

IVI-IPO 2017 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 1

DATE January 20, 2017

WARD 4th

NAME Gerald Scott McCarthy

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CAMPAIGN MANAGER Advisory Committee

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED 1188 NUMBER REQUIRED 472

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?
Attorney at Law
- D. Briefly list your civic activities of the past ten years.
Member, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.; Founding Member, Sigma Chi Foundation of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc.; Charter Member, Claver Society of St. Ignatius College Prep; Member, Board of Regents, St. Ignatius College Prep.
- E. What subjects have you studied and what experience have you had which will be most helpful to you in the office you seek?
As an Attorney at Law, small business owner, Certified Public Accountant, former political campaign chairman and political committee treasurer, past university professor and life-long learner, I possess the political savvy, business acumen, academic zeal and passion for advocacy that will be helpful to me in this position.

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

I have supported numerous candidates over the years who have demonstrated a commitment to their constituents and strengthening the communities they sought to serve.

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

I have not received any endorsements thus far.

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 possess the background, skills and qualifications to perform the duties of the office and advocate for the residents of the 4th Ward. I will be the Alderman on the offensive, seeking to always bring the best resources and services to the community. I will reengage people with government, increase transparency, and form partnerships with the residents as we, together, seek solutions to build the best 4th Ward possible; not just for today but for years to come.

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

Our goal is to raise \$50,000. We have raised over \$30,000 thus far.

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

We have a core staff of five individuals and numerous 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	
1.			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
			The Independent Progressive Caucus
			Both
13.			Do you support changing the state statute to return to filling aldermanic vacancies by special election, rather than Mayoral appointment?
14.			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.	YES		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?

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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.	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	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.			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
			based on the size of each ward
	Yes		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?

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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.			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.			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.			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
			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
	Yes		A Hybrid System
	YES	NO	
63.	X		Will you support a city-wide lottery for enrollment in magnet schools?

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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.	X		Will you vote to ban Styrofoam food containers in Chicago public schools?
75.	X		Will you vote to ban Styrofoam food containers in Chicago restaurants and food delivery services?
76.	X		Will you vote to adopt the water quality standards recommended by the Pollution Control Board?
77.	ESSAY		What should the City do to encourage and implement alternative forms of energy?
78.	ESSAY		What other environmental initiatives, if any, do you propose?
PARKS			
79.		X	Do you support election of the Chicago Park District Board?
80.		X	Do you support increased privatization of park facilities and services?
	ESSAY		Why or why not?
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)
	1		Red Line south to 130th Street
	2		Orange Line to Ford City Mall
	4		Downtown Circulator
	3		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? We need a third airport.

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE			
87.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Is 911 response time adequate?
	ESSAY		If not, how can it be improved?
88.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are there inequities in 911 service in your ward?
	ESSAY		If so, what can be done to redress them?
89.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you vote for more funding for alternative crime prevention programs such as Cease Fire?
92.	ESSAY		What measures will you support to stop the schools to prison pipeline?
93.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support gun control?
94.	ESSAY		What measures, if any, should the City Council adopt in response to recent court decisions striking down Chicago's handgun ban?
95.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Will you vote to order the City to stop paying legal fees and attempt to recover past legal costs of city employees implicated in the Police Board findings of misconduct related to the Burge case?
96.	ESSAY		Please share your views regarding the functioning of the Independent Police Review Authority and whether it should operate more independently of the Police Department.
CIVIL RIGHTS			
97.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support affirmative action based on race, gender and sexual orientation in establishing criteria for hiring and promoting public employees?
98.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support affirmative action as a criteria in letting city contracts?
99.	ESSAY		Please comment on current participation of individuals with disabilities in city hiring and contracts.
100.	ESSAY		Please comment on current women and minority participation in city hiring and contracts. Be sure your comments include firefighter and police officer recruitment and promotion.
101.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you favor restructuring the wage scale of city employees to institute gender-equal pay for jobs of comparable worth?
102.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Will you vote to require all City vendors and contractors to provide spousal benefits for same-sex partners of their employees?
103.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	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 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?
109.	ESSAY		What are your top priorities for the Ward?
110.	ESSAY		How will you work with community groups and residents on City matters?

1. Which committees, if any, would you combine or eliminate?

Before I would combine or eliminate any committee, each one would need to be evaluated from an internal point of view. Presently, I am not the current Alderman thus, an answer to this question should be reserved until after my first year in office.

2. What reforms are necessary in the City Council's committee rules and structure?

I would reform the committee rules and structures and other systems that allow recommendations to languish in committee. All items should be either removed from the committee's agenda or brought before the council for a vote. See the answer to Question 1 for further explanation.

12. Have you joined or will you join:

I will align myself with any group that serves the best interest and advances the agenda of the citizens of the 4th Ward and secondarily, the City of Chicago.

13. Do you support changing the state statute to return to filling aldermanic vacancies by special election, rather than Mayoral appointment?

As I understand the process, the Mayor appoints a temporary or interim Alderman until there is a special election.

14. 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?

In theory, yes, but from a practical approach how would these subjective standards be applied? A law that has no bite is useless.

17. Do you support public financing of municipal campaigns?

Yes, I believe such laws would level the playing field. Campaigns can be more issue driven opposed to focusing on who has the money.

18. Who are your top 5 contributors and how much has each contributed to your campaign?

Please refer to a copy of my financial report which can be found at the Illinois Board of Elections website.

24. What additional revenue sources, if any, would you propose.

I support an aggressive marketing of existing licensing fees and services currently charged by the City and I also support a casino development project.

