

IVI-IPO 2007 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE

DATE: January 16, 2007

15th Ward

NAME: Felicia Simmons-Stovall

VOTING ADDRESS: 3514 W. 66th Place

CAMPAIGN ADDRESS: 6250 S. Spaulding

CAMPAIGN PHONE: 773-776-7684

CAMPAIGN WEBSITE: www.stovall2007.com E:MAIL: stovall2007@yahoo.com

CAMPAIGN MANAGER: Sean Robertson

NUMBER OR PETITION SIGNATURES FILED: 2800 NUMBER REQUIRED: 122

Please provide the following background information:

Elective or appointive public and/or party offices previously held including dates: None

Other elective offices for which you have been a candidate: None

Principal business, educational, professional and civic activities of the past 10 years.

Attorney at law

What subjects have you studied and what experience have you had which will be most helpful to you in the office you seek? Business and Law. J.D., DePaul, MBA, DePaul, B.B.A., Iowa State University

Activities for other candidates. Please be specific. None

Please list all endorsements you have received so far. None.

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 have better personal qualifications and experiences which would allow me to be the active alderman our ward needs.

What is your campaign budget? How much have you raised to date? \$75,000, \$25,000

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

PRIORITIES

1. a. What employment, other than alderman, if any, do you plan to hold? I plan to continue practicing law part-time in cases where there is no conflict of interest with my aldermanic duties.
 - b. How will you divide your time between your aldermanic duties and your other occupations? I will be a full-time alderman...
 - c. Please specify the minimum hours per week you will spend performing your aldermanic duties. 50+
2. a. Please describe your service office staffing plan, including the number of full and part-time, how will you pay for them and the number of hours per week that your service office will be open. I will operate a full-time service office in the 15th Ward. It will be funded with the aldermanic budget. The service office staffing plan include a chief of staff with responsibility for the overall direction of the service office and major ward projects along with the alderman, and one of the other two full-time staff members will be primarily responsible as a liaison with the Housing Court and the third staff person will be primarily responsible for Infrastructure concerns, (Streets and Sanitation Dept. the Water Dept., etc.)
 - b. What services need improvement in your ward? Unfortunately, all services need improvement in my ward
3. a. What are your top priorities for the Ward? Unemployment/jobs, housing, education, crime, city services.
4. How will you solicit and follow citizens and communities groups' recommendations on City matters? By reaching out to the citizens and communities groups and having monthly ward meetings.

PLANNING, ZONING AND DEVELOPMENT

5. a. How should business and commercial development be balanced with residential development in the ward? Equal weight should be placed on business and commercial development with residential development in the ward.
 - b. How should downtown development be balanced with community development throughout the city? There should be more emphasis placed on community development at this point in time. The central city is booming at the expense of our neighborhoods.
6. a. In what ways will you assist in the positive development of neighborhood business areas? The Aldermanic service office will provide a resource .
 - b. How will you involve ward residents in planning? Our monthly meeting will provide a forum for resident to become involve in the planning process. All proposals will be presented to the community there.

- c. What is your long-range plan for the development of the ward? The primary emphasis will be placed on improving our housing stock.
7. How do you intend to handle requests for zoning variances in your ward? Each request will be handled on a case by case basis with community input and transparency.
8. a. What steps should be taken to achieve greater accountability and transparency in determining how TIF funds should be spent? We will present future proposals at our monthly meetings.
- b. How will you involve residents in planning and approval of future TIF districts. See 8a.
- c. Do you support terminating a TIF when the objectives of the TIF plan have been accomplished before the 23 year period is over? Yes
- d. Do you support extending the South Loop TIF? Why or why not? No, its purpose has clearly been accomplished.
9. How do you propose to replace property tax revenue for CPS and other taxing bodies that is lost to TIF development? We should change the funding mechanism for school from property taxes to income taxes.
10. a. Did you support or would you have supported the Big Box/ Living Wage Ordinance? Yes
- b. Why or why not? We need a living Wage everywhere.
- c. What changes, if any, would you support if the Ordinance were introduced again? All businesses should be covered.
- d. Would you support any kind of municipal living wage ordinance? Yes

