

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 1

DATE: 12/13/14

WARD: 46th

NAME: Amy Crawford

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CAMPAIGN MANAGER: Martin McAlpin

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED: 2,471

NUMBER REQUIRED: 400

Please provide the following background information:

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

None. I am a member-elected director of North Side Community Federal Credit Union.

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

None

C. What is your primary occupation?

Partner, Kirkland and Ellis LLP (commercial litigation)

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

I have litigated many pro bono cases on behalf of LGBT plaintiffs in civil rights cases, including marriage equality litigation, as well as clients who are disabled or living with mental illness. In 2008, I worked for six months as the Deputy Voter File Manager and Deputy Voter Protection Director in Ohio for the Obama campaign. I have been an active member in the Uptown community, having worked at Christopher House and volunteered for North Side Community Federal Credit Union and Howard Brown Health Center. I have also tutored at Christopher House and currently mentor a high school student through the LINK Unlimited program.

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 majored in Economics and Government at the University of Notre Dame, where I also studied Spanish and spent a semester in Chile. I worked in finance before I moved to Chicago in 1999. In law school, I took many classes on constitutional law as well as family law, law and poverty, and sex and gender equality. In my practice, I have significant experience representing businesses, the LGBT community, and clients who are disabled or living with mental illness. I have also studied leadership and running for elective office through the Leadership Greater Chicago program and the Illinois Women's Institute for Leadership (IWIL).

My experience working with a diverse range of people as a lawyer and a volunteer will give me a unique perspective on the issues facing the ward and the city. As Alderman, I will bring my pragmatism and problem-solving abilities to City Hall by listening to all sides of the issue before making an informed and independent decision. I also have a background in financial and data analysis and can bring a discerning eye to budget issues.

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

I was a finance intern for Ohio Attorney General Lee Fisher (Democrat) in 1994. I volunteered for Bill Clinton's 1996 campaign. I volunteered for Barack Obama's senate campaign in 2006, and in 2008, I worked

for six months on his first presidential campaign. I was a volunteer for Josina Morita for Metropolitan Water Reclamation District. I have made financial contributions to many Democratic candidates, including Sens. Dick Durbin, Tammy Baldwin and Joe Donnelly; Treasurer-Elect Mike Frerichs; Josina Morita and Debra Shore for Metropolitan Water Reclamation District; and Cook County Commissioner Mike Cabonargi.

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

In addition to my recent first endorsement by Reclaim Chicago, I have the support of Ward leaders, such as Randall Doubet-King, a retired pastor and board member of Planned Parenthood, the Chicago Coalition to End Homelessness, and Alternatives (a youth organization based in Uptown), as well as Gail Morse, a partner at Jenner and Block. I am in the process of seeking endorsements from a number of labor groups including United Working Families, SEIU Healthcare, and grassroots groups such as Grassroots Illinois Action and Action Now. Furthermore, I am seeking the endorsements of Planned Parenthood, GPAC and the Sierra Club. I believe I will be successful in winning many of these endorsements. In addition to the above, I have been regularly meeting and developing relationships with school leaders, nonprofit leaders and community leaders.

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 I have a pragmatic, common sense approach to the 46th Ward and what needs to be done to solve the community's problems. I am the only candidate in this race who does not carry baggage from the last two aldermen and the long, partisan fight in this ward over affordable housing. I believe we need to address the problem of violence on our streets and the need for greater economic development in our ward without harassing the homeless, voting to cut mental health services, and cutting affordable housing with no thought to replacing it. I believe we need to preserve, and in some cases, improve, affordable housing in the neighborhood, but that people living in the ward should be able to stay in the ward.

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

Our budget is \$300,000. To date, we have raised approximately 140,000.

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

We currently have a campaign manager and finance director, as well as an attorney. We are in the process of hiring several field organizers who will implement our field strategy. Currently, we have about 30 active, dedicated supporters of our campaign. We are continuing to build our volunteer database through meet and greets, speaking events and general calling and knocking outreach.

