

2019 IVI-IPO CHICAGO ALDERMAN QUESTIONNAIRE

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

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

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.

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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.

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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:	Rafael "Rafa" Yañez
3.	WARD:	15th
4.	PARTY AFFILIATION:	Democrat
5.	VOTING ADDRESS*:	
6.	MAIN PERSONAL PHONE*:	
7.	BUSINESS PHONE*:	
8.	CAMPAIGN PHONE	(773) 565-4550
9.	CAMPAIGN FAX:	
10.	PERSONAL EMAIL*:	
11.	CAMPAIGN ADDRESS:	rafaelyanezforalderman@gmail.com
12.	CAMPAIGN WEBSITE	www.rafa2019.com
13.	CAMPAIGN MANAGER:	Mayra Lopez-Zuñiga
14.	CAMPAIGN MANAGER PHONE:	(312) 208-8391
15.	CAMPAIGN MANAGER EMAIL:	msslzun86@gmail.com

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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? 2084
18.	Elective or appointive, public or party, offices previously held (<i>including dates</i>). LSC rep for Back of the Yards College Prep
19.	Other elective offices for which you have been a candidate. 15 th Ward Alderman (2015)
20.	What is your primary occupation? Police Officer
21.	Briefly list your civic activities of the past ten years. I have been a police officer in the past 15 years, executive director of a youth non-profit I founded in Back of the Yards for the past 11 years and a leader in the community ever since I moved to the ward from Pilsen 19 years ago. In the past 4 years, I have fundraised over \$200,000 to give parents and youth in the community employment and small stipends to support the after-school programming that is provided in over 7 schools throughout the community. I help lead a youth leadership development program out of Richards High School, the neighborhood high school in Back of the Yards. In addition, I have spoken at countless parent meetings and student assemblies throughout the ward as part of my outreach with the Officer Friendly program. I have developed curriculum specifically focused on improving police/community relations and with the intent to shift the police department's priorities when it comes to increasing safety and policing our communities
22.	What experience have you had which will be most helpful to you in the office you seek? See above
23.	Please list any candidates have you supported in past elections and specify your role in each campaign. Since my candidacy in 2015 I have supported the following elected officials: *Esther Golar - Illinois State Representative (3 rd District) *Theresa Mah - Illinois State Representative (2 nd District, 2016, 2018) *Alma Anaya - Cook County Commissioner (7 th District, 2018) *Aaron Ortiz - Illinois State Representative (1 st District, 2018)
24.	Which candidate, if any, are you supporting for Mayor? none at the moment
25.	Please list all endorsements you have received. United Working Families early endorsement IL State Representative Theresa Mah (chair of our campaign) Cook County Teacher's Union Chicago Teacher's Union SEIU Healthcare

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26.	<p>Who are your top 5 contributors and how much has each contributed to your campaign? Top 5 supporters: Theresa Mah (16K), Leticia Yanez (3K), Rafael Yanez (3K), Cook County Teacher’s Union (2.5K), RJ Trucking (4K).</p>
27.	<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>I am the best and most qualified candidate for this position because my track record as a community organizer, youth advocate and non-profit leader has allowed me to gain the trust and respect of hundreds of people throughout the ward. I have raised my family in Back of the Yards for the past 19 years. During this time, I have worked in the ward in multifaceted ways; through my work as a police officer, as a member of the parish council at both St. Joseph and Immaculate Conception Parish (Back of the Yards and Brighton Park) and as a founder of an 11 year old non-profit - U.N.I.O.N Impact Center. I have given hundreds of workshops to parents and students through the Officer Friendly program, I have organized community meetings through the violence prevention taskforce I chaired in Englewood during my time in the 7th police district. I have volunteered countless hours to provide youth with engaging activities to keep them safe. To date, I have fundraised \$200,000 to provide stipends to parents and youth who volunteer as coaches for our soccer league, Zumba classes and other after school activities we organize to keep more than 1,500 youth off the streets.</p> <p>In addition, I believe I am the best candidate for the position because I am the only police officer who has ever spoken out against the use of 95 million dollars for a police academy. I believe we cannot police our way out of the violence in our city. My work has always focused on highlighting the need for us to prioritize our schools, mental health resources and social services rather than our police as an answer to the violence our communities face. I think it’s important to have someone with my background say this and fight the preconceive notions in our communities about the role police play as form of violence prevention.</p> <p>The 15th ward is one of the few Black/Brown wards in Chicago, there is a tremendous opportunity to make sure we serve as a model for Black and Brown unity in our city. I hope to use my role as Alderman to uplift the good work of people in the communities that encompass the 15th ward. I want to make sure people feel that their voice matters and when they are engaged and organized they have the power to affect change in their communities. When elected, I plan not only plan to use the office to deliver services and connect people to resources but to also organize people in our communities to be engaged and to keep me accountable to the needs of our neighborhoods. I also want to chart a bigger limelight on the positive that exists in these communities who are often negatively portrayed in the media. The people of the 15th ward are not the problem, it is the systematic racism in our government and despotic elected officials who have failed them and that is why I am running for Alderman.</p>
28.	<p>What is your campaign budget and (b) how much have you raised to date? Our campaign budget is \$230,000 dollars. To date, we have raised \$70,000. We have 3 house parties scheduled this month.</p>

