

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 1

DATE Sunday December 21, 2014

WARD 7th Ward Alderman

NAME Chevette A Valentine

VOTING ADDRESS 8005 S Marquette Avenue, Chicago Illinois 60649

HOME PHONE 773-991-4193 BUSINESS PHONE 219-23-7Ward or 219-237-9273

CAMPAIGN ADDRESS 2548 East 79th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60649

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CAMPAIGN MANAGER__ Pending _____

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED_690 or so NUMBER REQUIRED ___473_____

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? **Full time student and entrepreneur, owner of Sundays Catering and Concessions, Event Planning Service.**

D. Briefly list your civic activities of the past ten years. **Active community advocate and political volunteer.**

E. What subjects have you studied and what experience have you had which will be most helpful to you in the office you seek? **My family has been in politics over 50 years, I do not study politics, I focus on positive leadership. The skills I bring to the table are merely as a community advocate and leadership from previous employment.**

F. What candidates have you supported in past elections? Please be specific in describing your role in each campaign. **Governor Pat Quinn, Senator Dick Durbin, Congressmen Davis, Rush, various local politicians that I have volunteered for and with.**

G. Please list all endorsements you have received so far. **I have received letters (surveys) from Chicago Teachers Union, SEIU, AFSCME, Chicago Police Sergeants Association, Chicago Sun Times, Chicago Tribune, Chicago Labor Federation, Planned Parenthood, Citizen Action Illinois and more arrive daily.**

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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? **My passion for my ward and the residents that live within the 7th Ward. This Ward deserved leadership that will be a ever presence in the community, providing a voice for the people.**

I. What is your campaign budget? How much have you raised to date? **Budget \$100,000 to date I have raised \$6500.**

J. How many people are on your campaign staff? **How many volunteers are on your list? I have 2 part time staff and 12 volunteers.**

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Most questions on this questionnaire can be answered by checking either YES or NO. Others 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 favor maintaining the current number of City Council committees?
	ESSAY		Which committees, if any, would you combine or eliminate?
2.	ESSAY		What reforms are necessary in the City Council's committee rules and structure?
3.	X		Would you give the Inspector General's office independent subpoena power or other compulsory process that can be directed against city officials, agencies and employees without necessitation the approval of the Mayor or Corporation Counsel?
4.	X		Should the Inspector General be able to initiate his or her own investigations of Aldermen without a complaint from outside the office?
5.	X		Should the Inspector General be able to pursue anonymous complaints?
6.		X	Do you support patronage in hiring and promoting public employees?
7.		X	Will you employ or have you employed staff, in your office who hold other public sector jobs concurrently?
8.		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?
9.	X		Will you vote for an ordinance mandating that the City contest unemployment claims by former employees who were fired for cause?
10.		X	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?
11.		X	Will you support an ordinance to reduce the number of wards?
12.		X	Have you joined or will you join:
		X	The Paul Douglas Caucus
		X	The Independent Progressive Caucus
		X	Both
13.	X		Do you support changing the state statute to return to filling aldermanic vacancies by special election, rather than Mayoral appointment?
14.	X		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?
15.		X	Will you or have you accepted campaign donations from current or potential suppliers or employees?
16.		X	Will you or have you accepted campaign donations from people or businesses seeking zoning changes in your ward?
17.		X	Do you support public financing of municipal campaigns?
	ESSAY		Please explain your position.
18.	ESSAY		Who are your top 5 contributors and how much has each contributed to your campaign? None to report as of yet, my campaign started late.
19.			What changes would you support to the redistricting process? Chicago is a city that demands 50 Alderman, to properly manage each segment of the city.

Anytime you mix private funding to any election, you gamble on the risk of private agendas catering to the endorser, I will be very careful whom I accept monies and contributions from and what the agenda is of any donor.