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.		No	Do you favor maintaining the current number of City Council committees?
	ESSAY		Which committees, if any, would you combine or eliminate? Generally, I think there are too many committees. I know that some committees historically have met infrequently, and meetings have been poorly attended and have violated open meeting laws. I am open to input about which committees should be consolidated or eliminated.
2.	ESSAY		What reforms are necessary in the City Council's committee rules and structure? Consolidating City Council Committees in order to provide for more efficient and useful information sharing towards the public is ideal in City government, and should be something we work towards as a City council. As Alderman, I would work towards increasing public input in all committee meetings by making accessible, the pertinent information, data and statistics surrounding major issues pertaining to committees. Committees that don't regularly meet or aren't part of the policy discussion on particular issues need to be consolidated or eliminated in order to maintain efficient clear information so our Alderman can get informed facts based on clear research instead of faulty, differentiating opinions.
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.		NO	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.	Yes*		<p>Will you support an ordinance to reduce the number of wards?</p> <p>A tentative yes. Without having the benefit of an insider’s perspective, it certainly seems to this outsider that having a 50-person legislature has not served our city well. With each alderman controlling his or her own fiefdom, the economic incentive and broad ability to commit fraud or otherwise enrich oneself to the detriment of ward residents has proven too great for too many aldermen over the years. In a system with fewer aldermen, city departments would have to be given greater responsibility, freeing up aldermen to engage more intensively with serious policy decisions. Bigger wards would also provide a better pool of qualified candidates.</p>
12.			Have you joined or will you join:
		NO	The Paul Douglas Caucus
	Yes*		<p>The Independent Progressive Caucus</p> <p>I don’t agree with a number of votes of members of the Progressive Caucus, including recent votes against environmental initiatives proposed by the Mayor. I also don’t believe in being a reflexive “no” vote against the Mayor, as some members of the Caucus have seemed to be at times. I would not be this type of legislator. However, I believe we need more strong, independent leaders in City Council, which is what I intend to be. Given the need for more independent leadership and a renewed focus on people over corporations, I intend to join the Progressive Caucus.</p>
			Both
13.	Yes		Do you support changing the state statute to return to filling aldermanic vacancies by special election, rather than Mayoral appointment?
14.	Yes		<p>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?</p> <p>I support needed redistricting reform in the City of Chicago. Ward maps should not be based on political criteria. There should be a non-partisan, process that benefits people over politicians.</p>
15.		No	Will you or have you accepted campaign donations from current or potential suppliers or employees?

16.		No*	<p>Will you or have you accepted campaign donations from people or businesses seeking zoning changes in your ward?</p> <p>We have not been confronted with such a donation to date. I don't anticipate receiving significant contributions from developers, as the incumbent has, but we believe in operating on a fair playing field financially, and would not rule out accepting contributions from developers or other people seeking zoning changes.</p>
17.	Yes		Do you support public financing of municipal campaigns?
		ESSAY	I support efforts to reduce or eliminate the corrosive influence of money in our political system. I would favor a small-donor match program similar to the one adopted by New York and other cities.
18.		ESSAY	<p>Who are your top 5 contributors and how much has each contributed to your campaign?</p> <p>I have loaned myself \$35,000 to date. I have received \$5,000 contributions from two partners in my law firm, Richard Godfrey, Linda Myers. Tacy Flint, a friend who works at the Sidley Austin firm, contributed \$3,000. I have received a number of \$2,500 contributions from law firm partners as well as from my parents and my sister.</p>
19.			<p>What changes would you support to the redistricting process?</p> <p>I believe the redistricting process needs to be reformed to be more accountable to the people of Chicago. We need to keep Chicago's people and neighborhoods together while striving to exclude the role of politics in redistricting. The most recent redistricting effort (particularly the Second Ward map) showed that some boundaries were drawn on a purely political basis, with no thought to maintaining a governable ward encompassing one or two neighborhoods.</p>
REVENUE AND BUDGET			
20.	Yes		<p>Will you vote to hire independent analysts to conduct a forensic audit of past City spending?</p> <p>Our City faces massive debt and budget problems. I definitely believe we need an independent audit to properly assess past spending so that future budgets spend more efficiently, prioritize better, and don't borrow from our children's future.</p>
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		<p>making budget copies available to the public 30 days in advance of hearings?</p> <p>Citizens ought to have a more clear and distinct voice in the vital issues surrounding the funding of programs and services in City Government.</p>

