

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 1

DATE 12/18/2014

WARD 26th

NAME Adam Corona

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NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED 3000 NUMBER REQUIRED 476

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?

45th Ward Superintendent (Department of Streets and Sanitation)

D. Briefly list your civic activities of the past ten years. Having been born and raised in Mexico, I am acutely aware of the privilege I have been afforded as a Naturalized Citizen. With that I have felt an enormous responsibility to be active and make my community better. I have lived in Humboldt Park for over 15 years and in that span of time have worked on multiple local elections to help support candidates who I believed could move the community forward. I have been active in CAPS as a member and later a co-facilitator, because I have always believed that we need to work collaboratively with law enforcement. Lastly, I have volunteered at multiple local events: feeding the homeless; toy drives; anti-violence marches.

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

Constituent Services, Small Business Owner, Public Safety

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

Gery Chico for Mayor; Political Campaign Organizer; Alderman John Arena targeting voters, President Obama canvassed in the States of Ohio and Indiana.

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

Amalgamated Transit Union Local 241

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?

Overall, I have experience that I can put it in place immediately to produce results to better the 26th ward. All of my professional accomplishments in life are due to my hard work, dedication and perseverance. I can also not negate the fact that I have been fortunate to have had different people along the way support my efforts. I am a fast learner and not afraid to “roll up my sleeves”. I am a critical thinker and find ways to get things done.

Personally, I think most goals for the betterment of the 26th ward are interrelated. My community is plagued by violence. My top priorities are to work with our police to maintain public safety. We are in a critical time in history where there is much discontent and mistrust geared towards our police. As a first step, I believe I can be a bridge between the community and police to find ways to communicate and work together. I also believe these efforts will have an impact on infrastructure development and city services. We need new business in our neighborhoods. We have multiple empty storefronts where there is potential for new business that can help the community thrive. Lastly, regenerating our schools and increasing city services are priorities.

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

My campaign budget is at least \$50,000.00. I have raised, including my own money about \$25,000.00

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

All campaign staff are volunteers. I have a core group of about 12 who have been active since I announced my candidacy. Most of these individuals live in the 26th ward and come to the team with experience working on other local campaigns. We have about 10 other volunteers that help as they are able and are in the process of recruiting more.

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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.			Have you joined or will you join:
			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?
	X		Do you support public financing of municipal campaigns?
17.	ESSAY		Please explain your position. I think public financing takes away the lure of "big money" tied to corporations or PAC's and allows for candidates/incumbents to raise money from and dependent on their constituents. This has the potential to eliminate corruption and allow ordinary citizens like myself an opportunity to run for office.
18.	ESSAY		Who are your top 5 contributors and how much has each contributed to your campaign? Community members and business owners from \$500 to \$1000 each
19.	ESSAY		What changes would you support to the redistricting process?

REVENUE AND BUDGET

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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 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? Gaming industry, LaSalle Tax and increased taxes on Medical marijuana dispensaries
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. Most city infrastructure work is done by front line workers and we should invest in sound leadership that will help support workers in their day to day responsibilities. With that said, there is room remove many appointed management/ administrative positions.
30.	ESSAY		What measures will you vote for to reform the city pension plan and ensure its solvency?
31.	ESSAY		How would you modify (if at all) the benefit and contribution levels and eligibility requirements for public employee pensions?
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
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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?
PRIVATIZATION			
34.	ESSAY		Which city services or assets, if any, do you believe should be privatized and what is your criteria? I do not believe any city services should be privatized.
35.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Will you vote for an ordinance requiring an independent analysis of any lease or outsourcing arrangement?
36.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		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? Before voting, I would do my due diligence by researching the process at hand by reviewing contract/ measures proposed in order to make an assessment and later decision that is in the best interest of city residents.
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? Let me say again, I do not support privatization of our city

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		assets in part due to this issue. However, I think that as in many other issues, transparency is key for monitoring and accountability.
PLANNING, ZONING, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT		
39.	ESSAY	How will you involve ward residents in planning? I would work at creating a board representative of community members that can help inform decisions. I would also hold participatory community hearings for how to use our budget dollars.
40.	ESSAY	What is your long-range plan for development of the ward?
41.	ESSAY	What criteria do you or will you use in determining whether or not to grant a zoning change or variance? The input of the community.
42.	ESSAY	How will you involve residents in planning, approval, and oversight of TIF districts? By holding workshops and community meetings
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?
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?
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? Instead of building more new construction that includes affordable housing, we should expend efforts at rehabbing existing foreclosed housing and at the same time it beautifies the neighborhood.
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? Humboldt Park relative to other communities in Chicago has a disproportionately higher level of Section 8/ low income housing. I would propose that there be more of an equitable distribution of these services within other communities across the city.

