

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 1

DATE 12/20/14 WARD 39

NAME Robert Murphy

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CAMPAIGN MANAGER Robert Bartell

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED 1557 NUMBER REQUIRED 473

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?

Architect

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

Member of Forest Glen Garden Club, 2008-present

Deputy campaign manager, Ald John Arena 2010-11

Founding member of Jefferson Park Sunday Market, 2012

45th Ward Zoning Advisory Committee, 2011-12

45th Arts Advisory Committee, 2011-12

Six Corners Master Plan, 2011-12

Committee to revise Forest Glen association by-laws, 2011

President, Forest Glen association, 2011-14

Founding member and leader in Fair Allocation in Runways (FAiR) Coalition (7 original members to current 1200+ members), 2013-14

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

Have a BA in History and a masters in architecture (MARCH). My background in architecture is key in understanding how planning is effective and needed in gaining real results. I understand how to form coalitions, how to manage large undertakings, how to listen and to take feedback to make ideas better, and how to talk to people in order to manage expectations and get buy-in. My experience in the civic arena means I know many of the community leaders in the ward and my experience as a small business owner means I understand the issues facing development in the ward.

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

John Arena, Deputy Campaign Manager

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

It's early in the endorsement season. I have submitted questionnaires for all endorsements.

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?

Now is a key moment in the 39th Ward where a real opportunity exists to unseat a long standing and ineffective alderman who treats the ward like a family business, who voted 100% with Daley and now 100% with Emanuel, and who will certainly try to hand her seat down to someone in her family. The 39th Ward is the last ward on the NW side where the failing machine still has some sway, but it is vulnerable enough to remove in a similar fashion to what happened in the 36th and 45th wards in 2011. Regarding other candidates, my campaign is the only one to have raised a significant amount of money (the others are less than \$2000), have a real campaign infrastructure, have a contact list over 2000 and a volunteer list over 150 people. I understand the work it takes to win and the direction this campaign needs to go to get there.

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

\$125,000 - \$150,000. \$25,000.

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

Two paid staff people, over 150 volunteers.

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Most questions on this questionnaire can be answered by checking either YES or NO. Others are essay questions and all have the option of answering in greater detail. Just hit enter at the end of the question and begin typing your answer in the additional space.

CITY COUNCIL REFORM AND ETHICS

	YES	NO	
	X		Do you favor maintaining the current number of City Council committees?
1.			<p>Which committees, if any, would you combine or eliminate?</p> <p>I believe the current situation, where decisions are made by the Administration and dictated to the Council, makes most of the committees “for show”, at best, and extraneous, at worst. The way things should be in a Strong Council/Weak Mayor system is for issues and budgets to be discussed in committee and voted out as recommendations to the Council as a whole. This allows for maximum transparency and citizen participation, and, though a single alderman doesn't have the power to make this happen on their own, it is what I want to work toward when I am elected.</p>
2.			<p>What reforms are necessary in the City Council's committee rules and structure?</p> <p>See above.</p>
3.			<p>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?</p> <p>I believe the City Council needs its own independent IG, with subpoena power, but due to the current situation with the Legislative IG, I believe the current Legislative IG should be rolled in to the current Municipal IG's office, be given subpoena power, without oversight from the Mayor or Corporation Counsel. They should be able to initiate their own investigations and should be able to pursue anonymous complaints.</p>
4.			<p>Should the Inspector General be able to initiate his or her own investigations of Aldermen without a complaint from outside the office?</p> <p>See above.</p>
5.			<p>Should the Inspector General be able to pursue anonymous complaints?</p> <p>See above.</p>
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?

