

# IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 1

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ WARD 25

NAME Byron Sigcho

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CAMPAIGN MANAGER Nelson Soza

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED 2,103 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.

Local School Council

C. What is your primary occupation?

Educator at UIC's Center for Literacy

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

I have been civically involved all my life. Currently and for the past few years I am a member of my union, GEO-AFT. In my community I am a very active leader and board member of Pilsen Alliance, a grassroots organization. I am also a member of Teachers for Social Justice, an organization that recently endorsed my campaign. I have been a volunteer soccer coach with different schools and organizations for a number of years.

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 hold a bachelors, two masters and I am in the process of obtaining a PhD. The subjects I have studied with most dedication include economics, education and public policy. I believe all these subjects will be of invaluable help for a public official.

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

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In the past municipal election I supported Miguel Del Valle, although I only played a minor role. I voted for President Barak Obama, and most recently I supported Gov. Pat Quinn for re-election. In this latest campaign I played a larger role than in prior campaigns registering people to vote and helping get them out to vote. I have also been involved in placing the referendum for a democratically elected school board on the ballot.

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

Teachers for Social Justice and Reclaim Chicago.

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 have the academic background and the track record of activism and social involvement that have prepared me to serve my community. I have a deep commitment to solidarity and social justice, but I don't think it is enough to denounce it; one must demonstrate with actions. Aside from the incumbent, I am the only candidate backed by a real grassroots organization with a 16-year record of accomplishments. Members of my organization and I work with a number of other community groups and city-wide organizations, which allows me to build the coalitions required to find common ground and represent the 25<sup>th</sup> Ward in a new democratic and inclusive way.

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

Our campaign budget is \$50,000. We have raised more than \$10,000 in money and significant in kind donations.

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

We have 1.5 staff at this point. I have about 45 volunteers who do work on a regular basis, 15 of them make the core of the canvassing.

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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 need to have a better analysis of that situation
2.	ESSAY		I need to have a better analysis of that situation
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
		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		Taking private money out of the political process is one of the ways to heal it. Public financing seems an obvious alternative.
18.	ESSAY		Who are your top 5 contributors and how much has each contributed to your campaign?
19.	Sigcho family; \$2,000; Juan Solis, \$1,200; Rico Gutstein, \$500; Pauline Lipman, \$1,500; Adam Heenan, \$400		

### 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:		

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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.	<b>ESSAY</b>		TIF, toxic interest swap renegotiation, tax on stock trades
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?
	<b>ESSAY</b>		Absolutely, services are lagging or being eliminated while communications people get hired or reshuffled. We need new priorities in our city.
30.	<b>ESSAY</b>		First I would make it unconstitutional to try to change the deal with those expecting their pensions. I would come up with new sources of revenue, adjusting the tax code, creating a city income tax and getting rid of loopholes. We need to go back to getting the revenue we received when these deals were considered solvent.
31	<b>ESSAY</b>		This needs more careful study, but I am ready to be on the side of public employees to make sure their rights are respected.
32.	<b>Choose One</b>		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
	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	
33.	X		Will you institute participatory budgeting to allow ward residents to vote on discretionary spending in your ward?
<b>PRIVATIZATION</b>			
34.	<b>ESSAY</b>		I don't know of any City asset that should be privatized at this point.
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.	<b>ESSAY</b>		Privatizing assets or services would not be the first thing I would do. Should there be a proposal to privatize, this should be carefully studied from all angles. Convincing me, based on the examples we have already seen, would require a lot of extremely strong arguments.
38.	<b>ESSAY</b>		I've explained this earlier
<b>PLANNING, ZONING, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b>			
39.	<b>ESSAY</b>		Through a regular, open planning process with the community. I will encourage people in the ward to organize and I will allocate resources to support this process.
40.	<b>ESSAY</b>		The ward is very diverse, and the different communities in it have different planning priorities. In Pilsen we need to make sure development does not displace. The community could create extra revenue through a Special Service Area and use it to develop the Pilsen National Historic District. In the West Loop, residents want a voice in the planning so that they can build a community for families. They want to downzone the area and create an overall plan before individual projects

