

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 1

DATE 12/22/2014 WARD 38

NAME Alderman Nicholas Sposato

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CAMPAIGN MANAGER Brian Koppe

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED 2500+ NUMBER REQUIRED 473

Please provide the following background information:

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

City of Chicago Alderman 2011-present
36th Ward Democratic Committeeman 2012-present

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

None

C. What is your primary occupation?

Alderman

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

City of Chicago Alderman
18 year City of Chicago Firefighter
Galewood Montclare Community Organization
Shabbona Park Youth Corporation
Knights of Columbus Food Pantry
Local School Council for Sayre School –Chairman, parent and community rep
Montclare Elmwood Park Lions Club-Vice president
Grand Corridor Chamber of Commerce-Vice President
Chicago Fire Fighters/Catholic Charities Christmas Toy Parade
St. Baldrick’s foundation
Salvation Army
Dunning Neighborhood Organization-Founding Member
Trinty High School Fathers Club-Presidnet
Life source-50 pint club

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 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 am a lifelong resident of our community and an 18 year Chicago Firefighter. My experience in the community and as a firefighter has been very helpful in my years as Alderman.

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

Dick Durbin, Pat Quinn, Jesse White, Lisa Madigan, Judy Baar Topinka, Mike Frerichs, Mike Quigley, Toni Preckwinkle, David Orr, Tom Dart, Maria Pappas, John Fritchey, Richard Boykin, Luis Arroyo Jr, and many other judges etc.

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

I have already received the endorsements of the Chicago Teachers Union, AFSCME, IAFF-Local 2, and I am seeking endorsements from other community, political, and labor organizations.

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 believe that Chicago government needs to be more open and accessible to residents of our city. As Alderman I have introduced a new form of open and accessible government in my ward. As part of this process I have invited members of the community to join advisory committees for everything from zoning issues to park councils. An alderman is the voice of the people and our work in the ward and in City Hall should reflect the will of the residents in everything we do. I believe that my record as Alderman is strongly in line with the ideals of the IVI-IPO and that is why I am seeking this endorsement. (IVI-IPO independent alderman award)

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

I have a fundraising goal of \$300,000. Currently I have \$97,000 on hand

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

My current campaign staff is 4 people with a list of 160 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	
1.	Yes		Do you favor maintaining the current number of City Council committees?
	ESSAY		Which committees, if any, would you combine or eliminate? I am less concerned with the number of committees then how legislation is assigned to them. We must reexamine how and why ordinances are assigned to committees.
2.	ESSAY		What reforms are necessary in the City Council's committee rules and structure? The role of the Rules Committee must be reconsidered. Legislation is often sent to Rules as a means to prevent debate. From there, the committee chairman has the authority to never schedule a hearing on the matter, killing legislation that might otherwise be popular. Instead, legislation should be assigned to the appropriate committee by topic. If there is a disagreement about which committee is appropriate, the resolution's sponsor should have the authority to place it in the appropriate committee. As public servants, aldermen should be encouraging debate on the issues, not stifling debate through procedural tricks.
3.	Yes		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.	Yes		Should the Inspector General be able to initiate his or her own investigations of Aldermen without a complaint from outside the office?
5.	Yes		Should the Inspector General be able to pursue anonymous complaints?
6.		No	Do you support patronage in hiring and promoting public employees?
7.		No	Will you employ or have you employed staff, in your office who hold other public sector jobs concurrently?
8.		No	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.	Yes		Will you vote for an ordinance mandating that the City contest unemployment claims by former employees who were fired for cause?
10.	Yes		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.		No	Will you support an ordinance to reduce the number of wards?
12.			Have you joined or will you join:
		No	The Paul Douglas Caucus
	Yes		The Independent Progressive Caucus: I am a founding member of the progressive caucus
			Both
13.	Yes		Do you support changing the state statute to return to filling aldermanic vacancies by special election, rather than Mayoral appointment?
14.	<u>YES</u>		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.		No	Will you or have you accepted campaign donations from current or potential suppliers or employees?
16.		No	Will you or have you accepted campaign donations from people or businesses seeking zoning changes in your ward?

