

IVI-IPO 2011 CHICAGO MAYORAL QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 2

DATE: December 2, 2010

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NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED: 41,000

NUMBER REQUIRED: 12,500

Please provide the following background information:

A. Elective or appointive public and/or party offices previously held including dates.

None

B. Other elective offices for which you have been a candidate.

None

C. What is your primary occupation?

Executive Director of Target Area Development Corporation

D. Briefly list your civic activities of the past ten years.

I have dedicated my whole life to public service; creating opportunities for communities to empower themselves. I believe in proactive solutions that facilitate creative opportunities for those that are victims poor economic circumstances are

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the key to success. As Executive Director of Target Area Development Corporation, I worked with grassroots communities to educate and empower residents around the most significant issues impacting underserved communities. We focused on addressing economic development, education and public safety - the three foundations for a safe and flourishing community.

I took the the budget of Target Area Development Corporation from \$10,000.00 to \$3 million dollars and brought in over 1000 jobs for the communities I worked in. I helped develop 48 units of affordable housing on Chicago's south and west sides and brought in \$52 million to redevelop Auburn-Gresham's 79th Street Corridor. I was the lead developer and financial advisor that brought in 6 million dollars to fund 36 units of housing for low income families.

I have dedicated my life to bringing parents into solution making processes along with students and teachers to address the poor conditions of our public education system. I created city and statewide coalitions such as PRISE to address issues in education and helped create the Grow Your Own Teacher program in Auburn Gresham, Rock Island and Rockford. I did this because I saw a high number of teacher turnover a low amount of teachers of color and hundreds of individuals of who did want to become teachers but needed qualifications to do so.

I have worked with residents in communities with the highest incarceration and recidivism rates to develop proactive solutions that decrease criminalization and increase education and employment opportunities for ex-offenders. I founded the Developing Justice Coalition a 22 member organization convened to address the issues of public safety. The coalition lobbied expungement legislations and drafted the SMART ACT, a alternative sentencing legislation that provides drug treatment as an alternative to incarceration for low-level drug and nonviolents drug offenders . In addition the coalition supported the Crime Reduction act that creates a coordinated system across the courts, prison and parole systems to more comprehensively and successfully help people incarcerated rehabilitate and reduce recidivism.

We cannot begin to cure social ills of our communities without working with our partners around the city and bridging the gap between ethnic, religious and social lines. I founded UCCRO- United Congress of Community and Religious Organizations, a multi ethnic alliance advancing human rights and equity policies in

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Springfield.

I also have had the honor of working and sitting on the boards of Advance Illinois (a statewide education advocacy organization)

and CHANGE Illinois (a statewide political reform organization).

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

I am a Certified Public Accountant and have a PhD in Non-Profit Management. These have given me a deep understanding of fiscal and management challenges and complexities . It has helped me greatly in bringing economic development in some of Chicago's most distressed neighborhoods. I believe these two qualifications are particularly important to have in a mayor that must address our current budget deficit and restructure government to be more efficient and productive to strengthen the city and meet the needs of residents.

In addition to my professional degrees I have learned from the diverse communities I have worked in.

I have a strong track record of developing and advancing progressive policy efforts as a community organizer and know how the legislature in Springfield operates from the bottom up. This has given me the unique attribute of working on the streets while facilitating a partnership with our legislature. A mayor must understand the interdependent relationship between communities , lobbyists and proactive policy frameworks in order to successfully bring lasting policy changes into City Hall.

F. What candidates have you supported in past elections? Please be specific in describing your role in each campaign.

Barack Obama for U.S. Senate and U.S. President

Tom Dart For Sheriff

Pat Quinn for Governer of Illinois

G. Please list all endorsements you have received so far.

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None.

H. As concisely as possible, state why you feel you should be endorsed over the other candidate(s). What goals for the office you seek are most important to you personally?

I believe I should be endorsed because it is time for a change in government. I am not a politician, yet I have worked to solve some of the City's most complex policy issues in the city's hardest-to-develop communities and empowered leaders and engaged residents to make significant change at the neighborhood on the city and state levels. I have a strong track record of building coalitions to pass policy and improve the lives of residents across the city.