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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
			The Independent Progressive Caucus
	X		Both - as well as the Hispanic Caucus
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	<p>Please explain your position.</p> <p>I think the current situation of aldermen taking contributions from zoning attorneys, developers and others with business before the alderman has led to so much proven corruption and/or influence of donator's interests outweighing those of average citizens that public financing seems to be the best solution.</p>
18.		ESSAY	Who are your top 5 contributors and how much has each contributed to your campaign? The top five contributors to my campaign are myself (\$3500), my wife (\$2500), my father (\$1000), one of my campaign co-chairs (\$1000) and a campaign co-chair's son (\$1000).
19.			<p>What changes would you support to the redistricting process?</p> <p>I believe in an Iowa-like redistricting process, with attention paid to neighborhood boundaries, is the best way to remove the improper influence of incumbents choosing their constituents.</p>
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.	ESSAY		<p>What additional revenue sources, if any, would you propose?</p> <p>I believe that retaining income-producing assets, rather than privatizing them, and dedicating their revenue streams to Revenue Bonds is a better way to retain control of assets and use them for public benefit. I also believe surplus TIF funds need to be returned to taxing bodies.</p>
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	<p>Will you vote to roll back Mayoral and Aldermanic salaries to pre-2007 levels?</p> <p>I believe that being an effective alderman is a full-time 60+ hour a week, 52-week a year job, if done correctly. I also believe that aldermen need to vote on their own raises before their next election, as I explain in my answer to the next question.</p>
28.	X		<p>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?</p> <p>This would be a good first step. My own belief is that an elected body should have to vote on its pay increases and then stand by that vote in front of their constituents. Other City employees do not get to vote themselves an increase, so I think alderman get off too easy by having automatic increases.</p>
29.	X		Do you agree with the criticism that City government is top heavy with management?
	ESSAY		<p>Please explain your position.</p> <p>The City currently has far too many consultants and upper management people, friends of the mayor and other insiders who are paid too high and do little more than repeat the mistakes of previous administrations. Meanwhile, hundreds of mid-level management is being laid off; these are the people who have generally been around the longest, have a depth of institutional knowledge and are not paid that highly – so that more of them need to be laid off to get to the numbers the mayor is seeking. I believe that continuity is very important and that innovation can happen without simply removing hundreds of city workers and hoping that something amazing pops up.</p>

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30.	ESSAY	<p>What measures will you vote for to reform the city pension plan and ensure its solvency?</p> <p>The city pension problem is a problem caused by previous administrations not contributing their part to the pension funds, supported by my incumbent alderman's vote every year for 20 years and it wont be solved easily. Dedicating assets that produce revenue streams, reallocating surplus TIF funds and considering later retirement ages for employees not near retirement age, with consideration for jobs of high physical stress, and as a last resort, looking at other forms of new revenues.</p>
31	ESSAY	<p>How would you modify (if at all) the benefit and contribution levels and eligibility requirements for public employee pensions? See above.</p>
32.	Choose One	<p>Should discretionary funds for ward services and infrastructure improvements be allocated</p>
		<p>in equal amounts to each ward</p>
	X	<p>based on the size of each ward - Should be largely equal, based on the physical size of each ward. A new funding model needs to be devised whereby large wards by area are not punished for having the same funds but many, many more streets to resurface each year than other more compact wards. Menu monies either need to have an additive factor for miles of paving to be addressed, or resurfacing citywide should be covered under a separate budget line altogether.</p>
		<p>based on the needs of each ward</p>
	YES	NO
33.	X	<p>Will you institute participatory budgeting to allow ward residents to vote on discretionary spending in your ward?</p> <p>I believe residents should have a say in how menu monies are used in the ward, ie.. Participatory Budgeting. This has been a major tenet of my campaign.</p>
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 lean strongly against privatizing public assets.</p>
35.	X	<p>Will you vote for an ordinance requiring an independent analysis of any lease or outsourcing arrangement?</p>
36.	X	<p>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?</p>