23.	Yes		<p>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?</p> <p>An informed voice from the citizens is essential to the budget process and ensures we as a Government properly address the citizens' concerns and plan for their needs and issues.</p>
24.		ESSAY	<p>What additional revenue sources, if any, would you propose?</p> <p>I believe that in order to keep our promises to pensioners, and still provide vital services to Chicago residents we need to keep all opinions on the table and explore new revenue streams that can streamline our budget and put us on a path to prosperity. I am open to expanding the sales tax rate in the City as well as a progressive city income tax and the "LaSalle Street Tax." We should also consider expanding the City sales tax rate on some services within City limits and reforming our corporate tax code to reallocate needed funds away from corporate subsidies and toward pension funding.</p>
25.		No	<p>Do you support casino gambling for Chicago?</p> <p>I am against casino gambling in Chicago. If we allow gambling here, it should be very limited. I don't believe we can or should patch our budget holes significantly with casino gambling, which typically draw from communities that can least afford it. I have had close friends touched by gambling addictions, and this forms part of the reason why I'm not comfortable with broad expansion of casino gaming.</p>
26.	Yes		<p>Will you vote to require a citywide referendum before any gambling is instituted in the City?</p> <p>I think when dealing with gambling, we need to ensure the voters of Chicago have a say if a casino is built in the City.</p>
27.	Yes		<p>Will you vote to roll back Mayoral and Aldermanic salaries to pre-2007 levels?</p>
28.	Yes		<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>It is important to the people of Chicago to see that their elected officials are not above the laws and regulation they enact on other City agencies, no matter the importance or funding level of said agency.</p>
	Yes		<p>Do you agree with the criticism that City government is top heavy with management?</p>

29.	ESSAY	<p>Please explain your position.</p> <p>I need to know more about the workings of City government in order to provide a more educated opinion, but my sense is that we have too many people in management positions relative to the number of people being managed.</p>
30.	ESSAY	<p>What measures will you vote for to reform the city pension plan and ensure its solvency?</p> <p>A pension is a promise. The courts have been clear that pension benefits offered to existing workers cannot be diminished. All options need to be on the table to ensure we dedicate proper funding to the mismanaged City pension funds and protect vulnerable retirees on a fixed income. I have discussed potential revenue-raising options above. I also believe we need help from the State to fund teacher pensions.</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 don't believe we constitutionally can -- or should -- change the benefit and contribution levels and eligibility requirements for current public employees. As a City government we need to ensure our retirees are protected and guaranteed the benefits that were promised to them by the City.</p>
32.	Choose One	Should discretionary funds for ward services and infrastructure improvements be allocated
	Yes	<p>in equal amounts to each ward</p> <p>I'm sympathetic to the view that discretionary funds should be allocated based on the needs of the ward. However, I would not be willing to sacrifice discretionary funds that could be used to improve the lives of 46th Ward citizens. However, menu funds should be part of the much-needed discussion on prioritization of needs in the City budget. I think our public schools, for example, should be higher priority than providing discretionary funds to the wards.</p>
		based on the size of each ward
		based on the needs of each ward
	YES NO	