29. Do you agree with the criticism that City government is top heavy with management?

I have heard that criticism, but I would have to evaluate this after one year in office.

31. What measures will you vote for to reform the city pension plan and ensure its solvency?

I will vote for any measure that seeks to demystify the pension formula, increase transparency in how the plan works, identifies the plan's success and failures, and includes periodic and objective evaluation.

32. How would you modify (if at all) the benefit and contribution levels and eligibility requirements for public employee pensions?

- 1) Raise the retirement age.
- 2) Eliminate the calculation based on previous salaries earned and implement a weighted average.
- 3) Modify cost of living adjustments.
- 4) Modify the double dipping and again base it on a weighted average.
- 5) NO MORE FURLOUGHS
- 6) Institute an aggressive plan to raise revenues and deal with the current pension situation.

33. Will you institute participatory budgeting to allow ward residents to vote on discretionary spending in your ward?

I will institute community think tanks and will consistently meet with leaders and listens to their concerns but ultimately this decision should be mine.

37. 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?

These agreements should incorporate requirements that allow for an independent and periodic evaluation. I will not vote for any long-term agreement without an opt -out clause.

38. 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?

See answer to Question 37.

39. How will you involve ward residents in planning?

We plan to launch an aggressive marketing campaign informing the resident that I am the new alderman. We will create TIF advisory board and community think tanks for ideas for aggressively improving our ward.

40. What is your long-range plan for development of the ward?

I am interested in exploring the creation of communities similar to Pilsen and Andersonville and pursue the tourism dollars.

41. How will you involve residents in planning, approval, and oversight of TIF districts?

I will create a TIF advisory board.

45. How do you propose to replace property tax revenue for CPS and other taxing bodies that is lost to TIF development?

I do not think revenue is lost from the creation of TIF's. As designed, TIF programs ultimately create revenue by returning property to the tax rolls.

47. 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)?

I believe the law proposes an eventual increase to \$13.00 per hour, so I would not support a law that is less than the current one. Additionally, I am not in favor of strict objective standards that leave little to no room for modification.

68. 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.

Considering the recent moratorium on charter schools there is obviously more work to be done in providing the best education for all children regardless of the geographical area in which they live.

77. What should the City do to encourage and implement alternative forms of energy.

See answer to Question 78.

78. What other environmental initiatives, if any, do you propose.

- a) Make it easier to "be green" and energy efficient. More and expansive recycling places throughout the city is a step in that direction
- b) Develop a "gray water" ordinance
- c) Create incentives to encourage the use of solar power
- d) Market existing energy efficient programs to the public

80. Do you support increased privatization of park facilities and services? Why or why not.

I would halt all privatization efforts until the current ones are evaluated.

88. If so, what can be done to redress them.

Replace the people in charge of the decision making process.

90. What changes, if any, would you suggest for the CAPS program?

The program benefits should be marketed to the public more aggressively.

92. What measures will you support to stop the schools to prison pipeline?

I support any measure that helps provide the best education for all children which in turn helps cut off the supply of individuals to school to prison pipeline.

93. What measures, if any, should the City Council adopt in response to recent court decisions striking down Chicago's handgun ban?

Enforce the existing laws and ordinances.

96. Please share your views regarding the functioning of the Independent Police Review Authority and whether it should operate more independently of the Police Department?

All matters involving the discipline of Police Officers should be removed from the Police Department and the State's Attorney's Office.

99. Please comment on current participation of individuals with disabilities in city hiring and contracts.

100. 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.

The City can seek to expand the set asides for people with disabilities, women and minorities.

103. Why or why not

This country was founded on being a gateway for diversity. I believe this Ordinance further that dream that America is a country of opportunity for all.

104. What employment, if any, other than alderman, do you intend to hold?

I am a lawyer and CPA in private practice and will continue to maintain those practices.

105. How will you divide your time between your aldermanic duties and your other occupation.

In the first 6 -12 months, I will not take on any new clients and concentrate mostly on my duties as Alderman.

106. Please specify the minimum hours per week you will spend performing your aldermanic duties.

I do not plan to devote a minimum or maximum number of hours per week, I will work until the job is done.

107. Please describe your service office staffing plan, including the number of staff, full and part time, how you will pay for them, and the number of hours per week that your service office will be open.

I will have three full-time employees and two part-time employees. I will pay their salaries primarily from the city budget but to attract the best qualified applicants, I would be competing with private sector employers. Therefore, if the funds are available, in order to attract and retain the best qualified staff, I will supplement salaries with campaign contributions to the extent allowable by law. Additionally, we hope to develop a relationship with the community so that we can also supplement our office staff with skilled and trained volunteers from the various neighborhoods.

108. What services need improvement in your ward? How will you achieve this 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?

We need to address the quality of life issues and a provide a quicker response time to requests for basic City services. See the answer to Question 108. Initially, the service office will be open from 9:00am to 5:00pm and one Saturday per month. After a period, I will evaluate the hours and service delivery, and change our hours of operation based on the needs of the constituents.

109. What are your top priorities for the Ward?

- 1) Uplift the Community
- 2) Community Preservation
- 3) Promote Peace
- 4) Quality Public Education
- 5) Economic Sustainability
- 6) Energy Efficient Living

110. How will you work with community groups and residents on City matters?

Candidate: Gerald Scott McCarthy
IVI –IPO Questionnaire

I plan to create Community Think Tanks and TIF Advisory Boards. I will be accessible to the community, transparent in executing my duties as Alderman and more importantly I will listen to the residents of the Fourth Ward.