

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 1

DATE__February 24, 2015_____ WARD__18th_____

NAME_____Michael A. Davis_____

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CAMPAIGN MANAGER____Michael Davis_____

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED_1,500_____NUMBER REQUIRED__473_____

Please provide the following background information:

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

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

18th Ward Alderman - 2011

C. What is your primary occupation?

Digital Media Manager - InterCall

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

-Member of Wrightwood Improvement Association

-Member of 8000 Strong Block Club

-President of 86th Place Block Club

-Member of Hayes Park Advisory Council

-Founder & President of Next Generations Solutions Group

-Host Antiviolence Marches/Protests along with CeaseFire

-National Association for the Advancement of Colored People – Chair (2004 – 2008)

-Member of IVI-IPO 2011

-Candidate for 18th Ward Alderman 2011 & 2014/15

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

-Bachelor of Business – Western Illinois University (2008)

-Master of Business Administration – Western Illinois University (2010)

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

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 1

Student Organizer – Barack Obama Presidential Campaign (2008)

Field Organizer – Barack Obama Re-Election Campaign (2012)

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

Chicago Police Sergeants' Association

It is still very early in the election cycle and many organizations have yet to announce their endorsements. The list below are organizations that I am seeking endorsement from:

Chicago Teachers Union

Service Employees International Union

Fraternal Order of Police

Chicago Firefighters Union

Chicago Police Sergeants Association

Chicago Sun-Times

Independent Voters of Illinois Independent Precinct Organization

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees

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 feel I should earn the endorsement of the IVI-IPO because of my civic involvement, leadership in the community, and strong belief in the ideology of transparent and honest government. I have been a proud member and representative of this organization – earning its endorsement in the Aldermanic race of 2011. Since then I have remained committed, and helped to form the Chicago Progressive Aldermanic Candidates (CPAC) group with fellow IVI-IPO member Alonso Zaragoza.

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

My total campaign budget is approximately \$80,000. To date we have raised over \$10,000, and are on track to receive key donations to meet our goal now that we have a secured spot on the ballot.

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

My campaign staff consists of 32 committed individuals, and list of over 60 ACTIVE volunteers.

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 2

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	
	X		Do you favor maintaining the current number of City Council committees?
1.			<p>Which committees, if any, would you combine or eliminate? As Alderman, I would work with the Committee on Committees, Rules and Ethics to determine if there are any standing committees that can either be combined or eliminated. Although this measure has been suggested by Alderman in the past, I think it would ultimately be up to the new Council to determine which committees would be affected.</p>
2.			<p>What reforms are necessary in the City Council's committee rules and structure? In that I am not a current Council member I am not fully aware of what reforms have been suggested with regards to the committee rules and structure. I am, however, concerned that the City Council be run as a separate branch of government, and not subservient to the Office of the Mayor. As Alderman, I would also be in favor of any reform that would allow the City Council to operate more effectively and efficiently.</p>
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.			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
		X	<p>Both As a freshman Alderman, I would seek involvement in the Independent Progressive Caucus along with Aldermen Waguespack, Fioretti, and others who have held the banner on progressive issues in City Council most often. I would hope that eventually the Paul Douglas & Independent Progressive Caucus' can work together on progressive measures, but for now I will choose to align myself with those most likely to vote independent of the Mayor.</p>
13.	X		<p>Do you support changing the state statute to return to filling aldermanic vacancies by special election, rather than Mayoral appointment? My ward is an example of one affected by a Mayoral appointment. Our citizens deserve a say in who is appointed to lead them in City Council, and that decision should not be left</p>

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 2

			up to the Mayor. Ending this Mayoral appointment would go a long way to ending the culture of rubber stamping in City Hall.
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. I would be willing to support public financing of municipal campaigns if it could be determined that more parity could be achieved in the amount of money spent on municipal campaigns.
18.		ESSAY	Who are your top 5 contributors and how much has each contributed to your campaign? Myself (\$5,000), Traci Powell (<\$1,000), Michael & Marie Davis (>\$1,000), Dr. Emil Hamberlan (<\$500)
19.			What changes would you support to the redistricting process? I would support an ordinance requiring that redistricting be based on a non-partisan criterion.
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? A commuter tax on individuals that live outside of the City but work here and rely on its services. Also, a LaSalle Street tax on futures contracts executed through the facilities of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange and the Chicago Board Options Exchange.
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. I believe that the City government should be held to the same standard as the business community, which when encountered with sinking revenues and increasing costs must look at eliminating redundancies and inefficiencies in management. Even the City Council itself should be studied to determine if its size could be decreased.
30.		ESSAY	What measures will you vote for to reform the city pension plan and ensure its solvency? I would require that the City no longer delay payment in the pension systems of our public employees. In order to meet our obligation, I will also champion those new and creative revenue sources above and require that it be used towards to the payment of our pension