I believe Chicagoans are looking for a new kind of leader. After decades of communities feeling they are locked out of City Hall, and consistent disappointment in elected officials, it is time for a truly independent person who is not a politician to win back the confidence of the people and use innovative thinking and broad engagement to move this city forward. I believe I have broad appeal as a true Chicagoan—raised in Cabrini Green with deep relationships on the south side and throughout the city—as an independent non-politician, as a woman, and as a progressive to inspire people across this city to vote for me. I have inspired people of all backgrounds to work with me in all my social justice initiatives throughout the state. I am the only one who can bring the City together in a real tangible way to open the doors of City Hall to its greatest asset - its people.

My priorities as Mayor will be similar to my priorities throughout my career: creating jobs, improving schools, reducing violence and ensuring fiscal responsibility and fairness in government.

I. What is your campaign budget? How much have you raised to date?

Our budget is \$2.2 million. We have raised \$400,000, and growing, over the last two months.

J. How many people are on your campaign staff? How many volunteers are on your list?

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We have 8 campaign staff, and over 100 volunteers.

Most questions on this questionnaire can be answered by checking either YES or NO. Some are essay questions and all have the option of answering in greater detail. Just hit enter at the end of the question and begin typing your answer in the additional space.

CITY COUNCIL REFORM AND ETHICS

	YES	NO	
1.	X		Do you support allowing a single Inspector General of the City of Chicago, rather than a new City Council Inspector General, to investigate allegations of fraud or waste by aldermen and their staff?
2.		X	Do you support patronage in hiring and promoting public employees?
3.		X	Will you employ or have you employed staff in your office who hold other public sector jobs concurrently?
4.		X	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?
5.	X		Will you direct your administration to contest unemployment claims by former employees who were fired for cause?
6.	X	X	Will you pledge not to hire or contract the services of anyone previously fired for cause from the City or any other unit of government? While I believe that individuals that have defrauded the government or taxpayers should not be working in positions of public trust, I also believe that we should be very careful about any policy that categorically denies employment. I believe that a careful policy must be crafted on this issue that examines the specifics of each individual case in question.
7.	X		Do you support changing the state statute to return to filling aldermanic vacancies by special election, rather than Mayoral appointment?
8.	X		Do you support redistricting of the wards based on non-partisan criteria and not to benefit any specific individual or political party?
9.	X	X	Will you or have you accepted campaign donations from current or potential suppliers or employees? As Mayor, I would not accept campaign contributions from city employees or suppliers. However, as a grassroots candidate, I know that many people are donating to the campaign, and I would not want to restrict anyone from performing public service, should I be elected.
10.			Do you support public financing of municipal campaigns?
	ESSAY		<p>Please explain your position.</p> <p>I believe that elections must be about the voters, and not lobbyists or campaign donors. The</p>

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			current system is broken. Running a campaign has become ridiculously expensive, and the process puts all candidates and elected officials in a very difficult position. Often, more time must be spent raising money than educating and informing voters. In addition, it undermines the public trust in how decisions are made that impact communities.
11.	ESSAY		<p>Who are your top 5 contributors and how much has each contributed to your campaign?</p> <p>Joseph Stanford \$165,000 Gertha Lusby \$7,500 Sharod Gordon \$6,000 Jerry Phillips \$6,000 Barbara Madden \$5,000</p>
REVENUE AND BUDGET			
12.	X		Will you hire independent analysts to conduct a forensic audit of past City spending?
13.	X		Will you hire independent analysts to review the budget and recommend spending cuts?
			Will you institute any of the following as part of the budget process?
14.	X		public questioning of city department heads concerning their departments' specific budget requests?
15.	X		making budget copies available to the public 30 days in advance of hearings?
16.	X		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?
17.	ESSAY		<p>What additional revenue sources, if any, would you propose?</p> <p>Aside from conducting a forensic audit to cut waste, inefficiencies and excesses, I will explore other revenue sources including progressive tax increases that protect low-income residents from unfair cost burden including those that target large corporations and luxury services and products.</p>
18.		X	Do you support casino gambling for Chicago?
19.	X		Will you support a citywide referendum before any gambling is instituted in the City?
20.	X		Do you support rolling back Mayoral and Aldermanic salaries to pre-2007 levels?
21.	X		Do you support limiting future Mayoral and Aldermanic salary increases to the same percentage as the lowest raise for any class of city employees?
22.	ESSAY		<p>What will you do to address the criticism that city staffing is top-heavy in upper-level management?</p> <p>I believe that the City of Chicago needs an independent forensic audit of all spending. In addition, we must conduct a thorough review of all government operations to make them more efficient. This should include a thorough review of staffing at all levels to determine where to make reductions.</p>
23.	ESSAY		<p>What measures do you support to reform the city pension plan and ensure its solvency?</p> <p>I support the right of public employees to a secure retirement. To meet this need, the city must reform its existing pension system. Real reform must be negotiated with labor at the table, and must ensure secure revenue sources to fund our pension obligations short-and-long term.</p>
24.	Choose One		Should discretionary funds for ward services and infrastructure improvements be allocated equally to each ward