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 2

17.	YES		Do you support public financing of municipal campaigns?
	ESSAY		Please explain your position. Yes; we must work at all levels of government to reduce the influence of money in politics and make it possible for all qualified candidates to run for office, not just those with money and connections.
18.	ESSAY		Who are your top 5 contributors and how much has each contributed to your campaign? My campaign finance disclosure is available online at www.elections.il.gov. The majority of my contributions come from residents of the ward. I also have received large donations from labor organizations including the Chicago Teachers Union, IAFF-Local 2, and AFSCME.
19.			What changes would you support to the redistricting process? I would like to see the redistricting process be non-partisan. Electoral maps should be drawn based on population not on how best to ensure electoral dominance for either party.
REVENUE AND BUDGET			
20.	Yes		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.	Yes		public questioning of city department heads concerning their departments' specific budget requests?
22.	Yes		making budget copies available to the public 30 days in advance of hearings?
23.	Yes		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? It's no secret that we need to make some changes in our city's finances if we're going to be able to fully fund city services and meet our commitments to our public workers and their pensions. We should start with a fair approach to revenue. Last spring, our legislators in Springfield had the opportunity to pass a progressive, fair income tax that would have benefited the city budget enormously and would have lightened the burden on everyday Chicagoans. I hope to see that proposal move forward in the next General Assembly. In Chicago we need to implement progressive revenue options like a LaSalle Street Tax, which would place a small tax on financial transactions, or a commuter tax, which would ask those who live in the suburbs but work in the city to contribute a small amount to help pay for the services they benefit from every day. As we continue to look to find revenue options to meet our pension and other long term debt obligations we must be careful to not over burden the working men and women of Chicago with crippling tax increases.
25.	Yes		Do you support casino gambling for Chicago?
26.	Yes		Will you vote to require a citywide referendum before any gambling is instituted in the City?
27.		No	Will you vote to roll back Mayoral and Aldermanic salaries to pre-2007 levels? As Alderman I have refused my pay raise every year
28.	Yes		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? - As Alderman I have refused my pay raise every year. It is unfair to the people of Chicago to take a raise while we are failing to meet our pension obligations and cutting city services

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 2

29.	Yes		Do you agree with the criticism that City government is top heavy with management?
	ESSAY		Please explain your position.
30.	ESSAY		<p>What measures will you vote for to reform the city pension plan and ensure its solvency?</p> <p>To ensure the solvency of our city pension system we must find new revenue to help the city meet its obligations. We need to implement progressive revenue options like a LaSalle Street Tax or a commuter tax. As we continue to look to find revenue options to meet our pension and other long term debt obligations we must be careful to not over burden the working men and women of Chicago with crippling tax increases</p>
31	ESSAY		<p>How would you modify (if at all) the benefit and contribution levels and eligibility requirements for public employee pensions?</p> <p>I do not support any solution which involves changing current retiree benefits. While some changes to the pension system are needed going forward, they cannot be made by pulling the rug out from under current retirees.</p>
32.	Choose One		Should discretionary funds for ward services and infrastructure improvements be allocated
	YES		in equal amounts to each ward
			based on the size of each ward
			based on the needs of each ward
	YES	NO	
33.		No	Will you institute participatory budgeting to allow ward residents to vote on discretionary spending in your ward?
PRIVATIZATION			
34.	ESSAY		<p>Which city services or assets, if any, do you believe should be privatized and what is your criteria?</p> <p>I oppose the privatization of city assets and services. I am a sponsor and have been working to pass the Privatization and Accountability Ordinance for several years now. I support efforts to establish stronger oversight of any proposed privatization deal that include independent impact studies and public hearings to ensure that any deals do not come at the expense of service quality for city residents.</p>
35.	Yes		Will you vote for an ordinance requiring an independent analysis of any lease or outsourcing arrangement?
36.	Yes		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		<p>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?</p> <p>I support efforts to establish stronger oversight of any proposed privatization deal that include independent impact studies and public hearings to ensure that any deals do not come at the expense of service quality for city residents.</p>
38.	ESSAY		<p>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?</p> <p>I support efforts to establish stronger oversight of any proposed privatization deal that</p>

