

IVI-IPO 2007 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE

DATE 1-12-07 WARD 43
NAME Vi Daley VOTING _____
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CAMPAIGN MANAGER Thomas C. Bowen
NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED Approx 1200 NUMBER REQUIRED 132

Please provide the following background information:

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

Alderman 43rd Ward. 1999-2007 Chief of Staff Alderman Bernardini 1993-1999

Other elective offices for which you have been a candidate.

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

Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children, Boardmember, St. Vincent DePaul Center, Boardmember, Green City Market, Children's Memorial Hospital Public Policy Committee, Children's Memorial Hospital Community Relations Committee, Dean's Advisory Committee, DePaul University School of Liberal Arts, Lincoln Park Chamber of Commerce, membership in every neighborhood association in ward.

I was instrumental in the Green City Market moving to Lincoln Park, securing funding for the expansion of the St. Vincent dePaul Center and the restoration and Landmarking of the Biograph Theater

What subjects have you studied and what experience have you had which will be most helpful to you in the office you seek?

I look to my 30 years of community involvement and public service to help me decide how to address issues in the 43rd. I served as the president, Lincoln Park Co-op, was a member of the Lincoln School PTA for 6 years, led the Cummings Playground Committee that was responsible for Cummings Playground. I was also the executive director for the Friends of Lincoln Park (now know as the Lincoln Park Conservancy).

Activities for other candidates. Please be specific.

I'm unsure what exactly IVI is looking for in this question. I'll be happy to respond after clarification.

Please list all endorsements you have received so far.

At present, no organizations have issued any endorsements for this campaign. I have the support of the Honorable Dawn Clark Netsch, Rahm Emanuel, John Fritchey, Jesse White, Sarah Feigenholtz and John Cullerton. In previous runs for office I have received the support of the 43rd Ward Democratic Party, National Organization for Women-Chicago Political Action Committee, Citizen Action Chicago, Fraternal Order of Police, IVI-IPO, Chicago Association of Realtors - Political Action Committee, Windy City Times, Chicago Fire Fighters Union and the United Hellenic Voters of America.

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've been in public service in the 43rd Ward for more than 25years. I want to continue serving this community and making it a better place. I feel that I've been able to work together with our businesses and our residents to make the 43rd Ward the best ward in the entire City of Chicago. I'm running for reelection to preserve that special status and to confront the challenges of the future.

My important goals are balanced development to replace Children's memorial, a vibrant business district on Clark Street, continued improvement in our education system and a renewed focus by myself and my city council colleagues on oversight of our government.

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

This is a note from my campaign manager. – Our report is filed with the Illinois Board of Elections as required. That last report showed a cash-on-hand balance of \$99,857.83. I do not feel comfortable or obligated to share internal budgeting strategy with anyone outside of paid employees of this campaign. – Thomas C. Bowen

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

This is also a note from my campaign manager. – Again, our report will be filed detailing all paid employees. Our volunteer support is very strong as Alderman Daley has strong support in this community. – Thomas C. Bowen

PRIORITIES

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

None, I'm a full time, 40-hour+ a week alderman.

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

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

2. a. 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 have an office location in a central portion of the ward, close to public transportation. It is open from 9am-6pm every day of the week and it is staffed by 3 full-time staffers, 3 part-time staffers ,regular internships and several volunteers who spend approximately 10 hours a week helping out. I pay for all staffers out of funds allocated from the city and supplement that with funds from my campaign account.

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

I look to the community for input on determining where services need improvement. As an example, residents asked for an email notification on street cleaning - No Parking times and we were able to offer this service starting this year. I'm always looking to improve traffic congestion, parking and to address animal

control problems that occur with new development. Persistence, patience and working with the Mayor and city government have been the traditional methods I've approached these issues.

3. What are your top priorities for the Ward?

We need to address the development issues affecting the ward and the potential effects they will have. Children's memorial will be an opportunity and a challenge for our community and there will be additional challenges with the departure of Finkl Steel. I want to keep making progress with our schools and preserve the strong community involvement that has supplemented the resources the city provides. And we need to keep property tax rates under control which is why I support the 7% tax cap.

4. How will you solicit and follow citizens' and community groups' recommendations on City matters?

I have always enjoyed a strong relationship with the neighborhood community associations and been very inclusive of the neighborhoods when making decisions. This approach has led to success in making decisions in the ward.

PLANNING, ZONING AND DEVELOPMENT

5. a. How should business and commercial development be balanced with residential development in the ward?

