Zoning, Economic Development, and Privatization

Yes/No			
51.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you vote to terminate a TIF if the objectives of the TIF plan have been accomplished before the 23-year period is ended?
52.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you vote to return unspent and uncommitted TIF funds on an annual basis to the various taxing bodies?
53.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you support a moratorium on creation of any new TIF districts until new funding sources are identified to replace the revenue diverted to the TIF?
54.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you vote to invest substantially more in job-training and the creation of transitional job programs in disadvantaged communities, including the formerly incarcerated, homeless, youth, and non-English speakers? While I support these programs, I also think they are sometimes a way to

2019 IVI-IPO CHICAGO ALDERMAN QUESTIONNAIRE

Part IV: Issue Questions

Yes/No			
			avoid the challenge of unemployment and underemployment in the city.
55.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Do you support the Fair Workweek Chicago Ordinance which would give employees greater control over their schedules?</p> <p>This is a needed and common-sense idea. We need to think about more direct intervention from the city to support small business at the same time as we are protecting workers, however. Aid in navigating unexpected costs and finding alternative sources of revenue to the fees the city charges small businesses (a term that should be carefully defined) ought to be priority. Our city does not nurture our small businesses.</p>
56.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support the Development for All Ordinance which would eliminate "in lieu of" fees and require developers to include 30% affordable units on site?
57.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	"Will you support guarantees that some of the foreclosed properties saved through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program are made affordable to families at 40% and 60% of the Area Median Income?
58.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you support policies to ensure that there is an adequate supply of affordable family sized units available to families in the Section 8 program?
59.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you vote to privatize Chicago's water delivery system?
60.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support privatization of Midway Airport?
61.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Will you vote for an ordinance requiring independent analysis and evaluation of any lease or outsourcing arrangement at least 30 days prior to any City Council vote.</p> <p>The entire premise of selling of public assets is such a questionable one that I would demand an extremely high burden of proof and opt-out clauses in any sale or lease. I am frankly unsure whether it ever makes sense as the way to engage private investment in public projects.</p>

Select all that apply:

62.	Do you support any of the following to be built in your ward?	
63 a.	<input type="checkbox"/>	low income rental housing that is affordable to those at 15% to 30% of the Area Median Income?
63 b.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>supportive housing for people overcoming addiction and other problems which contribute to homelessness?</p> <p>N.B. I am the president of the board of St. Martin de Porres House of Hope, a recovery center for women based in Woodlawn. This is a high priority for me.</p>
63 c.	<input type="checkbox"/>	shelters for the homeless?

2019 IVI-IPO CHICAGO ALDERMAN QUESTIONNAIRE

Part IV: Issue Questions

Select all that apply:

62.	Do you support any of the following to be built in your ward?
	This appears to be an incomplete question

Choose one

63.	Which standard should the City use to define affordable housing?
64 a.	<input type="checkbox"/> Area Median Income of Chicago
64 b.	<input type="checkbox"/> Area Median Income of the Community Area

Essay

64.	Which city services or assets, if any, do you believe should be privatized and what is your criteria? None. I am a skeptic of this strategy. The only context within which I can imagine private sale of publicly developed resources is when a short-term period of subsidized industry development – solar panel manufacturing and installation, for example – is made private after it pays off the city for spurring it and when it is ready to be an asset to the industry. At that point, a rigorous evaluation process and agreements in terms of public benefits commensurate with the value of the startup effort are a precondition to sale.
65.	What criteria do you or will you use in determining whether or not to grant a zoning change or variance? In private (single family) residential development, I would balance community support and the need for a design in keeping with the historic context of the area in which the building is to be erected with the need to respect private property ownership. I believe that smaller scale development is often opposed and disliked because of an insufficient deliberative process. Commercial and large-scale residential development must earn the support of the community and include additional community investment to be considered. I oppose all spot zoning.
66.	How do you propose to replace property tax revenue for CPS and other taxing bodies that is lost to TIF development? Revenue for CPS should not be channeled to TIF districts. Any blight anywhere is exacerbated by reducing resources to schools. Absent a change in law to reflect that reality, I think developers above a certain size and profitability should be required to reserve a percentage of profit from projects to invest in local schools through a fund to be administered through a committee consisting of LSC members, principals, teachers, parents, and community members. The pay into the fund could begin once the property is 75% or 80% sold or leased. This is just one idea, and I think a public conversation about this important question is in order, both on the local and citywide levels.

