

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 1

DATE 12/22/14 WARD 41

NAME Joe Lomanto

VOTING ADDRESS 6495 N Oxford, Chicago, 60631

HOME PHONE _____ BUSINESS PHONE _____

CAMPAIGN ADDRESS 6407 N Kinzua, Chicago

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CAMPAIGN MANAGER Steve Spagnolo Cell# (708) 601-1949

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED 1250 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.

N/A

C. What is your primary occupation?

Lakeview Ace Hardware and Keystone Hardware Store Owner

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

I've been involved in community groups around my business. I'm currently the Finance Committee Chairman of the parish that I grew up in.

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

Through my business experience I've appeared before the City Council Zoning Committee and the Cook County Board of Review and have dealt with many city departments and services in the day to day operation of my business.

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

I have not actively supported candidates in the past other than small donations many years ago.

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

We are actively seeking the endorsement of many unions and other politically active 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?

The current Alderman is not engaged with the community and does not represent the Ward as a whole. Some goals I have are to increase city services in the Ward to what every other community gets, to address the Airport Noise issue, to involve the residents more in the process, and to use my infrastructure knowledge to help the city to be more efficient and eliminate waste.

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

Campaign budget is \$150,000 and we have raised \$20,000 to date.

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 1

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

We are in the process of hiring & currently have a manager. We currently have 50 volunteers.

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - ESSAYS

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?
17.		X	Do you support public financing of municipal campaigns?
	ESSAY		Please explain your position.
18.	ESSAY		Who are your top 5 contributors and how much has each contributed to your campaign?
19.	ESSAY		What changes would you support to the redistricting process?

REVENUE AND BUDGET

20.	X		Will you vote to hire independent analysts to conduct a forensic audit of past City spending?
	Will you vote for a budget ordinance which would require:		
21.	X		Public questioning of city department heads concerning their departments' specific budget requests?

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - ESSAYS

22.	X		Making budget copies available to the public 30 days in advance of hearings?
23.	X		Restoring city-wide community group budget hearings several months prior to the publication of the budget, as were held under the Washington and Sawyer administrations?
24.	ESSAY		What additional revenue sources, if any, would you propose?
25.			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.			Will you vote to roll back Mayoral and Aldermanic salaries to pre-2007 levels?
28.	X		Will you vote for an ordinance limiting future Mayoral and Aldermanic salary increases to the same percentage as the lowest raise for any class of city employees?
29.	X		Do you agree with the criticism that City government is top heavy with management?
	ESSAY		Please explain your position.
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
		X	based on the size of each ward
			based on the needs of each ward
	YES	NO	
33.	X		Will you institute participatory budgeting to allow ward residents to vote on discretionary spending in your ward?
PRIVATIZATION			
34.	ESSAY		Which city services or assets, if any, do you believe should be privatized and what is your criteria?
35.	X		Will you vote for an ordinance requiring an independent analysis of any lease or outsourcing arrangement?
36.	X		Will you vote for an ordinance requiring detailed analysis and evaluation of any lease or outsourcing arrangement at least 30 days prior to the City Council vote?
37.	ESSAY		Before voting on privatization contracts, what will you do to ensure that they deliver the maximum return and best service for city residents in the long term?
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?
PLANNING, ZONING, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT			
39.	ESSAY		How will you involve ward residents in planning?
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?
42.	ESSAY		How will you involve residents in planning, approval, and oversight of TIF districts?
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?

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - ESSAYS

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?
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.			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.			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?

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - ESSAYS

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		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.
69.	ESSAY		What should the City do to improve the quality of all local schools?
70.	ESSAY		What are your plans to improve the local schools in your ward?
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.			Will you vote to ban Styrofoam food containers in Chicago public schools?
75.			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.			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?
81.		X	Do you support prioritization of land acquisition and capital improvements first to those neighborhoods which are underserved by existing facilities?
TRANSPORTATION			
82.			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)
			Red Line south to 130th Street
			Orange Line to Ford City Mall
			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?