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 2

		debt.
31	ESSAY	How would you modify (if at all) the benefit and contribution levels and eligibility requirements for public employee pensions? At this current moment I am not aware of any changes in benefits or contributions that should be required for public employees. I am, however, against any future loss in benefits to retirees, and any attempt to limit their retirement income.
32.	Choose One	Should discretionary funds for ward services and infrastructure improvements be allocated
		in equal amounts to each ward
		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? Prior to making a decision on whether or not to institute participatory budgeting in my ward I would want to meet with the Alderman and residents of the 49th Ward to determine how practical the option would be in the 18th Ward. Much like Rogers Park, the Greater Ashburn area is very diverse, and I'd want to ensure that this measure would allow equal participation from all groups before implementation.
PRIVATIZATION		
34.	ESSAY	Which city services or assets, if any, do you believe should be privatized and what is your criteria? In a moment in which the City of Chicago is facing record deficits, I think it would be the wrong time to privatize our city services or assets without very careful judgment. We have already suffered as a result of the privatization of our City's parking meters, and the red light and speed cameras. However, if the Council decides to move forward with more privatization I would set a criteria that (1) we have enough time as a Council to review the contracts and investigate the impact to the City's budget, and (2) that the revenue generated be allocated to specific areas of the budget.
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? Once again, I would set a criteria that (1) we have enough time as a Council to review the contracts and investigate the impact to the City's budget, and (2) that the revenue generated be allocated to specific areas of the budget.
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? I would fully support any ordinance that would guarantee that the City of Chicago acts in full compliance with the Shakman decree.

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 2

PLANNING, ZONING, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT		
39.	ESSAY	<p>How will you involve ward residents in planning? Currently, there are several civic groups that exist within the 18th ward to provide residents with opportunities to organize and put forth strategies to help improve its public safety, economic development, and beautification. As Alderman, I plan to encourage more residents to take part in such organizations by promoting their meetings and events in a monthly newsletter sent from my office to the entire community. I will also go further by creating an interactive website that links with social media sites (i.e. Facebook, Twitter) to inform more residents of what's going on within their ward, and how they can become more involved in community initiatives. I believe that in order to reach this modern generation, all Aldermen must find creative ways of linking together their residents' home community with their online community.</p>
40.	ESSAY	<p>What is your long-range plan for development of the ward? As Alderman, my vision is to work in collaboration with the 18th ward residents to make it a safer and more dynamic community. With regards to economic development, I will work towards creating a ward with thriving businesses and not abandoned store-fronts. To that end, I plan to create an 18th Ward Business Advisory Council made up of business leaders, educators, and entrepreneurs to create an effective strategic plan on long- and short-range business development plans. I will also create an effective marketing strategy for our ward that will entice businesses to offer their products and services in our ward.</p> <p>In regards to public safety, I would work tirelessly to ensure that our residents can live in a safe and protective environment. I plan to work with my colleagues in the City Council to equip our Chicago Police Department with the manpower and resources it needs to effectively serve and protect the public. I will also be a major proponent for any ordinance that would effectively allocate Police officers to the most high risk areas within the ward.</p> <p>Additionally, I would work towards ensuring that our young people can attend schools within their community that will equip them with the knowledge needed to compete in our global technology-driven workplace. When a child is properly educated they develop hope for their future and respect their community and the people in their community. We want to make sure the schools are receiving the financing that they deserve and enact programs which will help them in their goal of educating tomorrow's leaders.</p> <p>Lastly, I will work towards ensuring that the beautification and preservation of our ward is given the full attention of the Alderman's office, the Department of Streets and Sanitation, and most importantly our residents. Our ward is rich with architectural gems, many of which are now boarded up, and others are allowed to fall into a state of disrepair. As Alderman, I would propose and support ordinances that would require property owners - whether they be an individual, bank, or vacant landlord – to invest in the maintenance of their property.</p>
41.	ESSAY	<p>What criteria do you or will you use in determining whether or not to grant a zoning change or variance? My goal as Alderman will be to grant zoning changes or variances by first determining the impact the proposed changes would have on the ward. First, I will analyze how the proposal plans to create a positive impact for the local area. Next, I will develop an exploratory committee that will explore the potential positive and negative impact of the zoning issue upon the local area. My focus would be to zone land usage that will</p>