2019 IVI-IPO CHICAGO ALDERMAN QUESTIONNAIRE

Part IV: Issue Questions

Housing

Yes/No			
67.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you support guarantees that some of the foreclosed properties saved through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program are made affordable to families at 40% and 60% of Area Median Income?
68.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If the General Assembly repeals the pre-emption of rent control consideration by local government, would you support some form of rent control for covered units of rental housing in Chicago? Rent control is an essential part of any strategy to maximize the livability of a city.
69.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support the Homes for All Ordinance which would establish an automatic approval process for affordable housing applications if not acted upon within 90 days? I support the entirety of the Homes for All Ordinance and believe that the Chicago Housing Authority is overdue for intense review and scrutiny.

Schools

Yes/No			
70.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you support a city-wide lottery for enrollment in magnet schools?
71.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you support Local School Councils (LSCs) in maintaining full powers, and support them through adequate funding levels that provide training and support for LSCs to do their jobs? We need to publicly fund an independent agency that would fulfill the vision of Julie Woestehoff and PURE
72.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you support a moratorium on school closings until a detailed analysis of the impacts of shuffling children is completed, and a real plan to address the quality of education and safety for every child is in place?

Select all that apply

73.	Will you support an ordinance requiring every school to have a:	
74 a.	<input type="checkbox"/>	full-time nurse?
74 b.	<input type="checkbox"/>	full-time social worker?
74 c.	<input type="checkbox"/>	full-time librarian?

2019 IVI-IPO CHICAGO ALDERMAN QUESTIONNAIRE

Part IV: Issue Questions

Choose one

74.	Which of the following options for choosing the School Board do you support?	
75 a.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Popular Election
75 b.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mayoral appointment from nominations made by community representatives
75 c.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining the current system of Mayoral appointment
75 d.	<input type="checkbox"/>	A mix of elected and appointed members

Environment

Yes/No			
75.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you oppose disposal of contaminated dredging sediment from the Cal-Sag Channel within Chicago city limits?
76.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you consult with neighborhood residents before approving permits that could affect air or water quality?

Parks

Yes/No			
77.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support park prioritization of land acquisition and capital improvements first to those neighborhoods which are underserved by existing facilities?
78.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support election of the Chicago Park District Board?

Transportation

Yes/No			
79.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you vote to increase the City subsidy to the CTA? We also need a strategy to dramatically reduce and eventually eliminate fares, with an immediate year-round elimination of fares for all CPS students.

2019 IVI-IPO CHICAGO ALDERMAN QUESTIONNAIRE

Part IV: Issue Questions

Rank from 1 st to last preference (1, first – 4, last)		
80.	Please indicate which CTA expansion plans, if any, you support and rank them in order of priority.	
81 a.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Red Line south to 130th Street
81 b.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Orange Line to Ford City Mall
81 c.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Downtown-O'Hare Express Not needed
81 d.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other – please specify Restoration of the Green Line to Stony Island Avenue We need a looping rail or beltway solution that connects all of the lines and allows travel between the neighborhoods further away from downtown.

Criminal Justice

Yes/No:			
81.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support re-allocating police services from low-crime to high-crime neighborhoods?
82.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you vote for more funding for alternative crime prevention programs such as Cease Fire?
83.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you support an ordinance codifying the provisions of the Consent Decree regarding the duties and accountability of school resource officers?
84.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support the proposed Civilian Police Accountability Council (CPAC) Ordinance? Absolutely. CPAC is an incredibly well conceived and grassroots-based solutions. It represents the best sort of community engagement and civic policymaking.