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REVENUE AND BUDGET			
20.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Will you vote to hire independent analysts to conduct a forensic audit of past City spending?
	Will you vote for a budget ordinance which would require:		
21.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Public questioning of city department heads concerning their departments' specific budget requests?
22.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Making budget copies available to the public 30 days in advance of hearings?
23.	<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?
24.	ESSAY		What additional revenue sources, if any, would you propose? Undetermined
25.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Do you support casino gambling for Chicago?
26.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Will you vote to require a citywide referendum before any gambling is instituted in the City?
27.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Will you vote to roll back Mayoral and Aldermanic salaries to pre-2007 levels?
28.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Will you vote for an ordinance limiting future Mayoral and Aldermanic salary increases to the same percentage as the lowest raise for any class of city employees?
29.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Do you agree with the criticism that City government is top heavy with management?
	ESSAY		Please explain your position. Chicago is a Metropolis, we command the numbers of leaders based on the city's population.
30.	ESSAY		What measures will you vote for to reform the city pension plan and ensure its solvency? The city pension issues are that which require a serious overhaul facing its current status. I will work to reform and rebuild the pensions, protecting the rights of the workers who have earned such rights.
31.	ESSAY		How would you modify (if at all) the benefit and contribution levels and eligibility requirements for public employee pensions? A public service pension is still a very effective way to save for employee retirement. My proposed plan will still provide a guaranteed level of pension (calculated as a fraction of employee salary) and uprated each year - not an unknown amount based on investment returns. In addition to employee contribution, the city should makes a significant contribution towards employee pension. Employees would receive tax relief on their pension contributions and officers would pay a lower rate on insurance contribution. Officer's pension scheme provides valuable benefits for employee and employee family such as ill-health pensions and payments after employee death.
32.	Choose One		Should discretionary funds for ward services and infrastructure improvements be allocated
	YES		in equal amounts to each ward
	YES		based on the size of each ward
	YES		based on the needs of each ward
	YES	NO	
33.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Will you institute participatory budgeting to allow ward residents to vote on discretionary spending in your ward?

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PRIVATIZATION		
34.	ESSAY	Which city services or assets, if any, do you believe should be privatized and what is your criteria? When it comes to the Privatization of prison and education it opens the door to private interest groups whose numbers are driven to meet their projected revenues in order to maintain cost and budget(s). With such options we gamble with the risk of those who are only numbers driven versus results driven. For example the privatization of jails means that now police are locking up people on minor offenses to meet their quota, the focus diverts from the quality of service and shift to the focus on maintain numbers versus the need the programs were proposed to project. I am not a fan of privatizations of any government or city run agency.
35.	X	Will you vote for an ordinance requiring an independent analysis of any lease or outsourcing arrangement?
36.	X	Will you vote for an ordinance requiring detailed analysis and evaluation of any lease or outsourcing arrangement at least 30 days prior to the City Council vote?
37.	ESSAY	Before voting on privatization contracts, what will you do to ensure that they deliver the maximum return and best service for city residents in the long term? A comprehensive study of previous projects, a thorough review of their records of success and failures, track record examination of previous projects.
38.	ESSAY	What procedures will you implement to ensure that privatization arrangements are not being used to move patronage workers outside of the scope of the Rutan decision requirements or any other anti-patronage rules or protocols? A comprehensive study of previous projects, a thorough review of their records of success and failures, track record examination of previous projects.
PLANNING, ZONING, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT		
39.	ESSAY	How will you involve ward residents in planning? Public forums, meetings and discussion groups.
40.	ESSAY	What is your long-range plan for development of the ward? Revitalization rebuilding, extending my hand to people who want to build and bring jobs to the 7 th Ward. I hope to utilize the industrial space we have and motivate builders to attract to my Ward.
41.	ESSAY	What criteria do you or will you use in determining whether or not to grant a zoning change or variance? Number of jobs to be created, union labor used, length of project and overall economic impact of zoning for project, who much money will this project recycle back into the community?
42.	ESSAY	How will you involve residents in planning, approval, and oversight of TIF districts? Public forums, meetings and discussion groups.
43.	X	Will you vote to terminate a TIF if the objectives of the TIF plan have been accomplished before the 23 year period is ended?
44.	X	Will you vote to return unspent and uncommitted TIF funds on an annual basis to the various taxing bodies?
45.	ESSAY	How do you propose to replace property tax revenue for CPS and other taxing bodies that is lost to TIF development? I would find another account that is dealing with a short fall and roll those allocated or surplus dollars to other accounts in need of funding to avoid taxing or rolling cost over to the tax payers. I am not a big fan of taxation, I feel there or other options or means to generate income without having to pass cost in the form of a tax. At the same time I know it is critical to maintain proper and critical public services, at first glance I would look to cutting cost in other manners before taxing, however if after all options are exhausted, if the only feasible means to generate revenues comes in the form of a tax I would ask that it would be applied and implemented in stages gradually to avoid causing stress and burden on the voters.