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 2

		encourage economic development, provide a social need, and improve the overall health of the community. Lastly, and most importantly, I will take this issue to the residents of the area the planned zoning change would affect and ask their opinions regarding the creation of the zoning change.
42.	ESSAY	How will you involve residents in planning, approval, and oversight of TIF districts? Chicago's current process of creating a TIF district is not an open process that allows residents to effectively voice their opinions regarding the redistribution of their property taxes. While it is required that a formal community meeting be held prior to the voting of a TIF district, it does not allow for residents to (1) object to its creation, or (2) propose alternative improvement plans. Therefore, my plan is to host several town hall style meetings where the objectives of the proposed TIF are explained and residents can have a say in the process of determining when and where a TIF district may be created. The panel will have the ability to approve and vote down proposals for the creation of a TIF. Also, as alderman we will inform the local block clubs, local chamber of commerce, and local neighborhood associations when we plan to start an exploratory committee to start a TIF to help disseminate the information within the community.
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? Rather than finding ways to replace the property tax revenues that would otherwise be distributed to the taxing bodies, I would support a move by the taxing bodies to create a moratorium on the creation of any new TIFs.
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? To ensure families at 40%-60% below AMI are able to have access to housing opportunities under the Vacant Properties Ordinance we will engage local community organizations and inform the public regarding the opportunities that are available. As Alderman it is one of my top priorities to support families and the creation of a healthy community of people. Providing affordable housing to all residents of Chicago is not only the right thing to do, it

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 2

			<p>is great for our economy. The rehabbing of the homes creates several construction jobs, the local stores have a rejuvenated customer base, property taxes can be collected for the property, and strong families and communities help to deter crime in communities.</p>
53.	ESSAY		<p>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?</p> <p>I would support a procedure requiring that any conversion or demolition of an SRO or any other low income housing facility be replaced by a comparable facility nearby. We cannot continue to displace those without, and ask them to be patient in finding a new location.</p>
54.	ESSAY		<p>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?</p> <p>As Alderman, a goal to accomplish is the creation of an adequate amount of housing for families under Section 8. One of the key objectives to reach this goal is to require a percentage of new construction homes to be available to Section 8 recipient families. Making an adequate assessment of available homes and families under Section 8 will make sure the current resources are allocated in the proper way. The next objective would be the creation of incentives for developers and property managers to allow Section 8 recipient families to move into their property. This can be accomplished by highlighting the economic pluses and debunking the negative stereotypes associated with Section 8 recipients.</p>
55.	ESSAY		<p>What measures will you support to provide affordable housing for low-income individuals and families who are not served by any existing programs?</p> <p>I will identify programs which uncovered recipients may qualify for and encourage community and civic organizations to reach more families through proper funding. Also, as Alderman, I will make the information and access to the programs more available to the general public.</p>
	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	<p>supportive housing for people overcoming addiction and other problems which contribute to homelessness?</p> <p>No, our ward currently has adequate facilities for people overcoming addictions and other problems that contribute to the homelessness. Our largest is directly across from my Aldermanic Office and has posted several vacancies in my last visit.</p>
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?