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - ESSAYS

CRIMINAL JUSTICE		
87.	X	Is 911 response time adequate?
	ESSAY	If not, how can it be improved?
88.	X	Are there inequities in 911 service in your ward?
	ESSAY	If so, what can be done to redress them?
89.	X	Do you support re-allocating police services from low-crime to high-crime neighborhoods?
90.	ESSAY	What changes, if any, would you suggest for the CAPS program?
91.	X	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?
93.		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	Please comment on current participation of individuals with disabilities in city hiring and contracts.
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.	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		
104.	ESSAY	What employment, if any, other than alderman, do you intend to hold?
105.	ESSAY	How will you divide your time between your aldermanic duties and your other occupation?
106.	ESSAY	Please specify the minimum hours per week you will spend performing your aldermanic duties.
107.	ESSAY	Please describe your service office staffing plan, including the number of staff, full and part time, how you will pay for them, and the number of hours per week that your service office will be open.
108.	ESSAY	What services need improvement in your ward? How will you achieve this?
109.	ESSAY	What are your top priorities for the Ward?
110.	ESSAY	How will you work with community groups and residents on City matters?

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - ESSAYS

1. ESSAY	Which committees, if any, would you combine or eliminate? I'm not an elected alderman at this time but I would favor reviewing all committees and consolidating where overlap occurs.	
2. ESSAY	What reforms are necessary in the City Council's committee rules and structure? I would support any reform that would prevent aldermen from using the committee rules and structure to permanently hold ordinances from a full chamber vote.	
17.	X	Do you support public financing of municipal campaigns?
ESSAY	Please explain your position. At this time I do not support any use of public money until the City fulfills financial obligations that have been previously promised such as solvent pension funds.	
18. ESSAY	Who are your top 5 contributors and how much has each contributed to your campaign? All contributions are made available in my filings to the Illinois State Board of Elections	
19.	ESSAY	What changes would you support to the redistricting process? I would look at all proposals to change the current redistricting system and choose whichever system is the most sensible for the city and my ward.
24.	ESSAY	What additional revenue sources, if any, would you propose? At this time before I can support any additional taxes I would like to look at cost cutting and waste elimination. Until I know who is involved and how it will be run I will not support casino gambling. I want to make sure any gaming in the City of Chicago is heavily regulated and monitored and only then would I potentially support a move toward casino gambling.
29.	X	Do you agree with the criticism that City government is top heavy with management?
ESSAY	Please explain your position. I think the City government is top heavy with management, with the elimination of unnecessary positions I would like to see more employees at the service level.	

30.	ESSAY	What measures will you vote for to reform the city pension plan and ensure its solvency? I support TIF reform and I support reviewing Enterprise Zones in the City.
31	ESSAY	How would you modify (if at all) the benefit and contribution levels and eligibility requirements for public employee pensions? Going forward we need to look at a system that is both equitable to the city as well as the employee and no modifications should go forward without all parties having a seat at the table. Absolutely no modifications should take place for retired or current employees.
34.	ESSAY	Which city services or assets, if any, do you believe should be privatized and what is your criteria? I do not believe at this time that any city services or assets should be privatized. As we have learned privatization has not benefited the city.
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? An analysis needs to be made on any contract placed before the Council and public hearings need to be held.
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?

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - ESSAYS

		I am opposed to any further privatization deals however any that are currently in place should be monitored and held to the same anti-patronage rule requirements.
39.	ESSAY	How will you involve ward residents in planning? We will implement participatory budgeting.
40.	ESSAY	What is your long-range plan for development of the ward? To help revitalize any areas of the ward that are currently stagnant. I would begin a ward-wide planning process which would include all neighborhood associations and residents in the dialogue.
41.	ESSAY	What criteria do you or will you use in determining whether or not to grant a zoning change or variance? All zoning changes or variances will be based on community input and the recommendation of the Zoning Review Advisory Committee.
42.	ESSAY	How will you involve residents in planning, approval, and oversight of TIF districts? By having regular meetings and discussions throughout the ward and making the use of such TIF districts funds transparent.
45.	ESSAY	How do you propose to replace property tax revenue for CPS and other taxing bodies that is lost to TIF development? I would work towards reviewing existing Enterprise Zones.
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? At this time I would seek community input regarding decisions regarding such situations in my ward.
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? I think this needs to be addressed in the wards with existing SRO's and among the people who live adjacent to such affordable housing.
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? I would support the continuation of any existing programs.
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? I would have to review the impact that any measures would have in my ward and the communities in my ward.
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. I do not support any charter schools as they have not been proven to outperform any neighborhood schools and use valuable resources that could have otherwise been used by neighborhood schools. I support a moratorium on charter schools as well as a reevaluation of existing charter schools.
69.	ESSAY	What should the City do to improve the quality of all local schools? The city should conduct a forensic audit of the TIF funds and return surplus funds to local schools. The City should invest more in programs for local schools.

