

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.

Specific Example:

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

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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

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

1.	DATE:	12/10/2018
2.	NAME:	Rossana Rodriguez
3.	WARD:	33rd
4.	PARTY AFFILIATION:	Independent
5.	VOTING ADDRESS*:	
6.	MAIN PERSONAL PHONE*:	
7.	BUSINESS PHONE*:	
8.	CAMPAIGN PHONE	847-226-5302
9.	CAMPAIGN FAX:	n/a
10.	PERSONAL EMAIL*:	
11.	CAMPAIGN ADDRESS:	3248 W Montrose Ave, Chicago, IL 60625
12.	CAMPAIGN WEBSITE	rossanafor33.org
13.	CAMPAIGN MANAGER:	Chris Poulos
14.	CAMPAIGN MANAGER PHONE:	847-226-5302
15.	CAMPAIGN MANAGER EMAIL:	chris@rossanafor33.org

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Part III: Candidate Background Information

16.	How many petition signatures were you required to file? 473
17.	How many petition signatures did you file? About 3,000.
18.	Elective or appointive, public or party, offices previously held (including dates). n/a
19.	Other elective offices for which you have been a candidate. I am a first-time candidate.
20.	What is your primary occupation? Career counselor at Columbia College
21.	Briefly list your civic activities of the past ten years. Founding member of 33rd Ward Working Families, a progressive ward IPO. I have also been active in campaigns for rent control (WF33 initiated a won a non-binding ballot referendum last year as part of the #LiftTheBan campaign) and to protect our community's immigrant families (through the Albany Park Defense Network).
22.	What experience have you had which will be most helpful to you in the office you seek? I worked for most of a decade with the Albany Park Theater Project, a youth theater company that told the stories of people in our neighborhood. Through that work, I interviewed and helped to dramatize the stories of families dealing with evictions, deportations, and public school cuts and closures. Of people struggling to feed their families, and yet working, dreaming, and building their lives here in the neighborhood. I became involved politically around these issues and worked here in the neighborhood on campaigns to support immigrants, tenants facing eviction, and support our public schools. I helped to found a progressive ward IPO, 33rd Ward Working Families, and was drafted by members of the IPO to run for this office.
23.	Please list any candidates have you supported in past elections and specify your role in each campaign. United Working Families Movement Leader Fellow with Delia Ramirez for State Rep. (2018); Volunteer with Tim Meegan for 33rd Ward Alderman (2015)
24.	Which candidate, if any, are you supporting for Mayor? I have not yet made a decision about whom to support.
25.	Please list all endorsements you have received. Chicago Teachers Union, SEIU Healthcare, United Working Families, Reclaim Chicago, Chicago Democratic Socialist of America, 33rd Ward Working Families, United Neighbors of the 35th Ward.

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26.	<p>Who are your top 5 contributors and how much has each contributed to your campaign? United Working Families (\$7,000 in-kind); Cook County College Teachers Union (\$5,000); three individual donors who have given \$1,500 or more.</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? The issue of housing for all has a strong personal resonance with me. I was twice priced out of home, once while I was pregnant with my son, and I know that my story is not unique. I came to Chicago from Puerto Rico ten years ago, and the people who welcomed me and gave me a sense of belonging here, I've seen too often have to leave due to rising rents. This ward is losing the people who make it so special. Our ward, and particularly the neighborhoods of Avondale and Albany Park, have come under a gentrification threat, and our alderman is working closely with big developers to push longtime residents out of the ward; I believe there is an urgency to this issue. My relationships with the people of the neighborhood, my experience organizing in our community to address these issues, and my personal story as someone who has dealt with many of the challenges facing ward families, including coming to Chicago from somewhere else (our ward has a very large immigrant population), gives me a perspective that the other candidates do not have. Representation matters, and so does engaging the many people in the ward who have a great deal at stake in our ward's future but are not being adequately involved in the process. Our ward is majority Latinx, and if elected, I would be the first Latinx alderman to represent the 33rd Ward.</p>
28.	<p>What is your campaign budget and (b) how much have you raised to date? My campaign has raised more than \$50,000 to date, including in-kinds. In addition, 33rd Ward Working Families has committed a further \$10,000 to my campaign.</p>
29.	<p>How many paid staffers and (b) how many volunteers do you have on your campaign? We have had well over 100 volunteers active in the campaign; as of December, we have a paid volunteer coordinator.</p>

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Part IV: Issue Questions

City Council Reform and Ethics

Yes/No			
	YES	NO	
30.	<input type="checkbox"/>		Will you employ or have you employed staff, in your office who hold other public sector jobs concurrently?
31.		<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 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"/>		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"/>		Will you vote for an ordinance mandating that the City contest unemployment claims by former employees who were fired for cause?
35.	<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 type="checkbox"/>	Have you joined, or will you join the Progressive Reform Caucus?
37.		<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support changing the state statute to return to filling aldermanic vacancies by special election, rather than Mayoral appointment? <i>This is of particular interest in my 33rd Ward, where the mayoral appointment allowed the longtime ward boss to retire mid-term and pass the seat to his daughter as a piece of family property in 2013.</i>
38.		<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 type="checkbox"/>	Do you support a limit of two 4-year terms for Mayor? <i>Willing to consider.</i>

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40.	<input 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.		city vendors and contractors?	
41 b.		entities seeking licenses, permits or zoning changes?	
41 c.		registered lobbyists?	