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29.	How many paid staffers and (b) how many volunteers do you have on your campaign? We have 3 paid staffers - 2 full time and 1 part time. We have 50 core volunteers.
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Part IV: Issue Questions

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City Council Reform and Ethics

Yes/No			
	YES	NO	
30.	<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?
31.	<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?
32.	<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?
33.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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?
34.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you vote for an ordinance mandating that the City contest unemployment claims by former employees who were fired for cause?
35.	<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?
36.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Have you joined, or will you join the Progressive Reform Caucus?
37.	<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?
38.	<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?
39.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Do you support a limit of two 4-year terms for Mayor? I believe in term limits, I am not sure that two 4 year terms is ample time to make the changes we need in our city.

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Yes/No			
	YES	NO	
40.	<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			
41.	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:	
42.	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, I support the I.G's office to independently initiate his/her won investigation of an Alderman, specially in the absense of a complaint from someone outside the I.G's office.
43.	Do you support public financing of municipal campaigns? Please explain your position. Yes, we support public financing of municipal campaigns.

Revenue and Budget

Yes/No			
44.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support a progressive City income tax for Chicago?
45.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you institute participatory budgeting to allow ward residents to vote on discretionary spending in your ward?
46.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support creation of a public bank for Chicago?
47.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you vote to hire independent analysts to conduct a forensic audit of past City spending?

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Part IV: Issue Questions

Choose One		
48.	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 No, discretionary funds for ward services and infrastructure should not be allocated in equal parts. I believe the density of population per ward needs to be taken into consideration and also the average income per household. Wards with lower than average income should probably get allocated more money for infrastructure improvement since the ability of those residents to address the infrastucture needs in their wards - might be more dficcult.

Select all that apply		
49.	Will you vote for a budget ordinance which would require:	
49 a.	<input 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?
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	
50.	<p>What measures will you vote for to reform the city pension plan and ensure its solvency?</p> <p>There is no doubt in my mind that we must pay our pensions, the biggest challenge is finding new, stable and progressive income streams to pay into the pension funds. I believe a possible way to achieve this is to expand the sales tax into business and finance transactions. There is lot of talk about progressive income tax in our state but while that is not being implemented the city could find an alternative by instituting a City tax for folks that reside in the city and whose income is above a certain threshold.</p>
51.	<p>What additional revenue sources, if any, would you propose?</p> <p>See above</p>

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Part IV: Issue Questions

Planning, Zoning, Economic Development, and Privatization

Yes/No			
52.	<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?
53.	<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?
54.	<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?
55.	<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?
56.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support the Fair Workweek Chicago Ordinance which would give employees greater control over their schedules?
57.	<input checked="" 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?
58.	<input checked="" 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?
59.	<input checked="" 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?
60.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Will you vote to privatize Chicago's water delivery system?
61.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Do you support privatization of Midway Airport?
62.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	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.

