

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.

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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

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

1.	DATE:	12/10/18
2.	NAME:	Nicole Johnson
3.	WARD:	20
4.	PARTY AFFILIATION:	Democrat
5.	VOTING ADDRESS*:	
6.	MAIN PERSONAL PHONE*:	
7.	BUSINESS PHONE*:	
8.	CAMPAIGN PHONE	872-760-3408
9.	CAMPAIGN FAX:	NA
10.	PERSONAL EMAIL*:	
11.	CAMPAIGN ADDRESS:	Temporary: 6505 S. Green, Apt. 2
12.	CAMPAIGN WEBSITE	www.nicolejchi.com
13.	CAMPAIGN MANAGER:	Delmarie Cobb
14.	CAMPAIGN MANAGER PHONE:	773-373-3860
15.	CAMPAIGN MANAGER EMAIL:	dlcobb@thepublicityworks.net

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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? 2,800
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? Currently a full-time candidate for alderman of the 20 th Ward. Continuing my work as educator and community advocate through issue workshops and voter registration activities.
21.	Briefly list your civic activities of the past ten years. I have worked with various organizations and as a community advocate, particularly in the areas of equal education, voter rights/registration and neighborhood-driven economic development/affordable housing
22.	What experience have you had which will be most helpful to you in the office you seek? My career is rooted in public service, with experiences ranging from serving as a Chicago Public School educator, developing models for transparent governance on the aldermanic level, and passing statewide legislation to protect voting rights. I am a proud graduate of public schools in the area where I grew up and seek to represent. I earned a Master's of Science in Education Policy from the University of Pennsylvania, a Master's of Arts in Teaching from National Louis University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Michigan. My study US VS. THEM: REMNANTS OF URBAN WAR ZONES was published in Perspectives on Urban Education in 2016. My personal experiences, college degrees, service with community organizations and background of civic engagement have all involved learning about the strengths and challenges that a responsive alderman should consider.I
23.	Please list any candidates have you supported in past elections and specify your role in each campaign. Congresswoman Robin Kelly- volunteer during her Treasurer run and circulated petitions during her special election. Senator Mattie Hunter- coordinated volunteers and circulated petitions for her re-election campaign.
24.	Which candidate, if any, are you supporting for Mayor? At this time, I do not intend to support a mayoral candidate. As a first time candidate, I need to concentrate on my own political agenda and run with integrity. I will work with whomever is in office so long as he or she respects the issues most pertinent to my ward.
25.	Please list all endorsements you have received. I am in the process of seeking those.

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Part III: Candidate Background Information

26.	Who are your top 5 contributors and how much has each contributed to your campaign? Andison Hill (\$5,000), Timothy Schwertfeger (\$4,700), Genevieve Thiers \$(2,700), Peter Kadens (3,600) and Steve Vandorvoort (2,000).
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 offer a unique blend of the grassroots background shared by other candidates, along with a big-picture vision gained from academic studies and professional work in education. This enables me to collaborate with and bring creative solutions to my neighbors in order to advance their self-determination, rather than continue to subsist off government prgrams or piecemeal approaches to multi-layered obstacles. As examples, my team has found great promise in land grants to increase resident ownership of businesses and affordable housing, regional plans for problems wards share and cannot resolve individually, as well as the comprehensive benefit of the South Suburban Airport in mitigating a host of issues from unemployment to crime.</p> <p>Among my priorities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bringing resources that benefit constituent safety and health 2. Transforming our schools from average to exceptional 3. Exploring innovative funding solutions to capitalize on the ward’s entrepreneurial skills and other economic development opportunities, such as those connected to the Norfolk Southern railroad expansion and South Suburban Airport completion
28.	<p>What is your campaign budget and (b) how much have you raised to date?</p> <p>The current budget is \$200,000 but may expand, given the number of candidates. To date, we have raised \$66,000.</p>
29.	<p>How many paid staffers and (b) how many volunteers do you have on your campaign?</p> <p>The Publicity Works and 25 volunteers support and take the lead on the key needs of my campaign on a regular basis and canvassing.</p>

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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 checked="" 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? As stated above, I consider support of the South Suburban Airport to be a key progressive stance.
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support a limit of two 4-year terms for Mayor?
40.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you or have you accepted campaign donations from people or businesses

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Yes/No			
	YES	NO	
			seeking zoning changes in your ward? I will adhere to regulations on that, as long as the contributor accepts there will be no favors granted in return.