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		based on the size of each ward
	X	based on the needs of each ward
	YES	NO
25.	X	Will you reorganize the Department of Streets and Sanitation by compact districts rather than wards?
PRIVATIZATION		
26.	ESSAY	<p>Which city services or assets, if any, do you believe should be privatized and what is your criteria?</p> <p>I do not support privatization. We have clearly seen how privatization hurts residents, and future generations. I support efforts to increase the efficiency, innovation and productivity of our public assets to benefit all Chicagoans. I believe that if the city partners with private entities that living wages, benefits, fair working conditions, and a commitment to community investment along with conditions of continued public ownership and revenue sharing, must be built into any potential future agreements.</p>
27.	X	Will you order an independent analysis of any lease or outsourcing arrangement prior to submitting it to the City Council for approval?
28.	X	Will you provide at least 30 days for the Council to review leases and contracts prior to approval?
29.	ESSAY	<p>What will you do to ensure privatization contracts deliver the maximum return and best service for city residents in the long term?</p> <p>I believe that any potential future privatization contract must include a comprehensive set of conditions to protect and promote the interests of all Chicagoans. I believe that communities and labor must be at the table in negotiating and approving these contracts to ensure the city only partners with high-road businesses that commit to providing living and prevailing wages and benefits, community investment commitments, and revenue sharing provisions. I also believe that contracts must clearly outline parameters to regulate the cost and quality of the services provided by businesses to protect consumers and residents throughout the duration of the contract, which I believe should be shorter term than past privatization agreements.</p>
30.	ESSAY	<p>What procedures will you implement to ensure that privatization arrangements are not being used to move patronage workers outside of the scope of the Shakman decree?</p> <p>I believe that the corruption that has plagued the integrity of our city budget and hiring practices can be resolved through my plan for a participatory, open and transparent government. Through ensuring a more open, democratic process, I believe that we can protect against such abuse.</p>
PLANNING, ZONING, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT		
31.	ESSAY	<p>How will you involve city residents in planning?</p> <p>As Mayor, I would bring a new philosophy of participatory, open and transparent government to all city planning processes. I believe that is the most effective way to ensure that the government truly understand the needs of the people, and to get the best possible ideas for how to make long-</p>

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		<p>term improvements to each individual community.</p> <p>As the former CEO of Target Area DevCorp, I was able to lead efforts to bring in \$52 million transform the 79th Street Corridor between Halsted and Ashland. From my experience, the only way we were able to be successful, was by building coalitions of community residents to take part in the process.</p> <p>I believe in creating outlets for communities to gather and share ideas, and I also believe that any major planning or development decision being considered by the City should be preceded by major community outreach and town hall meetings.</p>
32.	ESSAY	<p>What is your long-range plan for the development for Chicago?</p> <p>I believe that just as nation's cities make a country economically viable and competitive, a city's communities-not just downtown- play a central role as well. My long-range plan is to engage residents in a process of building specific and sustainable economic development plans community-by-community to develop diverse economic strategies to move the whole city forward.</p> <p>I will work with residents to identify challenges opportunities to develop around community assets like existing businesses, transportation, and public buildings to anchor the strategic development of economic activity. This will include food and grocery stores targeted in food deserts, retail in areas of high drainage, and affordable housing where its most needed.</p>
33.	ESSAY	<p>How will you involve residents in planning, approval, and oversight of TIF districts?</p> <p>While I believe dedicated funds for local economic development are important tools to address inequities, I believe strategies are needed beyond TIFs. Because of the mistrust, misuse and misconceptions about TIFs, I would engage residents in a citywide discussion about the role of TIFs and what is really needed in communities.</p> <p>I would also have an audit done of current TIFs to identify those that have been unused or misused for termination. If residents believe TIFs should continue, I will look at other municipal models like Milwaukee to ensure community decision making processes are fair and effective.</p> <p>Ultimately I believe that TIFs are only one of many economic tools. And alone, they themselves do not make up a real economic development plan for communities or the city.</p>
34.	X	Will you agree to terminate a TIF if the objectives of the TIF plan have been accomplished before the 23 year period is ended?
35.	X	Will you return unspent and uncommitted TIF funds on an annual basis to the various taxing bodies?
36.	ESSAY	<p>How do you propose to replace property tax revenue for CPS and other taxing bodies that is lost to TIF development?</p> <p>As a Certified Public Accountant I would have an independent forensic audit to evaluate our current budget including our revenue systems. I believe the TIF structure is flawed because it set up to divert existing resources-not provide additional resources-to the citys most disinvested communities. Ultimately I believe that taxes need to be restructured to meet the needs of residents-particularly schools, public safety and services and additional economic development funds should</p>

