

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 1

DATE 12/22/14 WARD 15

NAME Rafael Yañez

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CAMPAIGN MANAGER Dion Miller-Perez

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED 1844 NUMBER REQUIRED 473

Please provide the following background information:

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

Local School Council, Hamline Elementary 2001-2007

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

None

C. What is your primary occupation?

Crime Prevention Specialist, Chicago Police Department

D. Briefly list your civic activities of the past ten years. *I've included my LinkedIn link.*

https://www.linkedin.com/profile/view?id=246456809&authType=NAME_SEARCH&authToken=sLcK&locale=en_US&trk=yah2&trkInfo=tarId%3A1419379811945%2Ctas%3Arafael%20ya%2Cidx%3A1-1-1

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 have studied Criminal Justice, Law Enforcement, Public Safety and Education. I have been an LSC member. I also started a small not-for-profit, The UNION Impact Center to offer programming and mentoring to youth in the Back of the Yards. UNION Impact has served over 1500 youth. I am the only person who, in their professional capacity, has worked in every neighborhood of the new 15th ward. My work with CPD has been in the area of crime prevention and community policing. This has provided me with a unique understanding of the strength and weaknesses of the community-policing program. It has also provided me with insights as to how important community leaders and community organizations are to the issue of public safety.*

F. What candidates have you supported in past elections? Please be specific in describing your role in each campaign. *Cook Commissioner Jesus G. Garcia and State Representative Esther Golar.*

G. Please list all endorsements you have received so far. *Workers United, UE, and Commissioner Jesus G. Garcia*

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?

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As I made reference to before, I'm the only candidate with 11 years of experience working in this community and its neighborhoods. I've worked with Community-based organizations and schools working on crime prevention and mentoring programs working with and helping over 20,000 children, parents and seniors. I started an organization in the Back of the Yards, U.N.I.O.N. Impact Center, that specifically targeted youth for alternative after-school programs that would offer healthy options such sports, art programs, academic assistance to 1,500 young people of all races and backgrounds. I have the explicit support of Cook County Commissioner Jesus G. Garcia who has been a mentor to me as I pursue this office.

The newly configured 15th ward needs a strong voice in the City Council. The ward has some of the most neglected neighborhoods in Chicago. I've spoken with hundreds of voters and its clear that Public Safety, Living Wages (Jobs), Strong Neighborhood Schools and Better City Services and Infrastructure are the chief issues. This consistent with mmmmy vision of the 15th ward and what I can do as alderman to better conditions in the ward.

I. What is your campaign budget? How much have you raised to date? \$100,000 campaign budget (approx), \$32,000 (approx)

J. How many people are on your campaign staff? How many volunteers are on your list? 2 Campaign staff, 75 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		<i>Which committees, if any, would you combine or eliminate? As a new candidate I would like the opportunity to see for myself what the level of functionality is for the City Council's committees and structure. I'm also very interested in any credible critiques that would also inform my decisions.</i>
2.	ESSAY		<i>What reforms are necessary in the City Council's committee rules and structure? As a new candidate I would like the opportunity to see for myself what the level of functionality is for the City Council's committees and structure. I'm also very interested in any credible critiques that would also inform my decisions.</i>
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.			Have you joined or will you join:
		x	The Paul Douglas Caucus
	X		The Independent Progressive Caucus
			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		<i>Please explain your position. Campaign Financing is in serious need of reform. Running for elective office should not be restricted people of wealth or people who sell or compromise their office for access to wealth. People from all walks of life must be afforded the opportunity to run for office as easily as those with "deep pockets".</i>

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18.	ESSAY	Who are your top 5 contributors and how much has each contributed to your campaign? All numbers are approximate as this an active campaign. Jesus G. Garcia \$6,000, Balbina Alvear \$2,500, Veronica Lopez \$1,000, Paul Chester \$500, and Ramiro Alvarez \$400.
19.		What changes would you support to the redistricting process? <i>I would support a bi-partisan or multi-partisan along with non-partisan membership to a committee that would evaluate re-districting based on assuring that minority representation (who've been traditionally discriminated) is not diluted.</i>
REVENUE AND BUDGET		
20.	x	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.	x	public questioning of city department heads concerning their departments' specific budget requests?
22.	x	making budget copies available to the public 30 days in advance of hearings?
23.	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?
24.	ESSAY	
		What additional revenue sources, if any, would you propose?
25.	x	Do you support casino gambling for Chicago?
26.	x	Will you vote to require a citywide referendum before any gambling is instituted in the City?
27.	x	Will you vote to roll back Mayoral and Aldermanic salaries to pre-2007 levels?
28.	x	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.	x	Do you agree with the criticism that City government is top heavy with management?
	ESSAY	
		Please explain your position.
30.	ESSAY	
		What measures will you vote for to reform the city pension plan and ensure its solvency? <i>I would have to see what proposals are tendered in light of recent court actions that have called into question the constitutionality of the current proposals that have been brokered by the state and the city.</i>
31.	ESSAY	
		How would you modify (if at all) the benefit and contribution levels and eligibility requirements for public employee pensions? <i>I would first need to see that the current pension obligations are satisfied before I can entertain any changes to either benefits, contributions or eligibility.</i>
32.	Choose One	
		Should discretionary funds for ward services and infrastructure improvements be allocated
		in equal amounts to each ward
	x	based on the size of each ward
	x	based on the needs of each ward
	YES	NO
33.	x	Will you institute participatory budgeting to allow ward residents to vote on discretionary spending in your ward?
PRIVATIZATION		
34.	ESSAY	
		Which city services or assets, if any, do you believe should be privatized and what is your criteria? <i>I do not believe any city assets should be privatized.</i>
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