33.		<p>Will you institute participatory budgeting to allow ward residents to vote on discretionary spending in your ward?</p> <p>Maybe. I'm very open to the idea of participatory budgeting. But in my ward, I've seen that Alderman Cappleman's experiment with participatory budgeting failed, and was followed by a year in which he unilaterally spent the funds, primarily for pothole repairs. The residents I've spoken with who participated in the participatory budgeting process complained that much effort was spent on a wide variety of ideas, some of them which were totally unfeasible, and there was little attempt by the alderman's office to channel the ideas into workable options or to provide feedback to residents after the process was completed. I would like to provide a democratic option for spending these funds without wasting significant resident or office resources.</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 think privatization deals have not worked out well for the City historically, and I don't believe any additional services or assets should be privatized.</p>
35.	Yes	<p>Will you vote for an ordinance requiring an independent analysis of any lease or outsourcing arrangement?</p> <p>If we are privatizing our City goods and services we need to ensure a full, transparent discussion takes place between the affected constituents and the City management itself.</p>
36.	Yes	<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>
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 will seek independent financial analysis of such deals to ensure that the calculated benefits and returns of such arrangements are truly reliable. I will fight for oversight of the private company's administration to ensure that the services are being performed appropriately, and will fight for contractual terms that give the City maximum flexibility to get out of contracts that are not working for the City or its 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 would fight for procedures that provide transparency into the private company's management and hiring, so that we avoid deals with entities based on patronage.</p>

PLANNING, ZONING, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

39.	ESSAY	<p>How will you involve ward residents in planning?</p> <p>As Alderman, I will be as transparent and open as possible when discussing future planning for the Ward. With my leadership, every resident of the 46th Ward will have an equal voice in planning and zoning of development projects. I will hire someone with experience in urban planning, who will be responsible for ensuring that proper communication channels are being initiated with citizens on planning issues within the Ward.</p>
40.	ESSAY	<p>What is your long-range plan for development of the ward?</p> <p>My plan is to develop small businesses along key intersections and corridors in the ward, particularly at Lawrence and Broadway, Wilson and Broadway, Sheridan and Montrose, and Sheridan and Irving Park. I believe we should have balanced development, and not a one-size-fits-all vision of market-rate high-rise apartments on every corner. Sometimes this should include downzoning for more family residences instead of solely upzoning.</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>I will analyze whether the zoning change or variance will have a net positive impact on the neighborhood without unduly disadvantaging neighbors. I will take into account the input of ward residents, including block clubs, businesses, and neighborhood organizations, but also including individual residents who may not participate in such organizations. I will prioritize the views of current residents over the input of developers.</p>
42.	ESSAY	<p>How will you involve residents in planning, approval, and oversight of TIF districts?</p> <p>As Alderman, I will obtain input from citizens on TIF issues and spending. TIFs are controversial because they are seen as using taxpayer dollars to fund private development, when it often isn't clear that tax financing is necessary to the private deal. I will convene a TIF committee charged with providing proper oversight of TIF spending and with communicating to residents the costs and benefits of TIFs in the ward.</p>
43.	Yes	<p>Will you vote to terminate a TIF if the objectives of the TIF plan have been accomplished before the 23 year period is ended?</p>
44.	Yes	<p>Will you vote to return unspent and uncommitted TIF funds on an annual basis to the various taxing bodies?</p> <p>I believe that when fiscally prudent, we should return our TIFs to the school districts they were taken away from in the first place.</p>

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>I think we need to be very careful about creating new TIF districts, and typically should be retiring TIFs on their termination date. In this time of budgetary crisis, we need to prioritize CPS over other spending. Above, I discussed potential new or increased revenue streams that can be used to fund CPS. However, we also need TIF reform to make sure that property taxes aren't being misused or abused at the expense of our students.</p>
46.	Yes	<p>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?</p> <p>Yes. We cannot sacrifice vital programs and services for new TIFs.</p>
47.	Yes	<p>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)?</p>
48.	Yes	<p>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?</p> <p>Yes. We definitely need to make sure that we are providing economic opportunity to all people. In my ward, we need greater opportunities for youth engagement and job training. We also need job training for homeless individuals.</p>
HOUSING		
49.	Yes	<p>Will you vote to amend the Vacant Properties Ordinance to require mortgage servicers to register their properties?</p>
50.	Yes	<p>Do you support enacting an ordinance to preserve Single-Room Occupancy housing?</p>