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46.	X		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?
47.	X		Will you vote for 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)?
48.	X		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?
HOUSING			
49.	X		Will you vote to amend the Vacant Properties Ordinance to require mortgage servicers to register their properties?
50.	X		Do you support enacting an ordinance to preserve Single-Room Occupancy housing?
51.	X		Will you vote for an inclusionary zoning ordinance requiring developers to set aside 30% of residential new construction or renovation for the creation of affordable housing?
52.	ESSAY		What measures will you support 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? Any measure that will allow us to reduce the number of problematic units will be welcomed and encouraged, I have not had the time to investigate options, at the same time. I would look to demolish and rebuild I areas with a number of vacant properties that are being used for illegal issues.
53.	ESSAY		What procedures and safeguards would you put in place on conversion/demolition of SRO's and other low income housing to ensure that affordable housing will continue to be available for low income tenants who would otherwise be displaced? Maintaining an open relationship with the Mayor in maintaining a progressive report of accountability of spending for the Chicago Housing Authority.
54.	ESSAY		What measures will you support to ensure that there is an adequate supply of affordable family sized units available to families in the Section 8 program? I am currently working with local property owners who are making active listings available to the public and also working with the CHA to ensure all ordinances are being properly enforced.
55.	ESSAY		What measures will you support to provide affordable housing for low-income individuals and families who are not served by any existing programs? Working with the Mayor and CHA to keep an active and updated list for Housing/Waitlist.
	YES	NO	Do you support any of the following to be built in your ward?
56.	X		Low income rental housing that is affordable to those at 15% to 30% of AMI?
57.	X		Supportive housing for people overcoming addiction and other problems which contribute to homelessness?
58.	X		Shelters for the homeless?
59.	X		Do you favor a moratorium on the conversion or demolition of SRO's pending the development of protections and remedies to protect the displaced tenants from becoming homeless?
60.	X		Do you support allowing the demolition of existing public housing units without new or rehabilitated replacement housing on a one-for-one basis?
61.	Choose One		Which standard should the City use to define affordable housing?
	X		AMI of the Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area

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		AMI of Cook County
		AMI of Chicago
		AMI of the Community Area
EDUCATION		
62.	Choose One	Which of the following options for choosing the School Board do you support?
	X	Popular Election
		Mayoral appointment from nominations made by community representatives
		Maintaining the current system of Mayoral appointment
		A mix of elected and appointed members
	YES	NO
63.	X	Will you support a city-wide lottery for enrollment in magnet schools?
64.	X	Will you support LSCs in maintaining full powers, and support them through adequate funding levels that provide training and support for LSCs to do their jobs?
65.	X	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?
66.	X	Will you support development and implementation of a more comprehensive and accurate approach to evaluate student and teacher performance than reliance on the SAT and ACT tests?
67.	X	Would you favor repealing (or modifying) the 70% requirement for voting to authorize teacher strikes?
68.	ESSAY	What is your assessment of Renaissance 2010 and its implementation in your ward as well as the City as a whole? Please include in your assessment the role of charter schools as well as the power to reconstitute schools.
69.	ESSAY	What should the City do to improve the quality of all local schools? Balance the table by making the tools needed for the children in all wards to have equal access to information and equipment to keep them competitive, such as computer access and hands on training. I am also in favor of longer school days and extra-curricular activities being restored in the schools.
70.	ESSAY	What are your plans to improve the local schools in your ward? Activities, hand on development, improved teacher training, and exposure to events and activities outside the classroom.
71.	ESSAY	How would you modify (if at all) the benefit and contribution levels and eligibility requirements for public school teacher pension? A public service pension is still a very effective way to save for employee retirement. My proposed plan will still provide a guaranteed level of pension (calculated as a fraction of employee salary) and uprated each year - not an unknown amount based on investment returns. In addition to employee contribution, the city should makes a significant contribution towards employee pension. Employees would receive tax relief on their pension contributions and officers would pay a lower rate on insurance contribution. Officer's pension scheme provides valuable benefits for employee and employee family such as ill-health pensions and payments after employee death.