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 2

		include independent impact studies and public hearings to ensure that any deals do not come at the expense of service quality for city residents and to ensure that all anti-patronage rules and protocols are followed.
PLANNING, ZONING, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT		
39.	ESSAY	<p>How will you involve ward residents in planning?</p> <p>When I was elected as Alderman in 2011, I promised to create a system of open and accessible government for our community. As part of our new system of community government I have invited community members to be part of all zoning decisions through community meetings and a zoning advisory board. Our new system has created a partnership between the community and the Alderman's office that never existed in our community before.</p>
40.	ESSAY	<p>What is your long-range plan for development of the ward?</p> <p>Since being elected in 2011 I have worked hard to attract businesses to our community. I constantly reach out to businesses to let them know of available properties for them to move into. I have brought developments into several different areas of our ward including a much needed grocery store and a commercial development on a formerly empty gas station. I believe the changes we have made in our ward by improving our schools and parks has made our community a more attractive location for businesses to open in.</p>
41.	ESSAY	<p>What criteria do you or will you use in determining whether or not to grant a zoning change or variance?</p> <p>When I was elected as Alderman in 2011 I created a series of development guidelines that are available on my website www.aldermansposato.com. The guidelines include Encouraging development that conforms to existing zoning map, strict compliance with public notice regulations, encourage complimentary and compatible development, respect for architectural heritage, and protecting and encouraging green space and green building practices. The most important guideline for development in our ward is community input. I seek input from residents and community group before making any zoning decisions.</p>
42.	ESSAY	<p>How will you involve residents in planning, approval, and oversight of TIF districts?</p> <p>We must examine all existing TIF districts and eliminate those in areas where they no longer are needed. As part of a plan to modernize Chicago's TIF program we must create a system of oversight and transparency so the people of Chicago know exactly where their tax dollars are being spent and any surplus of tax dollars in the TIF system should be refunded to their taxing body.</p>
43.	Yes	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.	Yes	Will you vote to return unspent and uncommitted TIF funds on an annual basis to the various taxing bodies?
45.	ESSAY	<p>How do you propose to replace property tax revenue for CPS and other taxing bodies that is lost to TIF development?</p> <p>Over the years the TIF program has been a valuable tool used to spur economic development in many areas of our city. However many of those old TIF districts are no</p>

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 2

			longer necessary. We must examine all existing TIF districts and eliminate those in areas where they no longer are needed. As part of a plan to modernize Chicago's TIF program we must create a system of oversight and transparency so the people of Chicago know exactly where their tax dollars are being spent and any surplus of tax dollars in the TIF system should be refunded to their taxing body. The city cannot afford to continue using TIFs as a means to fund special projects like the DePaul arena – not while our schools and other basic city services are hurting and in need of that money.
46.	Yes		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.	Yes		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.	Yes		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.	Yes		Will you vote to amend the Vacant Properties Ordinance to require mortgage servicers to register their properties?
50.	Yes		Do you support enacting an ordinance to preserve Single-Room Occupancy housing?
51.		No	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	<p>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?</p> <p>Addressing the citywide foreclosure problem is a necessary component to improving Chicago's economy. When families lose their homes, it hurts the communities they live in as well. This problem is exacerbated when those homes remain vacant, and the city must explore all options to ensure those properties are made available at affordable rates. We must ensure these properties are returned to the tax rolls for the health of the neighborhoods and the economy of Chicago.</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>SRO's are often the last resort for people trying to avoid living on the streets. They are a necessary part of our housing stock. That is why in November I voted to approve the new SRO ordinance that requires SRO owners looking to sell their buildings to negotiate with buyers who are committed to preserving affordable housing in the building for at least 15 years. This ordinance needs to be expanded to cover more affordable housing options but it is a start.</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>The city must address income discrimination among landlords to ensure that families with section 8 vouchers are not being blocked from otherwise affordable units.</p>
55.		ESSAY	What measures will you support to provide affordable housing for low-income individuals and