I have always enjoyed a strong relationship with the neighborhood community associations and been very inclusive of the neighborhoods when making decisions. I value their input and direction when making these sorts of decisions. We have set goals of lower density, green space preservation and expansion as well as parking management with new development.

b. How should downtown development be balanced with community development throughout the city?

I believe any answer to this question should consider the wishes of the Aldermen who represent those communities. They tend to have the wishes of the community in mind when making such decisions and I would defer to their judgment as I would expect them to defer to mine when making decision in my community. Overall we must keep businesses and residents moving into Chicago.

6. a. In what ways will you assist in the positive development of neighborhood business areas?

I've found partnerships of businesses already in the area, such as a merchants association, a local Chamber of Commerce or a simple grouping of businesses along a corridor are the best avenues to foster positive development.

b. How will you involve ward residents in planning?

I have been fortunate that our communities are regularly involved in all aspects of planning. The neighborhood associations are one of my many conduits into the community.

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

I believe I have a responsibility to ensure that long range planning reflects the wishes of the residents. I've been very fortunate to have such a good working relationship with the community and I think my job is to help facilitate their vision and to balance their concerns with the rest of the parties who have an interest in this area. I follow a couple general rules in this area. I support green space, lower density and development that reflects the historic character of this neighborhood.

7. How do you intend to handle requests for zoning variances in your ward?

I'd like to refer to my two previous answers and reiterate that community involvement is the guiding light when I make decisions that affect this ward.

8. a. What steps should be taken to achieve greater accountability and transparency in determining how TIF funds should be spent?

b. How will you involve residents in planning and approval of future TIF districts?

c. Do you support terminating a TIF when the objectives of the TIF plan have been accomplished before the 23 year period is over?

d. Do you support extending the South Loop TIF? Why or why not?

I'd like to answer all 3 parts in one statement. We actually do not have any TIF districts in my ward and do not anticipate any entering. TIF districts provide incentives for businesses to move into depressed areas and I am obviously concerned that businesses are given incentives to come into communities that are not my own. However, I am very sympathetic to my colleagues on the City Council who do not have the advantages that I do in the 43rd. We have vibrant businesses, residents who can afford to spend money and more than enough incentives for any type of business in the world to come here. Some of my colleagues do not and I support their desires to bring development and prosperity to their wards.

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

I think incentive based programs like TIF seek to replace revenue with growth. It follows that a depressed area that would not get a new business there in the first place, will now contribute tax revenue, in the form of sales taxes, to the city budget. So, I believe growth will help add revenue to the city budget

10. a. Did you support or would you have supported the Big Box/Living Wage Ordinance?

b. Why or why not?

c. What changes, if any, would you support if the Ordinance were introduced again?

d. Would you support any kind of municipal living wage ordinance?

Again, I'd like to answer this question in one paragraph.

I voted against it both times in the City Council. I agonized about this decision and, in the end, I was not dissuaded of my belief that some areas are in desperate need of such developments and services. If this ordinance would have prevented new jobs from coming to the South and West Sides, then I do not feel it's my prerogative to vote against the interests of people I do not represent. As to the residents of the 43rd, many in the business community make a very persuasive argument when they argue that it is unfair to discriminate against a business simply based on size, a legislative flaw in the ordinance.

I abhor the practices that some of these companies employ to lower their costs; however, I believe the regulations we put in place to address this matter must apply equally to all businesses. The minimum wage increase was a good first step and we have many more to make. We should also concentrate on bringing in good corporate community members and businesses that follow good labor practices and use them as models for the kind of businesses we want in Chicago. And finally, I support increases in the minimum wage for all workers so that everybody benefits from such an increase.

HOUSING

11. Please comment on the housing problems in your ward.

I think housing in the ward is handled in the ward pretty well because the community is involved in the decision making process. Their concerns are implemented before development begins and we've avoided many problems that way.

12. How will you increase low-income rental housing and home ownership opportunities that would be affordable to those at 15%-30% of AMI?

Again, I can't emphasize enough how important it is for community involvement to help determine these questions. Our neighborhood organizations have a vision that includes affordable housing and it has been the case that development is more successful when our community is involved.

13. a. Do you support one-for-one replacement of each unit of demolished subsidized housing, even though Federal law no longer requires it?

I'm wary of requirements that might not meet with community standards. A new development might not be the best opportunity for affordable housing whereas a future development may actually provide more affordable housing.

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?

This is not an issue that residents in the 43rd ward deal with very often. I would support any recommendations and expertise my colleagues from the City Council who deal with such an issue.