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 would if this person were truly independent of the mayor, who could use this position to have a chilling effect on reform-minded aldermen.
43.	Do you support public financing of municipal campaigns? Please explain your position. Yes, as long as it incorporates the necessary safeguards and processes to support grassroots candidates.

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?

Choose One

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Part IV: Issue Questions

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	based on the needs of each ward
48 c.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other-please specify

Select all that apply

49.	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?
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? One that has a dedicated revenue stream and does not unduly diminish the benefits of past, current or future participants. I believe if we can conduct regular financial forecasting assessments, prior to borrowing large bonds or making significant financial decisions, we'd have more money to pay off our pension obligation. I'd like to pursue cash management reform by regulating the city's use of predatory/ risky lending practices, such as floating interest rates.</p>
51.	<p>What additional revenue sources, if any, would you propose? A greater tax contribution from corporations, especially those whose low-wage employees must rely on supplemental public resources. The legalization of marijuana, and financial transaction tax, and luxury tax, based on professional services and amenities used by corporations and individuals with a net income or revenue over a specific amount.</p>

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?

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Part IV: Issue Questions

Yes/No			
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?
63 b.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	supportive housing for people overcoming addiction and other problems which contribute to homelessness?
63 c.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	shelters for the homeless?

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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?	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	

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.	Which city services or assets, if any, do you believe should be privatized and what is your criteria? None that I can think of. Privatization so far has not benefited residents.
66.	What criteria do you or will you use in determining whether or not to grant a zoning change or variance? The main criterion will be whether residents think it will benefit their community. Additionally, I'd like to conduct an assessment of current zoning to ensure that we have the appropriate type of zoning that is aligned with the culture we want to set for our community.
67.	How do you propose to replace property tax revenue for CPS and other taxing bodies that is lost to TIF development? A greater tax contribution from corporations, especially those whose low-wage employees must rely on supplemental public resources.

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?

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Part IV: Issue Questions

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?
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?	
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?

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Part IV: Issue Questions

Yes/No			

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?

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 #3
81 c.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Downtown-O'Hare Express
81 d.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other – please specify #1 - Improving CTA service in the 20 th Ward, particularly service along the western portion of the ward.

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? These services would have to be restorative in nature.
83.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you vote for more funding for alternative crime prevention programs such as Cease Fire?

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Yes/No:			
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?

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>There are times where I am placed on hold when calling 911 when calling from my ward.</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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bringing resources that benefit constituent safety and health 2. Transforming our schools from average to exceptional 3. Exploring innovative funding solutions to capitalize on the ward's entrepreneurial skills and other economic development opportunities, such as those connected to the Norfolk Southern railroad expansion and South Suburban Airport completion
91.	<p>What is your long-range plan for development of the ward?</p> <p>Transfer 25% of city owned residential zoned land to a land trust, and allow homeowners within a half mile radius to cooperatively build on the land and rent out units to renters in need of affordable housing.</p> <p>I also want to reinvigorate the industrial zoned campus land near the Dan Ryan (57th - 63rd) in my ward to maximize the presence of the Norfolk Southern expansion to provide a full spectrum of jobs and economic opportunities.</p>

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Essay	
92.	<p>How will you involve ward residents in planning? Through accessible office hours, regularly scheduled ward meetings in different neighborhoods, participatory budgeting, a variety of two-way communications vehicles (e.g., online, newsletter, suggestion/complaint box), and continuing the issue-related workshops I conducted before my candidacy.</p>
93.	<p>How will you work with community groups and residents on City matters? They will hold positions on my planning advisory council that will help facilitate public hearings on new developments and zoning amendments presented to 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)? I intend to be a full-time alderman, supplemented with volunteer, professional and civic activities beneficial to my community.</p>
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. Depending on city funding allocations, I envision three full-time staff to handle resident needs and work with city service providers (e.g., police, sanitation, infrastructure), as well as 1-2 part-timers to assist with special projects such as participatory budgeting. I expect the office to be open 40 hours/week, with residents helping determine time/day allocation most convenient to them. I also plan to have regular internships to be filled by local high school and college students who are home for the summer and/or live in the ward, and those who attend nearby colleges and universities (i.e. Kennedy King College and the University of Chicago).</p>

Thank you for your participation!