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 2

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? No, I would be more supportive of measures that will ensure that all of our Chicago Public Schools offer the same resources and opportunities that are afforded to students at 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		<p>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.</p> <p>The Renaissance 2010 is designed to create high-performance educational institutions throughout Chicago. These high performance schools are approved by the Chicago Public School system, however they do not function under the same regulations as traditional public schools in Chicago.</p> <p>Ralph Ellison and the Chicago International Charter School – Wrightwood are two schools associated with Renaissance 2010 and are located in the 18th ward. According to the Chicago Public School website, over 71 percent of students are performing at or above the state average at CICS-Wrightwood. However only 29 percent of students attending Ralph Ellison meet or exceed state standards for testing.</p> <p>Overall, the statistics for long-term effectiveness for Renaissance 2010 remain to be seen due to the novelty of the program. I believe that the goal for high performance educational institutions in Chicago is attainable and important and the 18th ward will be a beacon of educational excellence in Chicago.</p>
69.	ESSAY		<p>What should the City do to improve the quality of all local schools?</p> <p>To improve the quality of all local schools, Chicago must enforce a standard of excellence in every area. From administration, to students, everyone must be committed to excellence in education. We must take pride in our campuses and pride in our classroom.</p>

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 2

			Each student should realize education is a privilege and every teacher should feel appreciation and satisfaction when they step into the classroom. Every school should be a safe haven for all who attend, and everyone should be taught that their actions not only affect themselves, but their entire school and city.
70.	ESSAY		What are your plans to improve the local schools in your ward? My plans to improve the schools in the 18th ward involve working with CPS to establish goals and objectives that centralize on the individual needs of each school. I understand the importance of a quality education and I want to work with the Chicago City Council to improve and maintain a level of funding that will propel each student to the next level of education including the latest in technology and safety equipment.
71.	ESSAY		How would you modify (if at all) the benefit and contribution levels and eligibility requirements for public school teacher pension? I would not modify the benefits, contribution levels, or eligibility requirements of the public school teachers pension at present. I believe our number one priority should be to meet our obligation as a City to pay into those systems as agreed upon.
ENVIRONMENT			
72.	X		Will you vote for the Clean Power Ordinance?
73.		X	Will you vote to privatize Chicago's water delivery system? I would not vote on a plan to privatize the Chicago water delivery system unless it (1) can ensure that revenues from such deal would benefit the City of Chicago, and (2) would support the repairing and rebuilding of our city's water and sewer infrastructure.
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? To encourage the use of alternative forms of energy, the City should provide incentives to individuals and families that work to reduce global warming and carbon footprint. Tax cuts for hybrid drivers, special discounts on energy saving products, and buy-back programs on antiquated electronics are just some of the ways the city can encourage the use of alternative energy.
78.	ESSAY		What other environmental initiatives, if any, do you propose? I propose each community create a buy-back program in their respective wards and the monies collected from each neighborhood would go to advancements in that area i.e., resurfacing parks, purchasing garbage cans, establishing a community center, offering after school programs, and maintaining a polished and well-kept neighborhood
PARKS			
79.	X		Do you support election of the Chicago Park District Board?
		X	Do you support increased privatization of park facilities and services?
80.	ESSAY		Why or why not? Privatization of city property has become one of the most controversial topics in Chicago. While it may offer additional revenue to the City, it is important to look at the negative aspects of privatizations. Privatization often means the loss of jobs and in this economy; our main focus should be on job creation. Privatization often causes constituent backlash and anger. Privatization usually involves lengthy agreements and whose effectiveness

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 2

			cannot be appropriately gauged.
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)
	2		Red Line south to 130th Street
	1		Orange Line to Ford City Mall
	4		Downtown Circulator
	3		Downtown-O'Hare Express
			Other – please specify
	YES	NO	
84.	X		Do you support renegotiation of Chicago's parking meter privatization deal?
85.		X	Do you support privatization of Midway Airport?
86.	X		Do you support the O'Hare expansion plan?
CRIMINAL JUSTICE			
87.		X	Is 911 response time adequate?
	ESSAY		If not, how can it be improved? The men and women of our Chicago Police Department work hard to ensure a prompt response to 911 response times. However, the police department itself is so short on manpower that staffing levels have affected the response times, particularly during times of heightened activity. To improve this, I am in favor of hiring additional police to maintain safer staffing levels and improve quality.
88.	X		Are there inequities in 911 service in your ward?
	ESSAY		If so, what can be done to redress them? See above (87).
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? The CAPS program has been a model for other large Police Departments around the country if not for budget concerns it could possibly be more effective by having satellite offices and officers posted throughout the city to make their services more accessible.
91.	X		Will you vote for more funding for alternative crime prevention programs such as Cease Fire? History has shown us that grass roots organizations sometimes has more insight into what works for individual communities and in that vein would I pursue more funding but I would also have more oversight and more of a commitment from the organizations to work with local governmental agencies.
92.	ESSAY		What measures will you support to stop the schools to prison pipeline? Better mentoring programs would be my first step and a better system for tracking students in need of mentoring. Revise the system that sends a child home as punishment for disciplinary infractions. The Park District would also be utilized more in an effort to assist these programs as well.
93.	X		Do you support gun control?