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 2

			<p>families who are not served by any existing programs?</p> <p>First and foremost, more must be done to ensure that those families who are eligible for existing programs are made aware of their existence. Beyond that, the city should partner with outside groups who are committed to developing or maintaining affordable housing.</p>
	YES	NO	Do you support any of the following to be built in your ward?
56.	Yes		low income rental housing that is affordable to those at 15% to 30% of AMI?
57.	Yes		supportive housing for people overcoming addiction and other problems which contribute to homelessness?
58.		No	shelters for the homeless?
59.	Yes		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.		No	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
	Yes		AMI of Chicago
			AMI of the Community Area
EDUCATION			
62.	Choose One		Which of the following options for choosing the School Board do you support?
	Yes		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.	Yes		Will you support a city-wide lottery for enrollment in magnet schools?
64.	Yes		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.	Yes		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.	Yes		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.	Yes		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>Chicago has turned its back on neighborhood schools and our children and communities are paying the price. Rather than using city resources to support public schools and alleviate overcrowding, those resources have been diverted to charter schools that have failed to demonstrate their superiority. In the meantime, students in neighborhood schools are being left behind.</p>

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 2

			<p>School reconstitution disrupts the educational experience of students and demonstrates a lack of support for our teachers. We should, instead, be giving more support to our schools and working to address the problems they face rather than using a blunt tool like reconstitution</p>
69.	ESSAY		<p>What should the City do to improve the quality of all local schools?</p> <p>As mentioned above, the city needs to address TIF funds and minimize the degree to which they divert resources from local schools. An elected school board would also help ensure that CPS and community goals are aligned. Finally, more must be done to encourage community involvement.</p>
70.	ESSAY		<p>What are your plans to improve the local schools in your ward?</p> <p>We must reinvest in our community schools if we want to see improvement. The biggest problem facing my local schools is overcrowding which is why I have worked with area residents and our LSC to secure \$18 million dollars to build an annex at Canty Elementary School. In addition to relieving overcrowding we must modernize our school facilities and hire more teachers to ensure the best possible classroom experience for our children to learn in.</p>
71.	ESSAY		<p>How would you modify (if at all) the benefit and contribution levels and eligibility requirements for public school teacher pension?</p> <p>I do not support any solution which involves changing current retiree benefits. While some changes to the pension system are needed going forward, they cannot be made by pulling the rug out from under current retirees. The first step toward saving public school teacher pensions is finding new revenue sources such as the proposed LaSalle Street Tax to ensuring that the city meets its obligations and pays into the fund as required. Specific changes to the benefits and contribution levels of future retirees must only be considered with the assurance that the city will continue making its payments.</p>
ENVIRONMENT			
72.	Yes		Will you vote for the Clean Power Ordinance?
73.		No	Will you vote to privatize Chicago's water delivery system?
74.		No	Will you vote to ban Styrofoam food containers in Chicago public schools?
75.		No	Will you vote to ban Styrofoam food containers in Chicago restaurants and food delivery services?
76.	Yes		Will you vote to adopt the water quality standards recommended by the Pollution Control Board?
77.	ESSAY		<p>What should the City do to encourage and implement alternative forms of energy?</p> <p>The city should work with the state to accomplish its "25x'25" goal of 25% renewable energy by 2025. To help achieve that goal, the city should seek opportunities to install wind turbines or solar panels on public properties when possible.</p>
78.	ESSAY		<p>What other environmental initiatives, if any, do you propose?</p> <p>LEED certification should be a requirement on all new public buildings and should be encouraged for other major developments.</p>

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 2

PARKS			
79.	Yes		Do you support election of the Chicago Park District Board?
80.		No	Do you support increased privatization of park facilities and services?
	ESSAY		Why or why not? I am opposed to the privatization of any city assets or services.
81.	Yes		Do you support prioritization of land acquisition and capital improvements first to those neighborhoods which are underserved by existing facilities?
TRANSPORTATION			
82.	Yes		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
	3		Orange Line to Ford City Mall
	no		Downtown Circulator
	1		Downtown-O'Hare Express
			Other – please specify
	YES	NO	
84.	Yes		Do you support renegotiation of Chicago's parking meter privatization deal?
85.		No	Do you support privatization of Midway Airport?
86.		No	Do you support the O'Hare expansion plan?
CRIMINAL JUSTICE			
87.		NO	Is 911 response time adequate?
	ESSAY		If not, how can it be improved? Chicago needs to hire more police officers to improve public safety in our city. For three years I have called for funding that allows the CPD to rely less on costly overtime and hire and train additional officers. Currently overtime spending has increased to \$100 million annually. Investing in hiring 500 new police officers will reduce overtime costs and reduce the burden on our current officers. The addition of new police officers will also allow us to implement a neighborhood policing strategy that will make our communities safer.
88.			Are there inequities in 911 service in your ward?
	ESSAY		If so, what can be done to redress them? Chicago needs to hire more police officers to improve public safety in our city. For three years I have called for funding that allows the CPD to rely less on costly overtime and hire and train additional officers. Currently overtime spending has increased to \$100 million annually. Investing in hiring 500 new police officers will reduce overtime costs and reduce the burden on our current officers. The addition of new police officers will also allow us to implement a neighborhood policing strategy that will make our communities safer.
89.		No	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 in my community is generally a successful program. I encourage my