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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>Public hearings, analysis by the Council's financial ombudsman and input from public policy advocacy groups.</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 would co-sponsor an ordinance prohibiting the above from happening.</p>
PLANNING, ZONING, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT		
39.	ESSAY	<p>How will you involve ward residents in planning?</p> <p>As alderman I will institute a ward-wide planning process to include residents, community associations, businesses and chambers of commerce to establish the direction of ward development. I will review all ward TIFs for how the money has been used, how effective it has been and what the potential is to be effective. If a TIF can still be effective I will convene a master planning process to define exactly how the community wants to see the money spent and what direction growth will take. I will establish a Zoning Advisory Committee to review and assist how zoning decisions are made in the ward and I will establish Participatory Budgeting as noted above.</p>
40.	ESSAY	<p>What is your long-range plan for development of the ward?</p> <p>Long term development and sustainable development begin with an intelligent and open process that leads to a well-vetted plan. I have seen firsthand how plans not seriously vetted, hidden from criticism and sold on false premises will fail in the long run (ie the O'Hare Modernization Plan). My strong belief is that good ideas, even difficult changes can withstand criticism and adjustment if they are put forth as openly and fully as possible. The 39th Ward needs a new elementary school, a new high school, more police, better city services, more walk-able neighborhoods that include local businesses such as restaurants, shops and entertainment. The 39th Ward has a wealth of income, of business arterial streets, of committed and engaged residents that any planning process would begin there and work forward from what residents would like to see.</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>As stated above, establishing a Zoning Advisory Committee will ensure that impacted community members are heard and will inform these decisions.</p>

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42.	ESSAY	<p>How will you involve residents in planning, approval, and oversight of TIF districts?</p> <p>See above.</p>
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	<p>How do you propose to replace property tax revenue for CPS and other taxing bodies that is lost to TIF development?</p> <p>Not all TIF districts are created equal. There are TIF districts where the tax base is so low that no significant amount of funds can accrue to allow for real investment. There are others (and these are the worst) where the area is not blighted by any measure (LaSalle St., upper Michigan Ave) and yet accumulate a huge amount of tax dollars that City Hall then puts wherever its current pet project is (see the DePaul arena plan). These need to be closed immediately. The idea of capturing tax dollars to grow an area has a lot of merit and when used well can create a larger tax base that can then help the City overall. Serious adjustments in the current program need to occur: shorter lifetimes for TIFs; money can only be used for the TIF area itself not to some adjacent or distant areas; TIFs need to be given a time frame for planning and if no planning occurs within that time then it will sunset before its tenure is up; all TIFs should have a master plan that includes community input and approval; community input needs to be specified so that it does not include merely political appointees. Full TIF information should be readily available.</p>
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?

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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?
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?
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?
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

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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?
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>Unfortunately, the main thrust of this plan has been to open charter schools in lower income neighborhoods which in turn took significant populations away from existing local public schools which then “forced” CPS to close many of those schools. The priorities in this plan got lost or mixed up along the way. Meant to foster innovation it instead became the latest devastation for these neighborhoods. As alderman I would sponsor a Charter School Sunshine Act to require all charters to fully disclose their use of public funding and would forbid them from diverting money to their for-profit subsidiaries. Charters can have a role as laboratories for innovation, but I am against the privatization of our public schools.</p>
69.		ESSAY	<p>What should the City do to improve the quality of all local schools?</p> <p>Reduce class size. Charter reform.</p>
70.		ESSAY	<p>What are your plans to improve the local schools in your ward?</p> <p>The Northwest Side local schools are burdened by overcrowding. Part of my platform is to open a new local elementary and high school to address this overcrowding and keep class size from growing too large.</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>That is something that needs to be properly negotiated between CPS and CTU and is not in the purview of the City Council. I support the CTU in their effort to retire comfortably after long service educating the youth of Chicago.</p>
ENVIRONMENT			
72.	X		Will you vote for the Clean Power Ordinance?