HOUSING

11. Please comment on the housing problems in your ward. The primary problem in my ward is the implementation of HB 4050. It has caused hardships to current homeowners and low-income residents who wish to purchase a home. My ward is primarily single resident houses and among other things, HB 4050 has causes an influx of outside investors who are taking unfair advantage of the situation. Additionally, financing and refinancing have been severely impacted.
12. How will you increase low-income rental housing and home ownership opportunities that would be affordable to those at 15%-30% of AMI (Annual Median Income). Every effort to be made to inform and educate residents about all programs for which they are eligible. The aldermanic office should take a lead in that effort.
13. a. Do you support one-for-one replacement of each unit of demolished subsidized housing, even though Federal law no longer requires it? Yes
- b. What should be done to provide housing for those families displaced from public housing, and not eligible for relocation under the CHA transformation plan? More should be done for those people but we should be careful and understand why they were not allowed back to CHA. Most of those not eligible to reenter CHA have needs requiring careful planning.

c. How should the transformation plan be amended to adequately provide for the needs of low income people with disabilities? More support should be provided for those with disabilities.

d. What should be done to ensure that there is an adequate supply of affordable family-sized units available to families in the Section 8 program? More funds should be made available for single family homes. This is a reason I have trouble supporting HB 4050 which has had an effect of reducing affordability of single family homes in my community when outside investors come in and bid up the prices of what was affordable housing.

e. What should be done to provide affordable housing for low-income individuals and families who are not served by any existing programs? See 13b

14. Do you support halfway houses and shelters for the homeless in your ward? Yes, with careful planning and community input.

15. a. Do you think Chicago's Tenants Right Ordinance is being adequately implemented. No

b. What changes, if any, should be made? More funding should be made available to better education for tenants and provide better enforcement.

16. a. Do you support an inclusionary zoning ordinance which should require developers to set aside 15% of residential new construction or renovation for the creation of affordable housing? Yes

EDUCATION

17. a. How will you work to end overcrowding and improve the quality of public schools and after school recreational activities?

b. How will you work to improve maintenance and rehab of aging schools?
(Answer to a and b) I will work diligently with my schools and community groups to petition the city and the Chicago School Board to improve maintenance and rehab of our aging schools.

18. Do you support a city-wide lottery for enrollment in magnet schools? Yes

19. a. 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. Renaissance 2010 seems to be an unproved and untested attempt at reform. I would like more data and expert opinion before we undertake such a drastic step. All schools should first require that teachers must be state certified within 2-3 years to gain tenure. No one should allowed to teach without certification an endorsement in the subject they teach. The Chicago School Board should be elected in a city-wide election. Finally reconstitution may be necessary but it should not adversely affect the students. They should not have to leave their neighborhood school. Only the administrators and teachers should be replaced.

b. At what level of government should decisions be made regarding allocation of chapter One funds? The amounts to be distributed may be made centrally but each school should have more say in how the funds are spent in an effort to accomplish their mission.

- c. How would you change the selection and approval process for the mayor's appointments to the Board of Education? I support an elected School Board
20. What should the City do to improve the quality of all local schools? See 19a and 21.
21. What are you plans to improve local schools in your ward? Work very closely with the 15th ward's elementary schools principals to institute major improvements in reading in the 1st to 5th grades. I also support efforts to make kindergarten all day, particularly in low income areas of the city.. Also see 19a

ENVIRONMENT

22. As Blue Bag recycling is phased out and replaced with point separation, what steps should be taken to
- ensure participation of small businesses and non-profits in the recycling program?
 - identify adequate markets for recycled materials?
23. What should the City do to encourage and implement alternative forms of energy?

Summary Response 22-23

I believe the city of Chicago needs to come up with a better recycling program. We should establish a team of experts, community groups and interested parties to study ways to provide a better program which will provide better energy alternatives such as solar energy, geothermal energy solutions etc. This will allow us to provide cheaper, cleaner energy and perhaps another way to provide more employment opportunities.

PARKS

24. a. Do you support increased privatization of facilities and services? No
- b. Have the court decrees mandating equal park services in both programs and capital improvements been adequately achieved in your ward? No
- c. How have cuts in the Park District budget affected parks in your ward? The cuts have reduced programs and staff.
25. Do you believe Chicago's park system is adequately funded? No, although our current fiscal constraints prevent us from raising taxes from the local or state sources.
26. Do you support siting the main/opening Olympic venue in Washington Park? The plan seems poorly planned and offered without community input. Perhaps the U. of C. would be a better venue for the mail/opening Olympic venue which could then become a permanent facility similar to the old Stagg Field.