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ENVIRONMENT			
72.	X		Will you vote for the Clean Power Ordinance?
73.		X	Will you vote to privatize Chicago's water delivery system?
74.		X	Will you vote to ban Styrofoam food containers in Chicago public schools?
75.		X	Will you vote to ban Styrofoam food containers in Chicago restaurants and food delivery services?
76.	X		Will you vote to adopt the water quality standards recommended by the Pollution Control Board?
77.	ESSAY		What should the City do to encourage and implement alternative forms of energy? I would love to have access to the progress of the wind mills, any/all green energy resources that can be utilized will be properly investigated as I am a supporter of the clean energy movement.
78.	ESSAY		What other environmental initiatives, if any, do you propose? Wind Mills, Quality water and air testing, clean air initiatives and more.
PARKS			
79.	X		Do you support election of the Chicago Park District Board?
80.		X	Do you support increased privatization of park facilities and services?
	ESSAY		Why or why not? Once again I do not support privatization of any federal, state or city run government owned and operated entities.
81.	X		Do you support prioritization of land acquisition and capital improvements first to those neighborhoods which are underserved by existing facilities?
TRANSPORTATION			
82.		X	Will you vote to increase the City subsidy to the CTA?
83.	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)
	X		Red Line south to 130th Street
	X		Orange Line to Ford City Mall
	X		Downtown Circulator
	X		Downtown-O'Hare Express
	X		Blue line to extend to the boarder of the county line after the Desplains stop.
	YES	NO	
84.	X		Do you support renegotiation of Chicago's parking meter privatization deal? Is HELL YES too drastic???
85.	X		Do you support privatization of Midway Airport?
86.	X		Do you support the O'Hare expansion plan?

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE		
87.	X	Is 911 response time adequate?
	ESSAY	If not, how can it be improved? Monitoring of calls, timing of calls to dispatch, professionalism of operators who sometimes are a bigger problem than the incident to which you call to report.
88.	X	Are there inequities in 911 service in your ward?
	ESSAY	If so, what can be done to redress them? Monitoring of calls, timing of calls to dispatch, professionalism of operators who sometimes are a bigger problem than the incident to which you call to report.
89.	X	Do you support re-allocating police services from low-crime to high-crime neighborhoods?
90.	ESSAY	What changes, if any, would you suggest for the CAPS program? More officer interaction with the community, the officers would know the people in its community. My mother who was a police officer for over 30 years knew every kid on the block and their parents. If she had to bring you home and the parent was not there, you had to be picked up from the station without charges of course.
91.	X	Will you vote for more funding for alternative crime prevention programs such as Cease Fire?
92.	ESSAY	What measures will you support to stop the schools to prison pipeline? Mentoring programs, after school programs, sports and activities.
93.	X	Do you support gun control?
94.	ESSAY	What measures, if any, should the City Council adopt in response to recent court decisions striking down Chicago's handgun ban? Stick to our guns and keep fighting to maintain and enforce stronger gun laws and enforcement, also to implement stronger sentencing laws for violators caught with firearms.
95.	X	Will you vote to order the City to 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?
96.	ESSAY	Please share your views regarding the functioning of the Independent Police Review Authority and whether it should operate more independently of the Police Department. There needs to be a tougher review board monitoring and reviewing the policies, procedures and repeat violators, officers who are caught violating rules should be punished and pulled from street duty to less stress related roles.
CIVIL RIGHTS		
97.	X	Do you support affirmative action based on race, gender and sexual orientation in establishing criteria for hiring and promoting public employees?
98.	X	Do you support affirmative action as a criteria in letting city contracts?
99.	ESSAY	Please comment on current participation of individuals with disabilities in city hiring and contracts. I am disabled, there should be openings for those with disabilities to fill openings if qualified for said task and it does not impede the progress of the office or the production of that role.
100.	ESSAY	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. I am focused less on the roles and more on equal pay, for years I have carried the mantle for roles and did not receive fair compensation as my make counterparts.
101.	X	Do you favor restructuring the wage scale of city employees to institute gender-equal pay for jobs of comparable worth?
102.	X	Will you vote to require all City vendors and contractors to provide spousal benefits for same-sex partners of their employees?
103.	X	Will you vote for the Municipal ID ordinance? .

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	ESSAY	Why or why not? I need to research more
ALDERMANIC PRIORITIES		
104.	ESSAY	What employment, if any, other than alderman, do you intend to hold? My catering business and restaurant.
105.	ESSAY	How will you divide your time between your aldermanic duties and your other occupation? 60% Alderman and 40% Business Owner
106.	ESSAY	Please specify the minimum hours per week you will spend performing your aldermanic duties. As many as required I am certain it will exceed 100 hours per week or on an on call basis.
107.	ESSAY	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. Pending
108.	ESSAY	What services need improvement in your ward? How will you achieve this? Buildings need to be rehabbed or demolished, empty store fronts need tenants, more parks and play yards.
109.	ESSAY	What are your top priorities for the Ward? See Attached Bios and Info Package
110.	ESSAY	How will you work with community groups and residents on City matters? Public Forums, Debates, Seminars and Open House Meetings monthly!

Attached are my biography, and support letters.