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			be dedicated project by project by the city.
37.	X		Will you declare a moratorium on the creation of any new TIF districts until new funding sources are identified to replace the revenue diverted to the TIF?
38.	X		Do you support an ordinance requiring that large corporate entities receiving \$250,000 or more in public subsidies, and their tenants, must pay their workers a living wage (currently \$11/hour)?
39.	X		Will you 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?
HOUSING			
40.	X		Do you support the Sweet Homes Chicago ordinance?
41.	X		Do you support amending the Vacant Properties Ordinance to require mortgage servicers to register their properties?
42.	ESSAY		<p>What will you do to guarantee that some of the foreclosed properties saved through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program are made affordable to families at 40% and 60% of AMI?</p> <p>This income group is targeted by Low Income Housing Tax Credit program. I would look at using tax credits along with the Neighborhood Stabilization Program to rehabilitate rental properties. Properties can be developed by, in conjunction with and/or turn keyed to non-profit organizations with solid tract record to manage. I would also mandate the inclusion of these units in the trust fund, to ensure long-term affordability beyond the tax credit period.</p>
43.	X	X	<p>Do you support an inclusionary zoning ordinance which would require developers to set aside 30% of residential new construction or renovation for the creation of affordable housing?</p> <p>I support a set aside of up to 20%.</p>
44.	ESSAY		<p>What will you do to ensure that there is an adequate supply of affordable family sized units available to families in the Section 8 program?</p> <p>Chicago has lost a tremendous amount of affordable housing over the last decade—especially larger units that can accommodate families. I support the Chicago Housing Authority's current effort to work with private landlords to expand project housing voucher options—including single family homes. I would encourage CHA to establish longer-term contracts (at least 5 years) with landlords to ensure longer-term affordability for low-income families throughout the city, especially in opportunity areas. I also support CHA efforts to buy foreclosed homes to provide affordable housing.</p>
45.	ESSAY		<p>What will you do to provide affordable housing for low-income individuals and families who are not served by any existing programs?</p> <p>I believe that all people have the right to housing. To serve those who fall in the gaps of existing program, I would work to increase The City Trust Fund needs to subsidize housing for this population. I believe there are ways to assist families more effectively and efficiently by helping write-down rents through housing assistance – not just new housing. This is important because it provides a bridge for families that can almost afford their rents as make sure landlords can keep operating their housing and prevent disinvestment and blight.</p>

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46.	ESSAY	<p>What will you do to increase housing stock that is affordable to those at 15% to 30% of AMI?</p> <p>I believe that affordable housing programs must be affordable and accessible for Chicago's very low income families. I support all of the programs listed above and would add that I believe that all affordable housing programs must provide community specific tiered income targets to ensure that programs are intelligent and intentional at meeting the varying needs of low-income families across the city. These are needed both to ensure affordability standards and programs match specific need in each neighborhood that can vary greatly, as well as to avoid "creaming" those at the top of income criteria ceilings.</p>
47.	Choose One	Which standard should the City use to define affordable housing?
		AMI of the Metropolitan region
		AMI of Cook County
		AMI of Chicago
	X	AMI of the Community Area
EDUCATION		
48.	Choose One	Which of the following options for selecting the School Board do you support?
		Popular Election
	XX	Mayoral appointment from nominations made by community representatives
		Maintaining the current system of Mayoral appointment
	YES	NO
49.	X	Will you support a city-wide lottery for enrollment in magnet schools?
50.	X	Will you support LSCs in maintaining full powers, and support them through adequate funding levels that provide training and supports for LSCs to do their jobs? I think that Local School Councils are important, and they should be given the training and support. However, we will need to identify creative funding streams to support them.
51.	X	Will you declare 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?
52.	X	Will you support development and implementation of a more comprehensive, and accurate approach to evaluate student and teacher performance than reliance on the ISAT and ACT tests?
53.	ESSAY	<p>What is your assessment of Renaissance 2010? Please include in your assessment, the role of charter schools as well as the power to reconstitute schools.</p> <p>I think that Renaissance 2010 was a good idea, but it failed to partner with communities to improve schools. It was a one-sector approach to a complex problem that could have never been resolved without building those bridges.</p> <p>I believe that Charter Schools provide an opportunity for innovative school learning and teaching models.</p> <p>In addition, I believe that some schools are performing so poorly that they need to be reconstituted so that children can continue learning without being moved to another school.</p>
54.	ESSAY	<p>What should the City do to improve the quality of all local schools?</p> <p>First, I will say that I am a proud Board Member of "Advance Illinois," and our organization's goal is to make our kids "world ready" by fighting to improve the quality of their education.</p>