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			return and best service for city residents in the long term?
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?
PLANNING, ZONING, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT			
39.	ESSAY		How will you involve ward residents in planning? <i>See essay answer 110 and answer 40.</i>
40.	ESSAY		What is your long-range plan for development of the ward? <i>As a new alderman in a substantially remapped ward I would want whatever long-range plan that will be developed for the 15th ward to first include participation in evaluation and planning from residents, community organizations, schools, churches and other stakeholders. From that a long-range plan that has the input & support of the ward will be the strongest way to protect the residents of the 15th ward from runaway development.</i>
41.	ESSAY		What criteria do you or will you use in determining whether or not to grant a zoning change or variance? <i>Consultation with the affected residents in open, well-publicized meetings where proposals get a thorough vetting.</i>
42.	ESSAY		How will you involve residents in planning, approval, and oversight of TIF districts? <i>See answer to question 40. TIF's can have a significant impact to a community. It is important to me to safeguard against misuse of TIF's by having a well-integrated community process.</i>
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>Evaluation of moribund TIF's, appropriate termination of TIFs and executing a moratorium on new TIF development. Realistically the only appropriate way to replace the revenue is to be opportunistic in dissolving and ending TIF's.</i>
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? <i>I would favor increasing the amount of other resources (beyond the NSP Federal monies) to be able to rehabilitate more foreclosed buildings and expanding the targeted communities to adequately confront the problem of vacant, abandoned buildings.</i>
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

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			income tenants who would otherwise be displaced? The recent SRO ordinance, which passed the City Council, is a step in the right direction. <i>As alderman, I would be willing to work with progressive aldermen, non-profit housing advocates, and the Law Department to suggest amendments to this SRO ordinance that can improve the present ordinance and not increase the possibility of a legal challenge to the ordinance.</i>
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>I will work with local, regional, or statewide non-profit housing advocacy organizations, Chicago area university urban research centers, and the Chicago Rehab Network on their ongoing efforts in Chicago and the outlying suburban areas to preserve the current supply of affordable, Section 8 [known as Housing Choice] housing units for families.</i>
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? <i>I am willing to work with housing developers, neighborhood schools, non-profit social service organizations, and religious charities to discuss how the city should confront the chronic housing problem of poor individuals and families. In the 15th ward there is abandoned property and high affordable housing need. I will work with local entities to restore balance to both.</i>
	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?
			AMI of the Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area
			AMI of Cook County
			AMI of Chicago
	x		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?

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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. <i>Every single education plan proffered by this and the prior administration has been a disaster. Renaissance 2010 is no different. As has been the implementation, manipulation, and accountability of the "Charter School" model.</i>
69.	ESSAY		What should the City do to improve the quality of all local schools? <i>Seek greater funding for Public Schools from the State. There is nothing else more important that they can do without proper funding.</i>
70.	ESSAY		What are your plans to improve the local schools in your ward? <i>To support the initiative and creativity of local school communities. Work to support their efforts at improvement. My experience is that many teachers, principals and LSC members already have in mind efforts that can improve their own school but the toxic atmosphere of austerity, corruption, fear and retribution that has been created by the current CPS administration, belabored by excessive testing, is the chief obstacle to improving the schools.</i>
71.	ESSAY		How would you modify (if at all) the benefit and contribution levels and eligibility requirements for public school teacher pension? <i>See answer to question 31</i>
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>The city needs to seriously utilize solar, wind and other alternatives with Chicago's housing stock and extensively examine what it would take to retrofit the type of housing Chicago has in order to cut energy needs (passive houses). This needs to be available and affordable to homeowners and landlords of small and moderate size dwellings not just high profile projects.</i>
78.	ESSAY		What other environmental initiatives, if any, do you propose? <i>I would convene an environmental task force for the 15th ward. Considering the industrial history of the Back of the Yards, and other industrial areas through out the 15th ward, its important to examine this issue and the environmental and health impact to residents and their families in the ward. I would like to conduct a ward wide environmental impact study that would include documentation of first person accounts. I would reach out to environmental advocate allies to help with an analysis of environmental impacts and brownfields in the ward. I would seek to leverage resources from the City, State and Federal government as part of the 15th ward communities long-range development plans.</i>
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? <i>Privatization is not a solution to improving or maintaining park facilities.</i>
81.	x		Do you support prioritization of land acquisition and capital improvements first to those neighborhoods which are underserved by existing facilities?