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - ESSAYS

70.	ESSAY	<p>What are your plans to improve the local schools in your ward? To actively seek answers to school overcrowding and make sure more financial resources are found to add programs to the schools as well as make sure that all special needs requirements for students are met.</p>
71.	ESSAY	<p>How would you modify (if at all) the benefit and contribution levels and eligibility requirements for public school teacher pension? Going forward we need to look at a system that is both equitable to the city as well as the employee and no modifications should go forward without all parties having a seat at the table. Absolutely no modifications should take place for retired or current employees.</p>
74/75	ESSAY	<p>Will you vote to ban Styrofoam food containers in Chicago public schools? Will you vote to ban Styrofoam food containers in Chicago restaurants and food delivery services? I will vote ban Styrofoam containers if an equally useable container is found at approximately the same cost.</p>
77.	ESSAY	<p>What should the City do to encourage and implement alternative forms of energy? Low interest loans for businesses and individuals looking to implement recognized alternative forms of energy.</p>
78.	ESSAY	<p>What other environmental initiatives, if any, do you propose? I support any initiatives that encourage more recycling and recycling education especially at the school level.</p>
79.	X	<p>Do you support election of the Chicago Park District Board? I support the same combination of elected and appointed board members as I do for Elected School Board</p>
80.	X	<p>Do you support increased privatization of park facilities and services? Why or why not? I do not support any increased privatization of any facilities and services without a thorough review and public hearings.</p>
	ESSAY	
82.		<p>Will you vote to increase the City subsidy to the CTA? I am unfamiliar with what the current CTA subsidy is but I would look at a cost-benefit analysis of increasing the subsidy for both my ward and the entire city.</p>
90.	ESSAY	<p>What changes, if any, would you suggest for the CAPS program? Anything that can encourage more community involvement.</p>
92.	ESSAY	<p>What measures will you support to stop the schools to prison pipeline? We need more of a focus on education and good jobs when people graduate.</p>
93.	X	<p>Do you support gun control? I support the enforcement of all current gun laws as well as reasonable gun control proposals such as universal background checks.</p>
94.	ESSAY	<p>What measures, if any, should the City Council adopt in response to recent court decisions striking down Chicago's handgun ban? I feel the City Council has already taken steps to address the situation and we have yet to see an independent analysis confirming one way or another how the decision has impacted violence in the city.</p>
96.	ESSAY	<p>Please share your views regarding the functioning of the Independent Police Review Authority and whether it should operate more independently of the Police Department.</p>

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - ESSAYS

		At this time I'm satisfied and until it is shown to be ineffective I support the way it is currently functioning.
99.	ESSAY	Please comment on current participation of individuals with disabilities in city hiring and contracts. I believe everyone should be given equal access and opportunity for jobs and contracts in the city.
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. I believe women and minorities should be given every opportunity to be hired by the city and have access to city contracts. I believe we should be hiring the most qualified individuals to be firefighters and police officers. I believe that police and firefighters should have more than 2 or 3 opportunities in their career to get promoted.
103.		X Will you vote for the Municipal ID ordinance?
	ESSAY	Why or why not? I think this should be handled at the state level.

104.	ESSAY	What employment, if any, other than alderman, do you intend to hold? I will continue to own my hardware stores.
105.	ESSAY	How will you divide your time between your aldermanic duties and your other occupation? Both of my stores have management in place to ensure seamless transition.
106.	ESSAY	Please specify the minimum hours per week you will spend performing your aldermanic duties. 40 hours a week at a minimum.
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. Until I have a budget I can't give a proper answer.
108.	ESSAY	What services need improvement in your ward? How will you achieve this? Street cleaning, snow removal, pot hole filing, tree trimming. I will achieve this by pushing for more dollars to be allocated based on the size of our ward.
109.	ESSAY	What are your top priorities for the Ward? Airport noise due to the O'Hare Modernization Plan, Education, and City Services
110.	ESSAY	How will you work with community groups and residents on City matters? By having regular community meetings and by attending existing community group meetings. As well as instituting participatory budgeting and a Zoning Board.