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		<p>In addition, I am the convener of the Statewide Action & Community Engagement Campaign (SAGE) and the Parents and Residents Invested in School and Education Reform (PRISE) that believes that the only way to truly reform our schools is by giving parents and communities an equal voice at the table, and helpful and accurate information about school performance.</p> <p>While we all know our schools have made some progress in recent years, the sad reality is that our schools are still failing. We spend billions on our schools, only to watch half the kids in Chicago Public Schools dropout or not read at grade level.</p> <p>What we really need is to fundamentally change the way we approach education. The problem is that no one is taking responsibility. Everyone needs to be held accountable for results. There is a lack of accountability in the school system, and as long as there is a lack of accountability, there is a lack of progress.</p> <p>These are a few things we need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need real-time information about student performance so that teachers can make formative assessments and improve instruction. • We need a fair, effective teacher evaluation process that is based on student performance as well as peer evaluation, principle's observations, classroom management capacity and attendance. • We need to make parents equal partners in their child's education, and give them accurate information about their progress. <p>The reality is that education is fundamentally an issue of our communities and our future, and there are few higher priorities.</p>
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ENVIRONMENT		
55.	X	Will you implement the blue cart recycling program throughout the City?
56.	X	Do you support the Clean Power Ordinance?
57.	X	Do you support privatization of Chicago's water delivery system?
58.	X	Will you implement a citywide ban on Styrofoam food containers in the public schools?
59.	X	Do you support a citywide ban on Styrofoam food containers by restaurants and food delivery businesses?
60.	X	Do you support adoption of the water quality standards recommended by the Pollution Control Board?
61.	ESSAY	<p>What will you do to encourage and implement alternative forms of energy?</p> <p>In order for Chicago to sustain itself not only as a world class city, but as a livable one that supports healthy families and viable communities, we must continue to stay ahead of the trend on protecting the health and safety of our environment and high job growth sectors. There is no question that green technologies are critical to both goals, especially for the future of our nation's middle class families.</p> <p>I believe that if we want a real green jobs boom and protect our environment, in areas such as wind farms, green construction, efficient transportation and the manufacturing supply chains that</p>

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		<p>support these new frontiers, we must not only ensure that we create opportunities to address serious capital gaps in the investments needed to move the green economy forward in our city, but also ensure that our workers manufacture, construct, assemble and manage these products.</p> <p>Examples of successful union and community collaborations, such as the Emerald Cities Project, are successfully creating green jobs are gaining momentum all across our nation,. Here in Chicago, a perfect example of the potential of alternative energy and the green economy can be found in the recent Environmental Law & Policy Center report that the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce said helped demonstrate that innovative business development in areas, such as wind-energy, are giving entrepreneurs, corporate leaders and government officials a foundation on which to build. The report stated that 104 companies in Illinois with more than 15,000 employees, including 60 companies in the Chicago region, are playing a role in the wind-power industry, whether it's making parts, mixing cement or providing legal, banking, engineering and accounting services for the industry.</p> <p>And, as we grow, there is no question that a highly unionized green economy will provide high-road jobs and a skilled, organized workforce that will play a dynamic role in supporting the continued transformation of our economy as we push for solutions.</p> <p>As Mayor, I believe that it will be necessary to not only develop model partnerships between the city, the private sector, communities and labor to drive and incentivize green industries in Chicago, but also to advocate for an aggressive agenda at the federal and state levels that supports more capital resources and innovative policies that will also build a national green economy agenda that supports alternative energy. In addition, I will also lead efforts re-train our existing workforce with the competitive skills to support world class green industries, and to build programming without our school systems and community college to prepare our youth for the future.</p>
62.	ESSAY	<p>What other environmental initiatives, if any, do you propose?</p> <p>I strongly support Mayor Daley's national leadership on green building and roofs in our city. And, while we are clearly ahead of the nation, there are still only one-tenth of a percentage of buildings with green roofs. I would support aggressive expansion and more incentive to build upon this progress. In addition, I would review current procurement codes to provide even greater incentives to contractors that build green principles into all planning projects. Finally, I would review ways to become even more aggressive at driving down diesel fuel emissions, and not only working toward those goals at the city level, but driving a state and federal agenda as well.</p>
PARKS		
63.	X	Do you support election of the Chicago Park District Board?
64.	X	Do you support increased privatization of park facilities and services?
	ESSAY	<p>Why or why not?</p> <p>I lean against privatization of public services. However, I am open to any innovative suggestions that will reduce costs and improve public services over the long-term. I also believe in strong public/private partnerships.</p>