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		are approved. Finally, China Town needs better basic services, support for small business and a better housing policy.
41.	<b>ESSAY</b>	
42.	<b>ESSAY</b>	
43.	X	Whether it makes sense in the community context, its feasibility and the community's support
44.	X	In the same way we involve the community today, through canvassing, meetings, forums, mail, social media, and all means at our disposal to make sure anyone who wants to participate can do so.
45.	<b>ESSAY</b>	
46.	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?
47.	X	Will you vote to return unspent and uncommitted TIF funds on an annual basis to the various taxing bodies?
48.	X	First we need to use the unspent TIF revenue, or about \$1.5 billion. I would then eliminate TIFs that have fulfilled their purpose and would consider eliminating TIF all together.
49.	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?
50.	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)?
51.	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?
<b>HOUSING</b>		
52.	X	Will you vote to amend the Vacant Properties Ordinance to require mortgage servicers to register their properties?
53.	X	Do you support enacting an ordinance to preserve Single-Room Occupancy housing?
54.	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?
55.	<b>ESSAY</b>	
56.	<b>ESSAY</b>	
57.	<b>ESSAY</b>	
58.	<b>ESSAY</b>	
59.	<b>ESSAY</b>	
60.	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
61.	X	Do you support any of the following to be built in your ward?
62.	X	Low income rental housing that is affordable to those at 15% to 30% of AMI?
63.	X	Supportive housing for people overcoming addiction and other problems which contribute to homelessness?
64.	X	Shelters for the homeless?
65.	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?
66.		X
67.	<b>Choose One</b>	
68.	Which standard should the City use to define affordable housing?	
69.	AMI of the Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area	

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		AMI of Cook County
		AMI of Chicago
	X	AMI of the Community Area
<b>EDUCATION</b>		
<b>62.</b>	<b>Choose One</b>	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
	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>63.</b>	X	Will you support a city-wide lottery for enrollment in magnet schools?
<b>64.</b>	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?
<b>65.</b>	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?
<b>66.</b>	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?
<b>67.</b>	X	Would you favor repealing (or modifying) the 70% requirement for voting to authorize teacher strikes?
<b>68.</b>	<b>ESSAY</b>	Renaissance 2010 is at the root of the most serious problems in our school system, including the closing of public school and the proliferation of charters. The real purpose of this program was to make it easier for districts to start their process of privatizing school and further segregate students and communities. The emphasis on standardized testing must also end in order to teach kids to learn.
<b>69.</b>	<b>ESSAY</b>	An elected school board is necessary, among other things, so that the public can begin to regain confidence in the public schools system. All neighborhood schools need to be appropriately funded and teachers need to have more time and resources to teach. We need greater community involvement in schools in general.
<b>70.</b>	<b>ESSAY</b>	We have been able to place our demand for an elected school board on the ballot for February in the 25 <sup>th</sup> Ward. Aside from that, we need real parent and community participation at the LSC level. CPS has made a big investment in organizing and co-opting parent leaders in the schools. We need to provide the organizing resources so that parents know what to expect, what to demand and how to do it. We need full funding for our schools, for programs and specific infrastructural needs.
<b>71.</b>	<b>ESSAY</b>	We need to learn more about this
<b>ENVIRONMENT</b>		
<b>72.</b>	X	Will you vote for the Clean Power Ordinance?
<b>73.</b>		X
<b>74.</b>	X	Will you vote to privatize Chicago's water delivery system?
<b>75.</b>	X	Will you vote to ban Styrofoam food containers in Chicago public schools?
<b>76.</b>	X	Will you vote to ban Styrofoam food containers in Chicago restaurants and food delivery services?
<b>77.</b>	<b>ESSAY</b>	Will you vote to adopt the water quality standards recommended by the Pollution Control Board?
<b>77.</b>	<b>ESSAY</b>	Continue prioritizing renewable energy and promoting programs for people to save energy at home and improve affordability. We have played a key role in eliminating Fisk and Crawford, the