51.	Yes*	<p>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?</p> <p>I believe we need more affordable housing around the city. I am not sure what the appropriate percentage is. I also think that imposing affordable housing development requirements only on new construction or renovations places the entire burden of affordable housing on developers rather than on all commercial property owners, and I have questions about whether this is advisable or tenable when we clearly need more affordable housing citywide.</p>
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>As Alderman, I would take a keen interest in preserving and maintaining affordable housing based on Area Median income. When our properties become foreclosed and are saved, we should develop a criteria and priority schedule to determine which areas and properties will be economically feasible for the Ward to revitalize into affordable housing. This way, no property fit for affordable housing or conversion into a community center or school goes by the wayside. I support measures to reign in AMI limits that are too low for the corresponding neighborhoods in which we are trying to preserve affordability.</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>I supported the recent SRO ordinance. I would also support other measures to preserve other low-income housing to ensure that such housing stock remains. I also support reform of CHA through the "Keeping the Promise" Ordinance introduced in City Council.</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>Again, I support the Keeping the Promise ordinance, and I believe we need much more attention to the issue of affordable housing citywide. All neighborhoods should be offering affordable family-sized units so that low-income people have access to housing not just concentrated in certain areas, but across the city.</p>

55.	ESSAY		<p>What measures will you support to provide affordable housing for low-income individuals and families who are not served by any existing programs?</p> <p>I would work to create economic opportunity and housing for low-income individuals and families who are not served by existing programs. I think balanced development is key to maintaining affordable market-rate units in my ward, rather than an approach geared toward gentrifying the ward as quickly as possible. Also, the Keeping the Promise ordinance would reform CHA so that thousands of additional affordable units would be created, and I support that ordinance.</p>
	YES	NO	Do you support any of the following to be built in your ward?
56.	Yes		<p>low income rental housing that is affordable to those at 15% to 30% of AMI?</p> <p>Any additional affordable housing in the ward should only be added to replace some portion of the units that have been lost in the last four years. Many residents believe we have an overabundance of affordable housing in the neighborhood, and while I disagree that we have too much, I'm sensitive to their concerns about an overconcentration of affordable housing relative to other neighborhoods on the North Side.</p>
57.		No*	<p>supportive housing for people overcoming addiction and other problems which contribute to homelessness?</p> <p>We have a number such housing developments here in the ward, and generally I am very supportive of these developments. However, I believe much of the racial and class tension in the ward surrounds the issue of affordable housing (particularly the lowest rung of affordable housing) and substance abuse issues. I don't believe most residents in the ward want additional developments of this type, so I wouldn't support additional such housing at this time. However, I would be willing to listen to proponents of such housing.</p>
58.		No*	<p>shelters for the homeless?</p> <p>Again, my ward has a number of homeless shelters. Residents of my ward want to see other wards stepping up to provide shelter for the homeless. I want to see an easing of racial and class tensions in this ward, and I don't believe additional homeless shelters will help with this problem. But we should preserve the homeless shelters that we have here in the ward and come up with a renewed, vigorous citywide approach to homelessness.</p>
59	Yes		<p>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?</p> <p>Yes. As stated previously, we cannot displace our most vulnerable people and put them out on their streets. Eliminating affordable and SRO housing may sound appealing to fighting crime, but in actuality it results in homelessness, this is especially true in my Ward.</p>
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
	X	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?
	X	Popular Election
		Mayoral appointment from nominations made by community representatives
		Maintaining the current system of Mayoral appointment
		A mix of elected and appointed members
	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.		No 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>The results of Renaissance 2010 have been mixed at best. Studies have shown that charter schools generally have not outperformed neighborhood schools, at least not to a sufficient degree to warrant the significant disruption to the school system as a whole. Nor has reconstitution been proven particularly effective. Studies show that neighborhood schools with strong Local School Councils that involved community members, parents, teachers, and administrators working collaboratively improved even more than reconstituted schools.</p>