Essay	
85.	<p>Please discuss 911 service in your ward: are there inequities, is response time adequate. If so, how the service be improved.</p> <p>I do not have data on hand to compare responses within areas in the Fifth Ward, one area to the next, but we do know that the South Side does not have the resources allocated to us needed to respond to the 911 calls made. I also know that some areas appear to be more likely to be ignored when calls are placed, based on anecdotal evidence. Some transparency is required wherein a 911 call becomes public and accessible data the instant it is placed and logged. That information should be available in a report online that can be subscribed to, and quarterly meetings in which response time is covered should take place.</p> <p>There are also broader public safety issues that overlap with this service, but they are complex</p>

2019 IVI-IPO CHICAGO ALDERMAN QUESTIONNAIRE

Part IV: Issue Questions

Essay	
	enough to warrant live discussion.

Civil Rights

Yes/No:			
86.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support affirmative action based on race, gender and sexual orientation in establishing criteria for hiring and promoting public employees?
87.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support affirmative action as a criteria in letting city contracts?
88.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you favor restructuring the wage scale of city employees to institute gender-equal pay for jobs of comparable worth?

Aldermanic Priorities

Essay	
8	<p>What are your top priorities for the Ward?</p> <p>Improved service and communication from the ward office, including effective delivery of information about service and other issues; broader and deeper resident participation in decision making about ward priorities, including but not limited to budgetary decisions; improved police responsiveness to the full range of public safety needs of the ward; stimulating local economic activity, with 71st Street a priority and South Chicago Avenue also recognized as significant; greater engagement for the broader community in University of Chicago</p>
9	<p>development decisions; a much more aggressive strategy to ensure local hiring in construction projects; a teen engagement strategy; drawing more authentically philanthropic investment into the ward.</p> <p>Revisiting the terms of the Obama Center is also a critical issue that is of great concern and a top priority. The Obama Foundation, the city, and the University of Chicago must make the case for why public land is necessary for the Center. Additionally, a community benefits agreement in some form or fashion must be a precondition to development of the Center, in addition to community oversight through some body, such as an ad hoc committee or council.</p>
9	<p>What is your long-range plan for development of the ward?</p> <p>A central challenge to the economic and political integrity of the ward is the collapse of the assets of the African American middle class. Substantial resources are moribund or being directed out of the community through out-of-state ownership of derelict properties. These properties need to be activated and integrated into a local asset development solution through whatever strategies are effective. A support system, including locating local financial institutions in the ward, must be built to support asset development.</p> <p>We also need greater community engagement. Popularly elected local development councils (one per community) with binding power of approval over projects would provide opportunity for people to get directly involved in the process and will serve as an entry-level springboard for larger civic roles. I predict a two-year planning process before the councils could hold their first</p>

2019 IVI-IPO CHICAGO ALDERMAN QUESTIONNAIRE

Part IV: Issue Questions

Essay	
	<p>election, and I imagine it would take a decade before they would be fully integrated into the civic life of the community.</p> <p>Our education options have to be integrated and reflect the diverse needs of our communities. This is left to parents to figure out and fight for, along with some advocacy groups. Local office holders must provide space for a range of opportunities, from public school to home school to extant charter schools, to understand what they offer, where they can work together, and where another option might be a stronger choice. Aldermen must also fight for additional resources for local schools and should have a staff member working to support all aspects of this important infrastructure.</p>
9 1.	<p>How will you involve ward residents in planning?</p> <p>Through neighborhood councils, through project-based committee opportunities as needed, and through standing committees. Town hall meetings should supplement ward meetings on a quarterly basis. A thoroughgoing communication strategy will ensure that everyone who wants to be informed will be informed about the activities of the ward office and the alderman.</p>
9 2.	<p>How will you work with community groups and residents on City matters?</p> <p>Often, local groups have developed expertise on specific issues that can compliment the knowledge base of a ward office. Additionally,</p>
9 3.	<p>Do you intend to hold employment other than alderman? If so, what employment do you intend to hold and how will you divide your time between your aldermanic duties and your other occupation (please note the minimum hours per week you will spend performing your aldermanic duties)?</p> <p>No</p>
9 4.	<p>Please describe your service office staffing plan, including the number of staff, full and part time, how you will pay for them, and the number of hours per week that your service office will be open.</p> <p>I am in consultation with former alderman in the development of my office staffing plan. I am certain that I will organize my staff, in part, according to liaison roles for each city department and the department of education to be held by staff members. I also expect to conduct a listening tour upon election to align staffing with ward priorities.</p>

Thank you for your participation!