TRANSPORTATION

27. a. What will you do to expand CTA services to more neighborhoods? Transportation especially mass transportation needs to be studied and improved

throughout the entire region. Most cities have a way for cars and trucks to bypass the central city. Perhaps we need to rethink the old Crosstown Expressway which would link the Edens with the Dan Ryan down the railways east of Cicero and connect the railways at 59th and the Dan Ryan. This would allow us to expand routes for cars, trucks to bypass Downtown. Mass transit should be expanded seamlessly to the northwest, and southern suburbs.

b. Is the CTA service sufficient in your ward? No

c. Should the City increase its subsidy to the CTA? Yes

28. In what situations would you support permit parking? Only in situations where a handicapped person needs the parking space. When that need no longer exists, the permit parking would be revoked.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

29. a. Is response time adequate in 911 service? No.

b. Are there inequities in 911 service in your ward? If so, what can be done to redress them? Yes, there are inequities in 911 service in my ward. Often response time is too long. Better performance from the 911 center should be made available for all minority communities throughout the city.

30. a. Do you support community policing? Yes

b. What improvements would you suggest for this program? Community policing is a vital part of crime-prevention. I believe more officers should be out of cars and instead walking or riding bicycles. This allows the community and the officers to get to know the people and more about the community.

31. Should the City 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? Yes

32. Please share your views regarding the functioning of the Office of Professional Standards and whether it should operate more independently of the Police Department. The Office of Professional Standards should be independent of the Police Department.

REVENUE AND BUDGET

33. Do you favor a budget ordinance which would require:

a. public questioning of city department heads concerning their departments/ specific budget requests/ Yes

b. budget copies available to the public 30 days in advance of hearings? Yes

c. Restoring city-wide community group budget hearing several months prior to the publication of the budget as were held under the Washington and Sawyer administrations? Yes

34. a. Do you support casino gambling for Chicago? Maybe a casino at O'Hare airport would be feasible.

b. Would you support a citywide referendum before any gambling is instituted in the City? Yes

35. What level of city support do you favor for the arts and cultural events? I think the City should provide major support to the arts and cultural events.

36. Do you support

a. rescinding the recent Mayoral and Aldermanic salary increases? Yes

b. limiting Mayoral and Aldermanic salary increases to the same percentage as the lowest raise for any class of city employees? Yes

37. Do you support increasing the number of staff positions for aldermanic service offices. Yes

CITY COUNCIL

38. a. What reforms are necessary in the City Council's committee structure? Probably none in the structure. However, the way the committees function should be addressed, particularly Rules.

b. Do you favor keeping the current number of committees? We could probably reduce the number of committees to save money and increase efficiency.

39. a. Do you support a rule requiring the numbering of proposed City ordinances? Yes

b. Do you support a rule requiring all City Council proceedings to be transcribed verbatim and published by the City Clerk? Yes

c. Do you support mandating the Clerk's office to provide copies of pending ordinances to the public upon request? Yes

d. Do you support a rule requiring roll call votes? Yes

CIVIL RIGHTS

40. a. Do you support affirmative action based on race, gender and sexual orientation in establishing criteria for hiring and promoting public employees? I do support some form of affirmative action to ensure public employees reflect the make-up of the community.

b. Do you support affirmative action as a criteria in letting city contracts? Yes

c. Do you support mandating the Clerk's office to provide copies of pending ordinances to the public upon request? Yes

d. Please comment on current women and minority participation in city hiring and contracts. Be sure your comments include firefighters and police officer recruitment and promotion. More women and minorities are needed in all areas of the City government. The current record of the administration is dismal.

41. Do you favor restructuring the wage scale of city employees to institute gender-equal pay for jobs of comparable worth? Yes
42. Do you support requiring all City vendors to provide spousal benefits for same-sex partners of their employees? Yes, for all unmarried couples

ETHICS AND CAMPAIGNING

43. Do you support patronage in hiring and promoting public employees? No
44. Do you support the Accountability in Privatization Ordinance? Yes
45. In what circumstances should the City contract for outside professional services? Please comment on any existing abuses. Only in those rare cases when current municipal staff are unable to accomplish the tasks. The contractor should be temporarily hired. I do not believe in privatizing governmental functions and the outside contractors should be prohibited from making political contributions to anyone in the governmental agency for which they are providing services.
46. Would you support contracting for outside services with companies located outside Chicago? Why or why not? No, same as 45
47. a. Will you employ or have you employed staff in your office who hold other public sector jobs concurrently? No.
- b. 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? Probably not.
48. Will you or have you accepted campaign donations from current or potential suppliers or employees? No
49. Do you support extending all of the provisions of the City Ethics Ordinance to City Council members? Yes
50. Do you support expanding the jurisdiction of the City Inspector General to include City Council Members? Yes
51. Do you support public financing of municipal campaigns? Yes
52. Who are your top 5 contributors and how much has each contributed to your campaign? \$500 each from a family member and 2 friends.
53. Are you supporting any mayoral candidate? No one at this time.