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TRANSPORTATION			
82.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		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)	
	2		Red Line south to 130th Street
	1		Orange Line to Ford City Mall
			Downtown Circulator
	3		Downtown-O'Hare Express
			Other – please specify
	YES	NO	
84.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Do you support renegotiation of Chicago's parking meter privatization deal?
85.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Do you support privatization of Midway Airport?
86.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Do you support the O'Hare expansion plan?
CRIMINAL JUSTICE			
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Is 911 response time adequate?
87.	ESSAY		If not, how can it be improved? <i>There is understaffing on both ends. The 911 center is understaffed and the police are understaffed. The overuse of overtime leads to overtaxed front line workers. Staffing for both 911 and the police needs to increase and overtime abuse needs to be stopped.</i>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Are there inequities in 911 service in your ward?
88.	ESSAY		If so, what can be done to redress them? <i>See the answer to question 87. Additionally as alderman I will keep a close watch on this because of my own experience.</i>
89.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		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? <i>CAPS needs to be reinvigorated and expanded.</i>
91.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		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? <i>The CPS administrations current strategy of testing overkill prompts some principals to "push-out" low performing and at-risk students. This policy and practice needs to stop. I will as alderman push the district administrators to provide the appropriate support to schools in my ward and not the superficial "photo-op" style of policy making they currently engage in.</i>
93.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		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? <i>It's clear without support from the Illinois General Assembly Chicago will largely be on its own. I support whatever measures can held constitutional to prevent further proliferation of gun related crimes.</i>
95.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		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. <i>The IPRA has had seven years to distinguish itself from the OPS. Consistent with the City an abundance of information is provided but critical data and true transparency are still wanting. As a body it needs more independence from the City similar to that of the Inspector General.</i>
CIVIL RIGHTS			
97.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Do you support affirmative action based on race, gender and sexual orientation in establishing

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		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>As a new alderman I would have to examine the city's contracting and hiring data against recommendations and critiques by advocacy groups such as Access Living and others.</i>
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>Again, as a new alderman I would have to examine the city's hiring data against recommendations and critiques by advocacy groups. The City has been vague about meeting its own "targets" in these areas so I'm certain there's more information outstanding that could to this picture.</i>
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?
	ESSAY	Why or why not? <i>To the extent that is practical, homeless residents and other groups seeking sanctuary in the city of Chicago need to be afforded alternatives of identification not currently offered by the state or federal government.</i>
ALDERMANIC PRIORITIES		
104.	ESSAY	What employment, if any, other than alderman, do you intend to hold? <i>None</i>
105.	ESSAY	How will you divide your time between your aldermanic duties and your other occupation? <i>Does not apply.</i>
106.	ESSAY	Please specify the minimum hours per week you will spend performing your aldermanic duties. <i>At a minimum of 60 hours per weeks though realistically I know I will need to be available 24/7.</i>
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. <i>My office will be open 40 hours a week, with one night designated for ward night. As our term unfolds we may alter or stagger our hours to better serve our constituency. Our staffing profile will be based on input from community members about constituent needs.</i>
108.	ESSAY	What services need improvement in your ward? How will you achieve this? <i>Infrastructure improvements are badly needed in many parts of the ward. City services can always improve and the current configuration of Streets and Sans will now require coordination on my offices part to ensure uniformity of service. The current "Aldermanic Menu" is woefully inadequate to meet the needs of my or likely many other wards especially in light of the stunning downtown area developments. The over reliance on TIFs needs to be replaced with common sense maintenance to the City's infrastructure.</i>
109.	ESSAY	What are your top priorities for the Ward? <i>Public Safety, Living Wages, Strong Advocacy for Neighborhood Public Schools and Better City Services and Infrastructure.</i>
110.	ESSAY	How will you work with community groups and residents on City matters? <i>I will continuously and consistently rely upon the counsel of community organizations in the disposition of city initiatives. I will also convene periodic community meetings to seek input. I will also support meetings by community organizations done on their own behalf and for the community.</i>