Select all that apply:		
63.	Do you support any of the following to be built in your ward?	
63 a.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	low income rental housing that is affordable to those at 15% to 30% of the Area Median Income? upon approval of the community

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Part IV: Issue Questions

Select all that apply:		
63.	Do you support any of the following to be built in your ward?	
63 b.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	supportive housing for people overcoming addiction and other problems which contribute to homelessness? Upon approval of the community
63 c.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	shelters for the homeless? Upon approval of the community

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

Essay	
65.	<p>Which city services or assets, if any, do you believe should be privatized and what is your criteria?</p> <p>We must invest in making our public services effective and accessible to people in working class communities. I do think we need to institute good mechanism to evaluate the effectiveness of our services so that they are meeting the needs of our communities. Once we evaluate the effectiveness of our current services, we can then figure out if privatizing them it's a proper and a true cost efficient response. The privatization of services cannot happen without understanding the conditions of labor for workers in those companies.</p>
66.	<p>What criteria do you or will you use in determining whether or not to grant a zoning change or variance?</p> <p>If elected, I intent to implement community driven zoning process in the 15th ward. I also want to make sure we have a balance between development and instituting good policy and attracting responsible developers that contribute to the fabric of the community already existing in our communities. I will want to institute some sort of community driven MOU agreement for any developent that happens in the ward. The MOU can address the concerns for affordability or jobs that such investments bring to the neighborhoods.</p>
67.	<p>How do you propose to replace property tax revenue for CPS and other taxing bodies that is lost to TIF development?</p> <p>We need desperately to staunch the flow of city money into corporate coffers and before we consider raising taxes and fees we must assess what the utilization of tax exemption slush funds such as TIFs for purposes other than private enrichment would bring in deficit reduction. Whatever additional fees, taxes, or other revenue measures are put in place must be designed to ensure that the burden does not continue to fall on poor and working families, with wealthier private and corporate citizens exempt. A few examples of such alternative revenue sources</p>

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Part IV: Issue Questions

Essay	
	could be a financial transaction tax or a corporate head tax. In addition, I think we must consider taxing the use of recreational marijuana if legalization passes in the state in the next couple years. We must continue to push state lawmakers to implement a graduated income tax in the state to alleviate the burden of new taxes on working families.

Housing

Yes/No			
68.	<input checked="" 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?
69.	<input checked="" 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?
70.	<input checked="" 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?

Schools

Yes/No			
71.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you support a city-wide lottery for enrollment in magnet schools?
72.	<input checked="" 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? LSC's should not be trained by CPS. CPS should have an office of folks who are co-facilitators of LSC's training but CPS should not oversee these training - conflict of interest
73.	<input checked="" 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	
74.	Will you support an ordinance requiring every school to have a:
74 a.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> full-time nurse?

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Part IV: Issue Questions

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

Choose one		
75.	Which of the following options for choosing the School Board do you support?	
75 a.	<input checked="" 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			
76.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you oppose disposal of contaminated dredging sediment from the Cal-Sag Channel within Chicago city limits?
77.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you consult with neighborhood residents before approving permits that could affect air or water quality?

Parks

Yes/No			
78.	<input checked="" 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?
79.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support election of the Chicago Park District Board?

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Transportation

Yes/No			
80.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you vote to increase the City subsidy to the CTA?

Rank from 1 st to last preference (1, first – 4, last)			
81.	Please indicate which CTA expansion plans, if any, you support and rank them in order of priority.		
81 a.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Red Line south to 130th Street 2	
81 b.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Orange Line to Ford City Mall 1	
81 c.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Downtown-O'Hare Express Only if it is not finance by public dollars and does not utilize current public infrastructure. It is not fair to offer people with money the ability to gain more from the use of public infrastructure just because they pay a higher price. It creates a two tier system of benefits for people in our city.	
81 d.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other – please specify 3 - Some way to connect the CTA rail in the west side of the city without having to go downtown.	

Criminal Justice

Yes/No:			
82.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support re-allocating police services from low-crime to high-crime neighborhoods? We cannot police our way out of violence. Police is not the answer to the crime that exist in our communities - although it helps some people feel safe. If communities feel that they need more police presence I think that is fine as long as there is also resources allocated to attack the root cause of violence in our city - poverty.
83.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you vote for more funding for alternative crime prevention programs such as Cease Fire?
84.	<input checked="" 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?
85.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support the proposed Civilian Police Accountability Council (CPAC) Ordinance?