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65.	X		Do you support prioritization of land acquisition and capital improvements first to those neighborhoods which are underserved by existing facilities?
TRANSPORTATION			
66.	X		Do you support increasing the City subsidy to the CTA?
67.	Rank 1-5 or say no to any		Please indicate which CTA expansion plans, if any, you support and rank them in order of priority (1 highest)
	1		Red Line south to 130th Street
	2		Orange Line to the Ford City Mall
	3		Downtown Circulator
	4		Downtown-O'Hare Express
			Other – please specify: I also support the expansion and improvement of our bus systems that serve some of our city's most disinvested neighborhoods.
	YES	NO	
68.	X		Do you support renegotiation of Chicago's parking meter privatization deal?
69.	X	X	Do you support privatization of Midway Airport? I lean against all privatization of public services. However, I am also very open to
70.	X		Do you support the O'Hare expansion plan?
CRIMINAL JUSTICE			
71.		X	Is response time adequate in 911 service?
			If not, how can it be improved?
	ESSAY		<p>The Chicago Police Department sets the policies for how to categorize and respond to 911 calls. Over the years, there have been many complaints about the responsiveness of the system. Despite million of dollars of investments, there is still a lack of trust and faith in the responsiveness of the system, its efficiency and it's policies. As recently as a year ago, even a police officer waited eight minutes for 911 to dispatch assistance after he called to report he was being shot at by gang members. In recent months, Chicago Alderman have reported that a leading complaint among constituents is lack of response or slow response to emergency calls.</p> <p>I believe that the response requires collaboration and open discussion with communities on policy, and a re-allocation of resources. First, there clearly must be improved communication with communities to discuss how emergency response policies are categorized. In addition, the number of police officers in the city is low, and we must hire police as part of a broader crime prevention strategy.</p>
72.	X	X	Do you support re-allocating police services from low-crime to high-crime neighborhoods? I believe that we should provide smart, strategic investments to prevent crime and enforce our laws. Generally, I believe that more police services should be re-allocated to high-crime neighborhoods. However, public safety is a very serious issue for all communities. This type of policy would have to be evaluated to ensure that we do not create a crime problem in one community in order to prevent it in another community. That said, I am a strong proponent of re-allocating police officers from desk work to community-based work – and I would definitely make that a priority in high crime neighborhoods.
73.	ESSAY		What changes, if any, would you suggest for the CAPS program?