69.			<p>What should the City do to improve the quality of all local schools?</p> <p>The City should fully fund our public schools, including with sufficient resources to provide for smaller class sizes and appropriate classroom technology. We should prioritize our public schools above virtually all other city priorities. The City should continue to emphasize hiring principals who will be strong leaders, who can build a strong school culture around them, and who have broad discretion and flexibility to shape their schools.</p>
70.			<p>What are your plans to improve the local schools in your ward?</p> <p>As alderman, I would work with all of the public schools in the ward to strengthen the school culture and strengthen the school's ties with the surrounding community. I would hold meetings at least every other month with the leadership of all levels of schools in the ward and the police to discuss issues pertinent to the schools, including student safety. I would encourage private investments from local businesses to provide needed capital improvements to the schools. I would act to protect a school if it were threatened with closure, and advocate for other alternatives. Finally, I would seek to make Uplift Community High School a neighborhood high school.</p>
71.			<p>How would you modify (if at all) the benefit and contribution levels and eligibility requirements for public school teacher pension?</p> <p>I would not modify the benefit and contribution levels and eligibility requirements for existing workers. I believe Illinois courts have spoken clearly that such modifications would be an unconstitutional diminution of benefits.</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.	Yes		Will you vote to ban Styrofoam food containers in Chicago public schools?
75.	Yes		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.			<p>What should the City do to encourage and implement alternative forms of energy?</p> <p>The City can increase the percentage of its electricity that comes from renewable sources. The City should make further investments in renewable energy and incentives to utilize green technologies, including the construction of green/LEED-certified buildings. I also support green road construction in the City and revamping our waste management infrastructure to ensure we utilize the safest methods to dispose of toxic chemicals and other waste.</p>

78.	ESSAY		<p>What other environmental initiatives, if any, do you propose?</p> <p>I would support efforts to build high-speed rail throughout the state and in the Midwest. I would also advocate for a more robust citywide recycling program. Finally, I would support passage of the CMAP Model Water Use Conservation Ordinance.</p>
PARKS			
79.		No	<p>Do you support election of the Chicago Park District Board?</p> <p>I would need to see evidence that the current system of appointing this board is not working.</p>
80.		No	<p>Do you support increased privatization of park facilities and services?</p>
	ESSAY		<p>Why or why not?</p> <p>I generally don't support further privatization of public goods and services. Such privatization arrangements have historically not been financially advantageous to the City, nor have they resulted in better services.</p>
81.	Yes		<p>Do you support prioritization of land acquisition and capital improvements first to those neighborhoods which are underserved by existing facilities?</p>
TRANSPORTATION			
82.		No	<p>Will you vote to increase the City subsidy to the CTA?</p>
83.	Rank 1-5 or say no to any		<p>Please indicate which CTA expansion plans, if any, you support and rank them in order of priority (1 highest)</p>
		1	<p>Red Line south to 130th Street</p>
			<p>Orange Line to Ford City Mall</p>
			<p>Downtown Circulator</p>
		2	<p>Downtown-O'Hare Express</p>
			<p>Other – please specify</p>
	YES	NO	
84.		No	<p>Do you support renegotiation of Chicago's parking meter privatization deal?</p>
85.		No	<p>Do you support privatization of Midway Airport?</p>
86.	Yes		<p>Do you support the O'Hare expansion plan?</p>
CRIMINAL JUSTICE			