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			last two coal plants in Chicago.
78.	<b>ESSAY</b>		We have been successfully fighting against the construction of a new metal shredder in Pilsen, planned and authorized across from Benito Juarez H.S. This is a pet project of the incumbent Danny Solis who has taken \$53,000 in contributions from the proponent, a company with a criminal and environmental record. We filed a complaint against the city' decision, so the project remains in limbo.
<b>PARKS</b>			
79.	X		Do you support election of the Chicago Park District Board?
80.		X	Do you support increased privatization of park facilities and services?
	<b>ESSAY</b>		Absolutely not. Public assets need to remain public, they belong to everyone. Considering how expensive the city has become, parks remain one of the few places where all people can enjoy themselves. Any restriction to the access or use of parks must be banned.
81.	X		Do you support prioritization of land acquisition and capital improvements first to those neighborhoods which are underserved by existing facilities?
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>			
82.	X		Will you vote to increase the City subsidy to the CTA?
83.	<b>Rank 1-5 or say no to any</b>		Please indicate which CTA expansion plans, if any, you support and rank them in order of priority (1 highest)
		1	Red Line south to 130th Street
		2	Orange Line to Ford City Mall
		3	Downtown Circulator
		4	Downtown-O'Hare Express
			Other – please specify
	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	
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?
<b>CRIMINAL JUSTICE</b>			
87.		X	Is 911 response time adequate?
	<b>ESSAY</b>		Responses vary depending on the neighborhood. We need more resources and better planning to be able to respond appropriately in areas with more need or more affected by crime and violence.
88.	X		
	<b>ESSAY</b>		We need resources, better planning and real community policing strategy. Today, communities of color don't always see police as friends
89.	X		Do you support re-allocating police services from low-crime to high-crime neighborhoods?
90.	<b>ESSAY</b>		CAPS does not work in our community. This is not the place where people go to talk about their problems. CAPS should work through community organization or institutions the community trusts. Citizens should also be involved in planning and allocation of resources.
91.	X		Will you vote for more funding for alternative crime prevention programs such as Cease Fire?
92.	<b>ESSAY</b>		Better schools, wrap around services, mental health support, more training, jobs and living wages.
93.	X		Do you support gun control?
94.	<b>ESSAY</b>		Chicago needs to insist and also keep educating the community about the dangers handguns.
95.	X		Will you vote to order the City to stop paying legal fees and attempt to recover past legal costs of

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			city employees implicated in the Police Board findings of misconduct related to the Burge case?
96.	ESSAY		The police cannot police itself. An Independent Police Review Authority needs to be established so that citizens can police the police. We need to take preemptive action to avoid the abuse being exercised by police in some other cities and which is costing the lives of many people every year. The PRA could be an elected body or be selected with participation of the public
<b>CIVIL RIGHTS</b>			
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		I'm not aware of the figures, but it is something that needs to be looked into with the seriousness it deserves and adjusted accordingly.
100.	ESSAY		While progress has been made, much more needs to be done to penetrate institutions that historically have not been very friendly to minorities and women. Proper steps need to be taken so that we have clear data and goals.
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		I would if this helps undocumented immigrants obtain certain key services, such as driver's licenses.
<b>ALDERMANIC PRIORITIES</b>			
104.	ESSAY		I will be a full time alderman, there will be no other jobs
105.	ESSAY		N/A
106.	ESSAY		I'll continue to work as long as it takes to get the job done
107.	ESSAY		I am not aware at this point of the budget for the office and staff. We have not planned that far. However, based on our experience with the 25 <sup>th</sup> ward incumbent, the largest staff doesn't always translate in good service.
108.	ESSAY		Lack of affordable housing and gentrification is the biggest issue in the community. We need more involvement from the city, adequate policy and resources to stop the displacement of low income residents in the 25 <sup>th</sup> ward. We could use some of the TIF resources, enforce affordable units in new construction and put city owned and other property in a land trust in order to have greater control over the price of the land.
109.	ESSAY		Affordable housing, jobs and living wages, public education, TIF reform
110.	ESSAY		We will continue to forge alliances with different organizations like we have done to this point