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Essay	
86.	<p>Please discuss 911 service in your ward: are there inequities, is response time adequate. If so, how the service be improved.</p> <p>Before I can even answer the question of effectiveness of 911 service we must first recognize that in the 15th ward many are afraid of using 911 services. The communities that encompass the 15th ward are communities who often do not trust the use of 911 services - whether that is for legal status reasons or because their interactions with police had not been the best. I think 911 needs to have better language access mechanism for immigrant communities to be able to use th hotline. In addition, I think dispatchers and police officers try their best at answering the request for help but often times, the time to response falls short. We must do better but we must also help community residents understand what are the things they can do to make sure that 911 service request are properly requested. We must have conversations with our residents about the role of police in our society and whether we are to call on them for any negative interaction we have with others. Are there alternatives to calling the police?</p>

Civil Rights

Yes/No:			
87.	<input checked="" 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?
88.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support affirmative action as a criteria in letting city contracts?
89.	<input checked="" 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	
90.	<p>What are your top priorities for the Ward?</p> <p>One of the biggest problems in the 15th ward is the prevalent gun violence. We can talk about violence prevention and all the different restorative justice approaches we can use to prevent gun violence but I believe that the biggest factor behind the violence our city experiences is – the lack of economic opportunities. I believe when people need money to pay bills and to survive, if they do not have the education, job training, and access to good paying jobs; people will turn to crime. Thus, in my opinion the number one thing we need to focus to reduce crime and violence in our neighborhoods is figuring out how to revitalized our business corridors, encourage entrepreneurship amongst our community residents, bring investment and capital to the ward. We must also make sure any development in the community brings jobs and benefits to the community. In addition, I believe it is essential that our schools are properly resourced to</p>

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Essay	
	<p>provide the best academic opportunities and job training that is needed for our families to become gainfully employed. There is a huge demand for manufacturing jobs but our communities do not have access to the job training necessary to fill those jobs. We must do better to give people the resources to find good stable jobs with a minimum wage, benefits and the right to a union. I truly believe this is one of the biggest preventive measure against the violence our city experiences.</p>
91.	<p>What is your long-range plan for development of the ward?</p> <p>The TIF program needs to be reformed so that the dollars flow back into the neighborhood schools and services for the community. Most of the TIFs in 15th ward had been used for the development of a new high school which is great except for the fact that high school is not the neighborhood high school for the community. Control over the use of TIF funding should be given to stakeholders in the community. Big businesses benefit from TIF subsidizes and there is no way to hold these businesses accountable to remain in the community i.e. Target in Chatham. A shopping plaza right outside of the 15th ward was built with TIF funding from the 47thSt and Ashland TIF and the shopping plaza has had a revolving door of tenants because it has not done proper vetting of the kinds of businesses that people in the community need. No one benefits in this case and the land is sitting vacant while the community has demanded for years for a community center with no avail. Therefore, I believe establishing local authority boards to approve the use of TIF funding is important. In addition, I would first impose stringent need requirements for the granting of TIFs, I would require complete transparency in contracting and fund use by Council members, and I would bar municipal office holders and their campaign committees and political PACs from receiving contributions in excess of \$1,500 from parties involved in TIF projects.</p>
92.	<p>How will you involve ward residents in planning?</p> <p>As mentioned before, if elected I plan to institute participatory budging for menu money and a community driven process for zoning. I want to make sure that I use my role as Alderman to make government transparent and accessible to people in the ward. We need to demystify what it means to run for office and to be a public elected official in each branch of government. I look forward to having more dialogue and townhalls with residents to determine priorities for our collective work in the ward.</p>
93.	<p>How will you work with community groups and residents on City matters?</p> <p>I plan to institute ward taskforces/committees for different issues of priority in the ward. These committees will be composed of commmunity leaders, civic, business and school leaders in the community, organizers and people from our c(3)s who are doing good work in the city and in our ward. Together, we will craft an agenda for the work that needs to be accomplished through my office.</p>
94.	<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>

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Part IV: Issue Questions

Essay	
	I intent to be a full time Alderman
95.	<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 plan to have two offices in the ward with ample staff to take care of the constituent and legislative work that we need to represent the needs of people in the 15th ward accordingly. I plan to have one office open 5 days a week and our satellite office open 4 days a week. Both offices will have a ward night day when people can walk in past normal business hours.</p>

Thank you for your participation!