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		<p>I strongly support community policing and creating any type of forum where community residents can police can share their concerns. That said, believe that CAPS should be remodeled to develop a stronger rapport with police and build trust between community and police. There are evidence-based practices, such as Ceasefire, that build street-level intervention and prevent crime. I led a successful effort to fight to protect Ceasefire funding. I</p> <p>In addition, I developed the Community Support & Advisory Council (CSAC) program for the Illinois Department of Corrections Sheridan National Model Drug Prison & Reentry Program. The goal of the CSAC was to create a forum for community leaders, former offenders, victims, education leaders, law enforcement officials and business leaders to address the record numbers of offenders being released from prison. The goal of the program to improve public safety and reduce the risk of former offenders by moving them away from crime and drugs and toward honest work and employment. By establishing such a forum, the community can build trust and communication with law enforcement and all partners in the community.</p>
74.	X	Do you support more funding to alternative crime prevention programs such as Cease Fire?
75.	ESSAY	<p>What measures would you support to stop the schools to prison pipeline?</p> <p>Ultimately, the issue of recidivism begins and ends in communities. It is the communities where the crime and victimization occur, and communities where the offender leaves behind a family and children at-risk of entering the vicious cycle and communities where offenders are released with poor supervision and resource to reduce their risk.</p> <p>There are near-record numbers of inmates going to prison and being released back to Chicago's communities each year. And, while the state had made some progress in addressing recidivism, it has not built sufficiently on models established in recent years to move reform forward.</p> <p>The reality is that there is no silver bullet to addressing the vicious cycle of crime and recidivism. It will require front-end prevention, such as alternatives to incarceration for nonviolent drug offenders, economic development in high poverty and high crime communication and prevention programs for at-risk kids. It will require the prison system to expand on models, such as the Sheridan Drug Prison & Reentry program, to establish real prison-based treatment programs that give inmates the tools to become crime and drug free citizens. And, finally, it will require reentry programs that have strong supervision and case management and community-based treatment programs to ensure that parolees are successful.</p> <p>While there is a tremendous challenge with resources in our state, there had been great progress with innovative social entrepreneurship programs, such as "Sweet Beginnings" and "A Safe Haven," that create businesses that hire formerly incarcerated individuals and build resources to support treatment programs.</p> <p>In addition, I helped create the Community Support & Advisory Council Program (CSAC) to support the Sheridan Drug Prison & Reentry Program that gives community a voice in how to manage the record numbers of parolees in their communities, and helps develop capacity in high-crime neighborhoods.</p> <p>The City of Chicago needs to continue working with the State of Illinois to implement a comprehensive plan for reform.</p>

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76.	X		Do you support gun control?
77.	ESSAY		<p>What measures, if any, should be adopted in response to recent court decisions striking down Chicago's handgun ban?</p> <p>I believe that guns should be licensed in a similar way to cars. Individuals that possess handguns in Chicago should be required to get an extensive background check, pass a class the teaches them about safe storage and handling of a firearm and register it with the city. In addition, I believe that gun dealers should also be licensed by the state, and that online records should be maintained to help police trace firearms that were used in crimes, and to help identify illegal traffickers of firearms.</p>
78.	X		Will you stop paying legal fees and attempt to recover past legal costs of city employees implicated in the Police Board findings of misconduct related to the Burge case?
79.	ESSAY		<p>Please share your views regarding the functioning of the Independent Police Review Authority and whether it should operate more independently of the Police Department.</p> <p>I believe that the only way to ensure the integrity of the Independent Police Review Authority is to make it operate more independently from the police department. However, I also strongly believe that a civilian authority should be established to review serious complaint of police misconduct and to recommend solutions.</p> <p>Overall, I think that we must establish stronger accountability for the high number of police shootings of civilians and other questions of misconduct. However, I believe that the real solutions require the right leadership in the city to drive true culture change throughout the Chicago Police Department.</p> <p>While we can review questions of misconduct and work to hold officers accountable, we must send a stronger message throughout the system to truly improve their ability to work with communities and build trust.</p>
CIVIL RIGHTS			
80.	X		Do you support affirmative action based on race, gender and sexual orientation in establishing criteria for hiring and promoting public employees?
81.	X		Do you support affirmative action as a criteria in letting city contracts?
82.	ESSAY		<p>Please comment on current participation of individuals with disabilities in city hiring and contracts.</p> <p>Similarly to the way that the city has promised to strive to address gaps in access to city hiring and contracts for women and minority owned businesses, I support addressing those disparities in access to individuals with disabilities. There are vital contributions to be made by so many talented individuals in this city, provided that simple measures are taken to improve access and promote the development of these firms. And, I believe that the city would gain far more than it would have to invest to create those opportunities.</p>