87.	No	Is 911 response time adequate?
	ESSAY	If not, how can it be improved? The most important improvement is to make sure that all communities are served equally by our emergency services. A person in need in one part of the city shouldn't have to wait longer for a response to a life-threatening emergency than in another part of the city.
88.		Are there inequities in 911 service in your ward? I don't have data to indicate that there are inequities in my ward.
	ESSAY	If so, what can be done to redress them? N/A
89.		Do you support re-allocating police services from low-crime to high-crime neighborhoods? I support high-crime neighborhoods having the support they need. However, in the 19th District, which is a relatively low-crime neighborhood, the 25% cut in police over the past four years has resulted in spikes in crime, including violent crime. I believe we need additional police resources in the 19th District and across the city.
90.	ESSAY	What changes, if any, would you suggest for the CAPS program? The CAPS program needs to be reimagined as a true community policing and community building effort. CAPS meetings should be just one element of this approach. CAPS would benefit from adopting a community organizing model that seeks to identify and build around community leaders who can work with neighbors to change the culture of their block or community with respect to violent crime.
91.	Yes	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? We need to support the development of great neighborhood schools and continue to see that higher numbers of students graduate from high school. I support greater job readiness preparation for high school students, and a stronger network of City Colleges. I would advocate reducing sentences for minor drug infractions, and would support greater rehabilitation and job training programs for young people convicted of minor drug crimes.
93.	Yes	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? The City Council should adopt the most restrictive measures on handguns that would pass constitutional muster. These should include long waiting periods, rigorous background checks, heavy taxes on firearms, and requiring handgun microstamping to provide a ballistic fingerprint.

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>I have concerns that the IPRA does not operate sufficiently independently of CPD. In particular, it seems to me that there is too much bureaucracy surrounding the investigation of complaints, in that, for example, any complaint not accompanied by a signed affidavit is not investigated. Moreover, there is little to no accountability within this system for those officers against whom complaints are repeatedly received, since the IPRA's reporting does not reveal any names of 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>Candidly, I don't know a lot about this issue. I would support affirmative action based on disability status as well as the aforementioned categories.</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>Historically, there has been discrimination against women and minorities in city hiring, and in particular, the hiring and promotion of police and firefighters. Just as is the case in the judiciary, I think we are better served by having people in these roles who have the benefit of diverse life experiences and look like the population they serve. I think affirmative action in hiring and promotion is appropriate particularly in these areas where discrimination is demonstrable.</p>
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?
	Yes		Will you vote for the Municipal ID ordinance?

103.	ESSAY	<p>Why or why not?</p> <p>A municipal ID card allows undocumented immigrants to access basic city services and identify themselves with police and other city officials. Such a program would improve city administration by promoting the integration of undocumented immigrants into city affairs. It would likely be cost-effective in safeguarding the health, safety, and welfare of all city residents.</p>
ALDERMANIC PRIORITIES		
104.	ESSAY	<p>What employment, if any, other than alderman, do you intend to hold?</p> <p>I don't intend to hold any employment other than alderman for at least my first term.</p>
105.	ESSAY	<p>How will you divide your time between your aldermanic duties and your other occupation?</p> <p>I will be a full time Alderman.</p>
106.	ESSAY	<p>Please specify the minimum hours per week you will spend performing your aldermanic duties.</p> <p>40</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>My staffing plan would entail at least four full-time staff, to be compensated through my budget or supplemented through campaign fundraising efforts. My service office will be open at least 40 hours per week, likely longer, and will include Saturday hours at least one day per month.</p>
108.	ESSAY	<p>What services need improvement in your ward? How will you achieve this?</p> <p>Basic constituent services need to be improved, including streets and sanitation services. Potholes, caving sidewalks, broken guardrails, and other hazards create dangerous conditions for residents, particularly the disabled and elderly. We will address this by communicating proactively with residents and Streets and Sanitation or other responsible departments.</p>
109.	ESSAY	<p>What are your top priorities for the Ward?</p> <p>My top priorities are fighting crime and building small business development, while retaining the diversity that is unique to our ward.</p>
110.	ESSAY	<p>How will you work with community groups and residents on City matters?</p> <p>I will work openly with community groups and residents on City matters. I will invite input from all concerned before I make a decision. I will also offer open and even-handed processes rather than back-room deals with developers and/or preferential treatment to certain constituents.</p>