

IVI-IPO 2012 WARD COMMITTEEMAN QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 1

DATE 1/6/12 WARD: 1st PARTY: Democratic

NAME: Jesse R. Juarez

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CAMPAIGN MANAGER: David J. Avila

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED: 1,500 NUMBER REQUIRED: 1,326

A) Elective or appointive public or party offices previously held including dates. Appointed as 1st Ward Democratic Committeeman

B) Other elective offices for which you have been a candidate. MWRD Commissioner Candidate (previously endorsed by IVI-IPO)

C) What is your primary occupation? Public Affairs Consultant

D) Briefly list your civic activities of the past ten years; Member of IVI-IPO, Member of Erie House, Member of East Village Association, Santa Maria Parishioner

E) What subjects have you studied and what experience have you had which will be most helpful to you in the office you seek? Majored in Political Science at the Northern Illinois University. Was a member of Neighborhood Community Organization with my grandmother, which we canvassed the neighborhood and solicited money for the community group, which dispersed it out the needy. Started volunteer community involvement at Erie House, located in the 1st Ward.

F) What candidates have you supported? Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, City of Chicago Mayor Rham Emmanuel, And Former Alderman Manny Flores. Please be specific in describing your role in each campaign; We, the ward, supported these candidates and I specifically ran Former 1st Ward Alderman Manny Flores' Campaign.

G) Please list all endorsements you have received so far. Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, Governor Pat Quinn, Former 1st Ward Alderman Manny Flores, amongst others.

H) As concisely as possible, please state why you feel you should be endorsed over the other candidate(s). Longtime member of the IVI-IPO Organization, continuing to move Manny Flores' agenda for the 1st Ward, as my passed record indicates I have endorsed candidates that stood for independence and reform. What goals for the office you seek are most important to you personally? To continue on supporting candidates that reflect who the 1st Ward and City of Chicago is.

I) What is your campaign budget? \$65,000 How much have you raised to date? \$10,000, commitment of another \$55,000 to come.

J) How many people are on your campaign staff? 4 How many volunteers are on your list? 51

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? No, it is fair; it is low enough to let people who are passionate about the position run for it.
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? Considering that a committeeman makes a significant decision, maybe once every four years, I don't believe in costing the taxpayers any hardship by having an election midterm. So, no, I don't believe that there should be a law.
3. What are your views on slating, the selection of candidates by the party or party committees prior to primary or non-partisan elections? Slating is part of democracy and has been that way for decades. I believe that the best candidate and most worthy candidate will run on their credentials. If you are opposed to slating, will you participate in slating sessions? N/A
4. Should the party finance the campaigns of selected candidates in contested primary elections or non-partisan elections (such as aldermanic elections)? No
5. Does a committeeman have a responsibility to support the party's candidates after they have been selected in a primary election? No. I believe that the committeeman has the responsibility to represent the district that elected him/her.
6. Do you feel it is appropriate for elected officials to hold a party office? No. Please explain your position. That is why former 1st Ward Alderman Manny Flores did not want to hold both positions. He and I believed that the alderman represents not just Democrats, but Republicans, Independents, and the Green Party. Also, there are many meetings and issues to deal with as a committeeman, which is like another job. I would hope that the alderman puts his constituents first, before grandiosity.

7. Have you or would you send letters to government officials soliciting jobs or promotions for individuals? No
8. Have you formed or would you form a ward-wide organization? Discuss structure, meetings, membership, staff and budget. Yes. I have already; I am the Committeeman of the 1st Ward Democrats.
9. How do you propose to finance your ward operations? I propose to finance my campaign by soliciting friends and family for help.
10. What plans do you have to enhance voter registration and voter turnout in your ward? Since Former Alderman Manny Flores and I have put the organization together, our voter numbers have grown by keeping voters engaged. The 1st Ward has now become the number Latino voter turnout ward in the City of Chicago.
11. Does your organization have/or will have members? The 1st Ward Democrats is a membership organization. We are open to fellow democrats interested in advancing the cause of the 1st Ward. If so how does one become a member? Through the organization president or through the website, membership is free.
12. Should members of a ward organization have a role in determining endorsements? Absolutely, candidates for elected office regularly visit the organization meetings prior to making any endorsements.
13. Does or will your ward organization communicate openly with residents and activists? Yes. Will you have a website to convey current information and volunteer opportunities? We have a website, www.1stwarddems.com and I communicate through social media as well.
14. What idea do you have to finding and retaining high quality election judges? We first look for qualified residents of the ward to become judges and qualified election judges present their history before the organization.
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? Through social media and voter drives, we are able to increase voter participation. We often have voter drives at the local schools for parents and H.S. students.
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? We have an open process now, that when committeemen meet for replacement, I first go to the organization for direction.

17. Question for Incumbent: What have you done to involve more people in the political process? We have regular meetings. The board of directors meet monthly. What further steps will you take? I plan to involve community issues more in regular discussions.
18. Will you follow the Cook County judicial retention “vote Yes” campaign? No
19. **For Republicans:** What actions will you take to make the GOP more competitive in Cook County races?