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 2

94.	ESSAY	<p>What measures, if any, should the City Council adopt in response to recent court decisions striking down Chicago's handgun ban?</p> <p>I think that the City has responded appropriately by making it mandatory that citizens receive firearms training and given guidelines as to their rights and responsibilities as firearms owners. I also believe there should be stricter penalties for those caught using or possessing an illegal firearm in the City of Chicago.</p>
95.	X	<p>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?</p> <p>If found guilty, I would not only seek to recover those legal costs , but I would also go a step further and require that the City revoke pensions owed to those city employees.</p>
96.	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 IPRA has functioned poorly in regards to investigating claims of police misconduct. In order to perform its duty more autonomously, I believe that the head of IPRA needs to be elected and not merely appointed by the Mayor. I would not want any cases to be unfounded because of political manipulation or pressure.</p>
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	<p>Please comment on current participation of individuals with disabilities in city hiring and contracts.</p> <p>I believe that that the city is in full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and have read Press Releases that the City has issued that encourage the hiring of citizens with disabilities.</p>
100.	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>I feel that the city has complied with the mandate that was issued by the late Judge Prentiss Marshall but once again I will state that there are inequities in the system still and current statistics bear this out. In particular both the Police and Fire Department have readily admitted that the racial and gender makeup of their Departments fail to reflect the makeup of the City.</p>
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	<p>Why or why not?</p> <p>I believe that this ordinance requires more investigating to determine potential implications.</p>
ALDERMANIC PRIORITIES		
104.	ESSAY	<p>What employment, if any, other than alderman, do you intend to hold?</p> <p>At present, my only focus is to serve as Alderman of the 18th Ward and be fully accessible to my constituents. I hold no other occupation that will interfere or impede with that obligation.</p>

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 2

105.	ESSAY	How will you divide your time between your aldermanic duties and your other occupation? N/A
106.	ESSAY	Please specify the minimum hours per week you will spend performing your aldermanic duties. I would perform at least 40 hours of work per week towards my Aldermanic duties.
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 think it's still too early to decide the number of staff and hours per week that the office will be open, because that is determined in large part by the schedule of those I hire. I do plan to have the office open during normal business hours, but I'd also include some late evening or weekend hours to accommodate those residents who don't have a traditional work schedule.
108.	ESSAY	What services need improvement in your ward? How will you achieve this? Most complaints that I receive from residents are in regards to the lack of communication and responsiveness of the Department of Streets and Sanitation services. As Alderman, I will ensure that whomever serves as the 18th Ward Superintendent be responsive and accessible to the residents. I will also require that the lines of communication stays open to residents until their requests or concerns are met. I am also deeply concerned with the shortage of police manpower in the Chicago Police Department, and more locally, the 8th District.
109.	ESSAY	What are your top priorities for the Ward? In no particular order I would outline my top priorities as (1) addressing the need for more beat officers to patrol high risk areas in the Ward; (2) work with local chambers of commerce, entrepreneurs, and business leaders to develop a strategic plan for revitalizing the business districts within our Ward; (3) encourage the formation of more block clubs and community organizations aimed at building a stronger 18th Ward; (4) ensure that our local schools are given the resources and tools they need to provide students with a world-class education and a safe learning environment.
110.	ESSAY	How will you work with community groups and residents on City matters? As Alderman I will put into practice an ideology of service above self by allowing for greater participation from residents and community groups on City matters. I plan to use the Web in conjunction with a solid precinct organization to poll residents and community groups on matters currently being discussed and debated in City Council. Also, on ordinances that are more controversial I will host town hall meetings to allow residents to express their thoughts, concerns, and ideas on what my vote should be as THEIR representative.