Essay:	
42.	<p>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.</p> <p style="color: blue;">Yes. If the IG’s office is privy to information that would typically lead to an investigation, the office should have some latitude to pursue those leads.</p>
43.	<p>Do you support public financing of municipal campaigns? Please explain your position.</p> <p style="color: blue;">I would be open to considering this as a piece of electoral reform aimed at allowing more ordinary people to seek office.</p>

Revenue and Budget

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

Choose One	
48.	Should discretionary funds for ward services and infrastructure improvements be allocated:

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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.		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.		public questioning of city department heads concerning their departments' specific budget requests?
49 b.		making budget copies available to the public 30 days in advance of hearings?
49 c.		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.	What measures will you vote for to reform the city pension plan and ensure its solvency? <i>I will advocate for progressive revenue solutions, including but not limited to reinstating the corporate head tax and increasing the real-estate transfer tax on properties valued over \$1 million. I will work with my colleagues at the Cook County and State level to do the same.</i>
51.	What additional revenue sources, if any, would you propose? <i>There are a number of proposals for progressive revenue sources that I support and would fight to pass and implement. These include reinstating the corporate head tax and increasing the real-estate transfer tax on properties valued at more than \$1 million. Together, these progressive revenue solutions alone could increase the city budget by anywhere from \$200 to \$300 million each year.</i>

Planning, Zoning, Economic Development, and Privatization

Yes/No		
52.	<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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53.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you vote to return unspent and uncommitted TIF funds on an annual basis to the various taxing bodies?
54.	<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 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 type="checkbox"/>	Do you support the Fair Workweek Chicago Ordinance which would give employees greater control over their schedules?
57.	<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 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 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"/>	Will you vote to privatize Chicago's water delivery system?
61.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support privatization of Midway Airport?
62.	<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.	low income rental housing that is affordable to those at 15% to 30% of the Area Median Income?	
63 b.	supportive housing for people overcoming addiction and other problems which contribute to homelessness?	
63 c.	shelters for the homeless?	

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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.		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? <i>I am against the privatization of public services and assets.</i>
66.	What criteria do you or will you use in determining whether or not to grant a zoning change or variance? <i>I plan to implement a community-driven zoning and development process, and would make decisions based on the outcomes of that process.</i>
67.	How do you propose to replace property tax revenue for CPS and other taxing bodies that is lost to TIF development? <i>I support abolishing the TIF program but could support discharges of the surplus as a short-term remedy for bringing that funding back into the affected public institutions.</i>

Housing

Yes/No			
68.		<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 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 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you support a city-wide lottery for enrollment in magnet schools?

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72.	<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 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.		full-time nurse?
74 b.		full-time social worker?
74 c.		full-time librarian?

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

Parks

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

Transportation

Yes/No		
80.	<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.		Red Line south to 130th Street - Top city priority for CTA rail expansion
81 b.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Orange Line to Ford City Mall - Open to considering
81 c.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Downtown-O'Hare Express - Not a priority.
81 d.		Other – please specify - Filling gaps in local bus routes, examples of which may include restoring the Elston bus and/or identifying an additional north-south route in the northern part of the ward

Criminal Justice

Yes/No:			
82.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support re-allocating police services from low-crime to high-crime neighborhoods? In general, Chicago over-polices, and instead of shuffling police allocations, I would focus on investing in neighborhood programs aimed at reducing violence, providing after-school programs and other community-building opportunities, and extending critical supports to people in need.
83.		<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you vote for more funding for alternative crime prevention programs such as Cease Fire?
84.	<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?

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85.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support the proposed Civilian Police Accountability Council (CPAC) Ordinance?
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Essay	
86.	Please discuss 911 service in your ward: are there inequities, is response time adequate. If so, how the service be improved. Have not heard complaints regarding 911 service in the ward.

Civil Rights

Yes/No:		
87.	<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 type="checkbox"/>	Do you support affirmative action as a criteria in letting city contracts?
89.	<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.	What are your top priorities for the Ward? Addressing affordable housing and pushing for rent control in the ward and throughout the city; making Chicago a real sanctuary city by fighting to protect our immigrant communities; fighting for a \$15 minimum wage now; fighting for fully funded schools an elected school board; opposing privatization of public services.
91.	What is your long-range plan for development of the ward? Establish a community-driven zoning and development process to put power in the hands of ward residents. Implement rent control, just-cause eviction law, and stronger affordability standards to keep longtime residents from being displaced. I am running on a “no developer dollars” pledge, refusing campaign contributions from developers trying to build in the ward. We have seen too often how the incumbent alderman is supporting the wishes of her campaign donors, even when that means evicting longtime residents and driving mass displacement.
92.	How will you involve ward residents in planning? Implement a community-driven zoning and development process; support outreach to demystify the process and provide information in plain language (and in multiple languages, given our ward’s population of non-English speakers) so that this process is accessible to the general public.

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93.	How will you work with community groups and residents on City matters? <i>I believe in expanding ward democracy to include more people, and more types of people (e.g., non-English speakers), in the decision-making process. As part of my commitment to building power from the bottom up, I support the creation of a community organizing space so that residents themselves can meet, propose solutions, and build community involvement in advocating around issues that affect the ward.</i>
94.	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>No.</i>
95.	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. <i>I have not made any specific decisions but will have an eye toward flexibility regarding office hours, in order to make the office accessible to working parents, students, and others who have schedules that might prohibit them from being able to come during standard business hours. I am in communication with a number of elected officials who have been mentoring me on this issue.</i>

Thank you for your participation!