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83.	ESSAY	<p>Please comment on current women and minority participation in city hiring and contracts. Be sure your comments include firefighter and police officer recruitment and promotion.</p> <p>Again, I believe that there are many, many talented women and minorities that can and have already made significant contributions to the City of Chicago. As populations that have historically had disparities in access to such opportunities, I believe that it is the duty of our leaders to ensure that those that do business with our city, and those that represent the frontlines of our public services should reflect the rich diversity of city. I am a strong believer in community collaboration and participatory government, and believe that the hard work, ideas and dedication of a wide range of residents will only strengthen the effectiveness of the government to serve it's people.</p> <p>In particular, it is essential to promote diversity among our police and firefighters and work toward a wide range of representation of individuals that understand the many communities of this city and their needs. Especially the area of public safety, where there have often been violations of trust especially among these populations, I believe that type of trust can only be developed by sending the message that we are serious about giving individuals of all background and from all communities a voice. If communities see that women, minorities and individuals of all backgrounds have equal opportunities to represent our city and are valued workers, they will build that essential type of rapport that can help bring residents together with their government to solve complex issues.</p> <p>As Mayor, I would work to aggressively promote women and minority participation in city hiring and contracts, and to open up a government that works hard for the people and responds to the concerns of all communities.</p>
84.	X	Do you favor restructuring the wage scale of city employees to institute gender-equal pay for jobs of comparable worth?
85.	X	Do you support requiring all City vendors and contractors to provide spousal benefits for same-sex partners of their employees?
86.	X	Do you support the Municipal ID ordinance?
	ESSAY	<p>Why or why not?</p> <p>Yes. I have been a long-time supporter, and too often a lone African-American voice, in support of immigrant rights. I believe that all people, regardless of citizenship should have their rights and families protected. I support municipal IDs both to provide official recognition of all people living and working in this city, as well as remove barriers to access services, programs and financial institutions for Chicago's immigrants. As mayor, I would continue the city's tradition as a sanctuary city and establish a New Americans Office similar to that at the state level to protect the rights and expand services and opportunities immigrants need to continue to positively and productively be part of this city.</p>

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PRIORITIES		
87.	ESSAY	<p>What are your top priorities for Chicago?</p> <p>I am running for Mayor because I am concerned with the future of this city. I believe that, in order to make the kind of change we need in Chicago, we must take a bold new approach. We need to bring a new system of values to City Hall. And, we can't get there with the thinking of the past.</p> <p>There is no doubt that Chicago is one of the greatest cities in the world. I love this city, and I love it's people. I am a product of CPS, and I was raised by a single working mom in Cabrini Green, but today I am a CPA and PhD. I have raised 2 children here. And, I have served as CEO of one of the most successful organizations that has brought millions in development funds to our communities. And, my work has been highlighted in every major newspaper in this city.</p> <p>For 30 years I have developed a reputation for successfully building bridges and coalitions across a wide spectrum of leaders – Democrats, Republicans, business leaders, community leaders, teachers – to fight for a better quality of life for all families all across Chicago and our state. And, as your Mayor I hope to do more.</p> <p>While Chicago has clearly made some progress in recent years, the reality is. . . . While we stand here today. . . . Our nation is in a recession, unemployment rates are high, our city faces an estimated \$1 billion budget shortfall and our police, children and senior citizens are getting gunned down in the streets. Our schools are failing.</p> <p>What I see right now is a desperate scramble to address these challenges by using old, back room tactics of the past – like selling parking meters for short-term gain and underbidding Midway. Yet, what we should be doing is toward long-term, smart solutions.</p> <p>We all know that this election is a moment in time that all voters must carefully consider. We cannot entrust our city, its future and its place in the global economy with the powerplayers of the past. We need new thinking, new leadership, new innovation – and, an entirely new culture of government to continue to grow our city.</p> <p>My priorities are to run an open, participatory government of transparency that, essentially, give the keys of the City back to the people. We must reduce crime by bringing smart, evidence-based practices to our communities. We must improve our schools, and the only way to do it is through giving parents and communities an equal voice in school reform. We must also take an honest look at the performance of our schools and build a real agenda to improve them. I want to make government work for the people again, not for the few powerplayers of the past.</p>

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88.	ESSAY	<p>How will you solicit and follow citizens' and community groups' recommendations on City matters?</p> <p>I am the candidate in this race with the strongest experience in building successful, grassroots community coalitions that have improved the quality of life in our city. And, as Mayor, I will bring that same spirit of collaboration and community empowerment to the citizens through an aggressive policy of open government and transparency.</p> <p>For too long, our city has suffered the consequences of backroom deal, such as the parking meters, and now we are all paying for it. No matter where we live, we all pay for it in the form of a budget crisis, and talk of higher taxes to pay for failing schools and unsafe streets where even our police, seniors and small children are tragically murdered in gunfire.</p> <p>True reform in Chicago must come from a culture of open government in City Hall. And, that must be led from the top. I have a three-part open government plan to put the government back to work for the people, and it based on the principle that there is very little government information that should not be public. The plan is based upon the belief that the people of our city are our greatest assets. The more information they have about our city and the more opportunities they have to voice their ideas and opinions – the stronger our city. I believe we must deal in the most powerful principle: Truth.</p>
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