

**IVI-IPO 2012 WARD COMMITTEEMAN QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 1**

DATE 01/06/2012 WARD: 36 PARTY: Democratic

NAME: Alderman Nicholas Sposato

VOTING ADDRESS: 6940 W. Palmer St, Chicago, IL 60707

HOME PHONE: N/A BUSINESS PHONE: (773) 443-3636

CAMPAIGN ADDRESS: 6940 W. Palmer St, Chicago, IL 60707

CAMPAIGN PHONE: (773) 443-3636 FAX: N/A

EMAIL: info@aldermansposato.com WEBSITE: www.36ward.com

CAMPAIGN MANAGER: N/A

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED: 1175 NUMBER REQUIRED: 491

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

**36<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman, 05/2011-present**

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

**None**

C) What is your primary occupation?

**Alderman of the 36<sup>th</sup> ward of Chicago**

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

- **36<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman**
- **City of Chicago Firefighter**
- **Sayre Language Academy Local School Council, Past LSC Chair, (4-years as Parent Representative and 2-years as Community Representative). First CPS to reestablish itself back to a community school.**
- **Knights of Columbus, Food Pantry, serving the needy of Chicago, Oak Park and Elmwood Park communities, 5-year volunteer.**
- **Salvation Army, Volunteer Coordinator, recruit and assign bell ringers and drivers for multiple locations throughout the holiday season 4-years.**
- **Past Member, Galewood Montclare Community Organization, Board of Directors; (supported community events that benefited both residents and businesses).**
- **Trinity High School Father's Club, (13-year member, 3-term Past President, actively involved in special event scholarship fundraising initiatives).**
- **Chicago Firefighters Local # 2, Catholic Charities Christmas Toy Parade, provides holiday gifts to 3000+ children in the Greater Chicago Community; serve as the event logistics coordinator 12-years.**
- **Past Member, United Community Organizations, Board of Directors; (provided area students with college scholarships based on community service).**
- **Shabbona Park Youth Corporation, (Past Basketball Coach 3-years).**

- **Humane Society, supporting member 5-years.**
- **Galewood Montclare Garden Club, supporting member 4-years.**
- **LifeSource, Chicago's Blood Center, member of the 50 Pint Club.**

E) What candidates have you supported? Please be specific in describing your role in each campaign.

**I was elected as Alderman of the 36<sup>th</sup> Ward in April of 2011 and do not currently hold the position of committeeman.**

F) As concisely as possible, please 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?

**When I was elected as Alderman of the 36<sup>th</sup> ward it was based on my promise to create a new system of open and accessible government for the residents of my ward. Since taking office I have worked every day to achieve this goal. I have instituted a system of community meetings to discuss issues including public safety, zoning, education, and economic development. The response from the community has been remarkable with an average attendance at each meeting around 100 people. When given the chance to have a voice in the direction of their community the residents of the 36<sup>th</sup> ward have risen to the challenge.**

**As committeeman I plan to continue my efforts to open up government and politics to the residents of our ward. I believe I should be endorsed for 36<sup>th</sup> Ward committeeman by the IVI-IPO because of our shared ideals of "good government activism and an idealistic vision of open, honest government in Illinois through pragmatic means that confront cynicism and corruption with equal force".**

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

**Financial reports are available through the board of elections.**

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

**In April of 2011 I was elected as 36<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman with 56% of the vote. My campaign was a community movement to bring open and accessible government to our community. The hundreds of friends and volunteers that helped elect me last year have asked me to run for 36<sup>th</sup> Ward Committeeman in the March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012 election. It was with their help that I collected over 1100 verified nomination signatures and with their help I will be elected as Committeeman.**

## **IVI-IPO 2012 WARD COMMITTEEMAN QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 2**

1. Should the present signature requirement for a Committeeman's nominating petition be changed?  
If so, how?

**I do not feel the signature requirement of no less than 5% but no more than 16% (or 50 more than the minimum, whichever is greater) of party primary electors should be changed.**

2. Should there be a law (like that for replacing an alderman, etc.) for replacing a ward or township Committeeman who leaves office during her/his term?

**Since the committeeman is the local representative for the residents of the 36<sup>th</sup> ward I think the current system of having the ward choose their replacement is appropriate.**

3. What are your views on slating, the selection of candidates by the party or party committees prior to a primary or non-partisan elections? If you are opposed to slating, will you participate in slating sessions?  
**The current system of slating based on political cronyism needs to change but I believe supporting the strongest candidate in any election can only be good for our community.**
4. Should the party finance the campaigns of selected candidates in contested primary elections or non-partisan elections (such as aldermanic elections)?  
**As I have said I believe the current system of slating based on political cronyism needs to be changed. However if a candidate is slated they should be included in any communications that are sent out by the party during an election cycle.**
5. Does a committeeman have a responsibility to support the party's candidates after they have been selected in a primary election?  
**As an elected official the Committeeman is accountable to the residents of the ward that they represent. As such the opinion of the residents should weigh heavily in the choice of which candidates to support.**
6. Do you feel it is appropriate for elected officials to hold a party office? Please explain your position.  
**Yes. I was elected to represent the residents of the 36<sup>th</sup> Ward in City Hall. If they feel that I should also represent them as a Democratic Committeeman I would be honored to do so.**
7. Have you or would you send letters to government officials soliciting jobs or promotions for individuals?  
**No. Using public office to influence hiring is a violation of ethics regulations.**
8. Have you formed or would you form a ward-wide organization? Discuss structure, meetings, membership, staff and budget.  
**As Alderman of the 36<sup>th</sup> Ward I have organized several advisory committees that are made up of Ward residents. Additionally I have been recruiting people to act as block captains to keep me informed on the concerns of neighborhoods.**
9. How do you propose to finance your ward operations?  
**Donations from supporters.**
10. What plans do you have to enhance voter registration and voter turn out in your ward?

**I will organize voter registration drives in conjunction with neighborhood groups and civic organizations to increase voter participation in the 36<sup>th</sup> ward. Additionally I will promote voter registration through email and social media to reach as many people as possible.**

11. Does your organization have/or will have members? If so how does one become a member?

**Anyone who is interested in becoming involved in the 36<sup>th</sup> ward is welcome to volunteer.**

12. Should members of a ward organization have a role in determining endorsements?

**As with all decisions in the 36<sup>th</sup> Ward community input will play a big role in endorsements.**

13. Does or will your ward organization communicate openly with residents and activists? Will you have a website to convey current information and volunteer opportunities?

**Yes. As committeeman I will continue to expand my efforts to provide open and accessible government to the 36<sup>th</sup> Ward.**

14. What idea do you have to finding and retaining high quality election judges?

**Serving as an election Judge is a difficult thankless task and I support anyone who volunteers to serve the community on Election Day.**

15. What strategies will you employ to engage the residents in you ward and increase voter participation with emphasis on how you will attract younger voters?

**I believe the key to engage the community is communication. Since being elected last April I have instituted a program of electronic mass communication that did not exist in the 36<sup>th</sup> ward before. I have built an email list of over 2000 residents, created a new 36<sup>th</sup> Ward website, and I have begun communicating using social media tools such as Facebook and everyblock.**

16. What should be done to include voters in the decision making process for replacing candidates on the ballot and filling vacancies of elected officials?

**As committeeman I will continue to expand my efforts to provide open and accessible representation. All decisions regarding candidates endorsed by the 36<sup>th</sup> Ward Independent Democratic Organization will involve a community meeting process to get input from the residents of our community.**

17. Will you follow the Cook County judicial retention “vote Yes” campaign?

**I will support qualified candidates for Judge.**