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 2

			residents to get involved but I would like to see more outreach from the police department promoting the program and encouraging participation.
91.	Yes		Will you vote for more funding for alternative crime prevention programs such as Cease Fire?
92.		ESSAY	<p>What measures will you support to stop the schools to prison pipeline?</p> <p>To end the “schools to prison pipeline” we need to be educating all students, not just those headed for college. Good public education should offer a broad based elementary and secondary curriculum that includes relevant vocational education in addition to offering a path for students who wish to attend 2 and 4 year colleges.</p>
93.	Yes		Do you support gun control?
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>Gun violence is a serious problem in Chicago that must be addressed within the confines of federal law. After courts struck down Chicago’s handgun ban, I supported new regulations requiring background checks, closing the gun show loopholes, and limiting buyers to one purchase per month.</p>
95.	Yes		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	<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>The IPRA was created in 2007 to give the public a voice in reviewing police misconduct complaints. The creation of the IPRA moved investigations of these complaints out of the police department’s Office of Professional Standards. Although there are some who feel that IPRA is too close to the police department it is run completely by civilians. Although I feel that the IPRA has done good job investigating complaints and clearing up years of back logged cases it could operate under a more open and accessible process to remove lingering doubts that it is slanted toward protecting police officers.</p>
CIVIL RIGHTS			
97.	Yes		Do you support affirmative action based on race, gender and sexual orientation in establishing criteria for hiring and promoting public employees?
98.	Yes		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 am committed to ensuring that the city does all it can to promote the hiring of individuals with disabilities for city jobs and contracts.</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 would support examining the City of Chicago’s MBE/WBE programs to ensure that we are providing ample opportunity to all woman and minority business owners to compete for city jobs and contracts including the hiring of police and firefighters.</p>

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 2

101.	Yes		Do you favor restructuring the wage scale of city employees to institute gender-equal pay for jobs of comparable worth?
102.	Yes		Will you vote to require all City vendors and contractors to provide spousal benefits for same-sex partners of their employees?
103.	Yes		Will you vote for the Municipal ID ordinance?
		ESSAY	Why or why not? ID is required for almost everything in our society. Creating an ID for undocumented immigrants will open doors such as access to bank accounts which will allow many people to stop living in the shadows.
ALDERMANIC PRIORITIES			
104.		ESSAY	What employment, if any, other than alderman, do you intend to hold? None. I am a full time Alderman, often working 80 hours a week to improve our community.
105.		ESSAY	How will you divide your time between your aldermanic duties and your other occupation? I am a full time Alderman.
106.		ESSAY	Please specify the minimum hours per week you will spend performing your aldermanic duties. As Alderman I often work 80 hours per week.
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. My community service office has 3 full time employees and 3 part time employees as well as several interns during different times of the year. Our office is open 6 days/50 hours a week including a late night on Thursdays.
108.		ESSAY	What services need improvement in your ward? How will you achieve this? When I was elected as Alderman in 2011, I promised to create a system of open and accessible government for our community. For many years previous Aldermen were inaccessible and seldom seen. Our new system of community government has created a partnership between the community and the Alderman's office that never existed before. As we move forward I hope to continue this partnership to ensure that city services meets everyone's needs and we continue to improve our community
109.		ESSAY	What are your top priorities for the Ward? Since I have been Alderman my top priority has always been providing open and accessible government. In my next term I will make it a priority to continue to build a partnership between the community and the Alderman's office to ensure that city services meets everyone's needs.
110.		ESSAY	How will you work with community groups and residents on City matters? In addition to having an open accessible office where I am available 6 days a week I host community meetings on many issues ranging from development to tax appeals. I have always welcomed and relied upon input of community groups and residents on all city matters.

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 2