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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		<p>What should the City do to encourage and implement alternative forms of energy?</p> <p>Besides having the City itself implement green technologies like solar, wind, thermal, etc., the City should encourage, through tax incentives, electric charging stations, expansion of the Divvy system, bike friendly facilities at private businesses, as well as leaning on organizations like CNT's program for a green city.</p>
78.	ESSAY		<p>What other environmental initiatives, if any, do you propose?</p> <p>Working with local groups like the North River Commission, Urban Wildlife Coalition, Friends of the River and others I will make it a priority in the Ward to address concerns around our natural resources in the parks, the forest preserves and in our back yards.</p>
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		<p>Why or why not?</p> <p>The City's motto is "Urbs in Horto", City in a Garden, and I believe that Daniel Burnham's plan for public access to public green spaces is one of the things that makes Chicago a great city.</p>
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)
		1	Red Line south to 130th Street
		3	Orange Line to Ford City Mall
		NO	Downtown Circulator

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		2	Downtown-O'Hare Express
		4	Other – please specify - more rail service to my Ward
	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.			Is 911 response time adequate? See answer to 88.
	ESSAY		If not, how can it be improved?
88.			<p>Are there inequities in 911 service in your ward?</p> <p>I do not have the data at this time. I know that in my community there was an issue regarding 911 and response time to a home invasion that left many here concerned. We had the 16th Dist. Commander attend our next CAPS meeting to address these concerns and explain what happened. Three items came from this event and the community's response:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Dispatch call takers will go through re-training and appropriate questions to ask caller 2) Dispatch 911 call simultaneously when crime is occurring to district and allow the supervisor to get available cars to scene 3) District Commanders work with Supervisors to monitor calls and dispatch where needed/ required
	ESSAY		<p>If so, what can be done to redress them?</p> <p>Stay involved, stay active and listen to what the community is saying.</p>
89.	X		Do you support re-allocating police services from low-crime to high-crime neighborhoods?
			As long as 1,000 new officers are hired, and baselines of coverage are established so as not to canibalize the current safer parts of the city.
90.	ESSAY		What changes, if any, would you suggest for the CAPS program?
			As alderman I would stay involved with local police issues, have representatives at CAPS meetings and at community meetings.
91.	X		Will you vote for more funding for alternative crime prevention programs such as Cease Fire?

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92.	ESSAY	<p>What measures will you support to stop the schools to prison pipeline?</p> <p>Efforts to reduce the high-school dropout rate should be strengthened, as should paths to job training in the City Colleges. Providing economic opportunities through “hire local” initiatives and the coordination of all of these programs can help stop this pipeline.</p>
93.	X	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?
95.	X	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.
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>The city should strengthen its effort to make sure that individuals with disabilities have equal access to jobs and contracts and accommodations for their different needs when hired.</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>While much advancement has been made in improving inequity in city hiring, effort needs to be made to ensure equal access, without discrimination, to any group, and I would support that.</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	Why or why not?
ALDERMANIC PRIORITIES		

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104.	ESSAY	<p>What employment, if any, other than alderman, do you intend to hold?</p> <p>I believe that being an effective alderman is a full-time 60+ hour a week, 52-week a year job, if done correctly. As such, it will be my only job.</p>
105.	ESSAY	<p>How will you divide your time between your aldermanic duties and your other occupation?</p> <p>See above.</p>
106.	ESSAY	<p>Please specify the minimum hours per week you will spend performing your aldermanic duties.</p> <p>See above.</p>
107.	ESSAY	<p>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.</p> <p>Other than my pledge to have a ward night once a week where I am available to meet with my constituents after normal business hours, I haven't yet determined the best staffing model for my Ward office. However, if the current staffing hours are not enough to properly service my constituents, I will consider hiring part time staff from my campaign fund.</p>
108.	ESSAY	<p>What services need improvement in your ward? How will you achieve this?</p> <p>Street repair, graffiti removal (too slow), coordination of large water and sewer projects to protect local businesses</p>
109.	ESSAY	<p>What are your top priorities for the Ward?</p> <p>Community involvement, open ward office, development, push for more services and City investment in the ward.</p>
110.	ESSAY	<p>How will you work with community groups and residents on City matters?</p> <p>As alderman I plan to work with community groups on every issue in the ward in as many ways as possible including planning, setting priorities, providing accurate and useful information, and finally implementation.</p>