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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?
	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? Humboldt Park is already home to multiple residential treatment programs, again I would support an equitable distribution of resources for addiction across Chicago
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?
			Popular Election
			Mayoral appointment from nominations made by community representatives
			Maintaining the current system of Mayoral appointment
		X	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? There are so many variables beyond test performance that account for performance that relying solely on these tests negates our public responsibility to address some of these larger social/ political issues.
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. In general, I think we need to divert our energy and money into our Chicago Public Schools. The charter school movement in the city and my ward has not proven itself to be the "answer" to our public school system's issues. Most studies show that charter schools perform on par and in many cases underperform when compared to CPS. Also, the notion that teachers and other workers not have union protections and get paid far less than their CPS counterparts does not sit well with me. Also, given recent controversies related to funding and how money is spent, such as those related to UNO further proves the need for more

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			oversight, transparency and accountability.
69.	ESSAY		What should the City do to improve the quality of all local schools? I think an elected school board is a key first step and an opposition to any more charter schools.
70.	ESSAY		What are your plans to improve the local schools in your ward? Support and encourage the participation of parents and other community members. Help support parents and community members in finding funding sources through grants/ fundraising that can offset some of the gaps.
71.	ESSAY		How would you modify (if at all) the benefit and contribution levels and eligibility requirements for public school teacher pension?
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?
78.	ESSAY		What other environmental initiatives, if any, do you propose?
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? My fear would be that the parks, which are seminally important in our communities, would impose restrictions limiting our publics access
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)
	4		Red Line south to 130th Street
	3		Orange Line to Ford City Mall
	2		Downtown Circulator
	1		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? We simply need more police officers on the streets. I think we can only do this through more hires, reducing the number of special teams and to have fewer officers relegated to desks and administrative work and re-assigned back to the streets.
88.	X		Are there inequities in 911 service in your ward?

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	ESSAY	If so, what can be done to redress them? Yes, as above, we simply need more police officers on the streets. I think we can only do this through more hires, reducing the number of special teams and to have fewer officers relegated to desks and administrative work and re-assigned back to the streets.
89.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Do you support re-allocating police services from low-crime to high-crime neighborhoods?
90.		What changes, if any, would you suggest for the CAPS program? Go back to the regular monthly meeting instead of every two months. Also stop combining two Beats into one. The rank and file should attend meetings more often and not only police officers
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? Honestly, if we cannot attend to the unique learning needs of all of our students we lose many of them. The obsession we currently have with standardized testing is in essence weeding out many of our children, particularly our children of color. A key first step would be to change how we measure success to rely more on teaching to the individual strengths of our students and relying less on testing.
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? Stiffer penalties to those that commit crimes with illegally purchased guns
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. IPRA members seem to hold a bias in favor of the Mayor. Many of their investigation results seem unfair and lead to dismissals (firing).
CIVIL RIGHTS		
97.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Do you support affirmative action based on race, gender and sexual orientation in establishing criteria for hiring and promoting public employees?
98.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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 think all people should be given opportunities, particularly those that are often most disenfranchised or underrepresented as long as they can get the job done.
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.
101.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Do you favor restructuring the wage scale of city employees to institute gender-equal pay for jobs of comparable worth?
102.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Will you vote to require all City vendors and contractors to provide spousal benefits for same-sex partners of their employees?
103.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Will you vote for the Municipal ID ordinance?
	ESSAY	Why or why not? This is a more standardized way of identifying city residents and allows access to individuals who currently do not or cannot access needed daily services like bank accounts and housing.
ALDERMANIC PRIORITIES		
104.	ESSAY	What employment, if any, other than alderman, do you intend to hold? None, I would only hold the Aldermanic position.
105.	ESSAY	How will you divide your time between your aldermanic duties and your other occupation? I would not have more than the Aldermanic job.

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106.	ESSAY	Please specify the minimum hours per week you will spend performing your aldermanic duties. I will not have a cap on the number of hours. I will spend as much time as I can in order to attend to my duties and minimally, will work 40 hours but anticipate having to work far more.
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 would have to know more about funds available, but minimally I would like representation for Business and Zoning and Development and Constituent services. I envision a 9-6 workday with alternative hours to be available for those whose schedules do not conform to these hours.
108.	ESSAY	What services need improvement in your ward? How will you achieve this? Constituent services and public safety. As a Ward Superintendent I know and understand the delivery of excellent and prompt constituent services. Public safety; I have worked as a Beat Facilitator in my community for the past 12 years and have worked very close with different entities of law enforcement to deter crime in my area.
109.	ESSAY	What are your top priorities for the Ward? Stop the closing of more public schools, economic development, job creation, constituents services and public safety
110.	ESSAY	How will you work with community groups and residents on City matters? By creating opportunities for participatory hearings. Also, by creating a board of residents inclusive of clergy, law enforcement, business people, community leaders and professionals.