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

I think public transportation in this city is working well and the concerns we should focus on immediately is maintenance, sufficient funding of our transportation budget and keeping fares affordable. I've fought the paratransit increase that is hurting seniors and the disabled in my ward.

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?

Again, my ward has very few of these instances and I defer to solutions presented by my colleagues in the city council. They have a better perspective on this issue. I will say that our budget needs to be efficient and keep from wasting taxpayer money so that we have more funding available for 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?

This is an instance where our community comes together and helps developers find the best kind of development for affordable housing. This is a goal of mine as well as my community groups and we work together to find the right developments to accomplish these goals.

14. Do you support halfway houses and shelters for the homeless in your ward?

Yes, we have some and several residents attempted to close them down. I worked with the community to broker a solution and we still have them today.

15. a. Do you think Chicago's Tenants' Rights Ordinance is being adequately implemented?

b. What changes, if any, should be made?

I work closely with my landlords, building managers and the community to make sure all tenant rights are protected.

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

I support the goals of affordable housing. I do not support the ordinance in its current form because developers will pay into a fund and there will be no affordable housing in the ward. I am a firm believer that community goals are supportive of affordable housing and that those goals will be reflected in new development.

EDUCATION

17. a. How will you work to ease 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?

Our community is very supportive of our schools and private funding supplements resources provided by the city. We are extremely fortunate that the public-private partnership model is successful. Other communities need additional support from the city and I support my colleagues endeavors in these matters. I've long been a supporter of increased education funding through a tax swap proposal.

If transportation can be efficiently arranged, then I think it's good for highly qualified students to get a chance to attend

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

If transportation can be efficiently arranged, then I think it's good for highly qualified students to get a chance to attend the best schools. I would also like to focus on children being given a chance to stay close to home and their community so that they can maintain relationships with the classmates after school and through after school programs. I am not in favor of children having to straddle two completely different communities. I don't think that will promote acceptance within the school.

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.

My ward does not have any schools from the Renaissance 2010 program. I support the Mayor's goals and reforms to the education system. I believe he cares very deeply about improving education and is trying to manage the system as best possible. More reforms are necessary, but we are making process in the face of onerous federal unfunded mandates like No Child Left Behind.

NEED HELP ON THE REST

b. At what level of government should decisions be made regarding allocation of Chapter One funds?

I believe all levels of government should be involved in the decision and that the City Council should play the role of representing the wishes of the community.

c. How would you change the selection and approval process for the mayor's appointments to the Board of Education?

I believe the City Council needs to exert more oversight over all levels of government.

20. What should the City do to improve the quality of all local schools?

I cannot stress how important it is to incorporate the community into the schools. A community that values education will have students who value being educated.

21. What are your plans to improve the local schools in your ward?

I want to reiterate that the public-private partnerships we've enjoyed in the 43rd are working well and I want to continue to strengthen this relationship between the schools, the community and businesses.

ENVIRONMENT

22. As Blue Bag recycling is phased out and replaced with point separation, what steps should be taken to

a. ensure participation of small businesses and non-profits in the recycling program?

b. identify adequate markets for recycled materials?

I think as more people know about point separation they will participate. We will notify the community through our neighborhood and business leader, web-site and e-mail newsletters. Identifying markets for materials will be the responsibility of the City and I think the suburbs provide us a ready made model for distribution centers and purchasers. The challenge will be transportation of materials out of the city or whether we need to entice new centers to make their homes in the city.

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

I am a big believer that information and consumer awareness will reduce energy consumption and that we should make that our first focus. I am interested in proposals implemented in Springfield where power companies offered to buy a certain percentage of their electricity from renewable energy such as wind power. I have given away hundreds of energy efficient bulbs to residents in the hopes of encouraging greater use of this simple program.

PARKS

24. a. Do you support increased privatization of facilities and services?

b. Have the court decrees mandating equal park services in both programs and capital improvements been adequately achieved in your ward?

c. How have cuts in the park district budget affected parks in your ward?

I have enjoyed a great working relationship with the park district given the large amount of green space we have in our ward. Where city resources have been lacking, we have turned to our community to improve the parks. This public-private partnership is a model that not only works in development and our schools, but with our green space as well.

25. Do you believe Chicago's park system is adequately funded?

I think the answer to that depends on who you talk to. The 43rd Ward is a destination point for the entire city and were you to ask the people that enjoy the museum, the zoo or the conservatory they would be as diverse in their opinions as any other. I do not want to see any more cuts to the park system.

26. Do you support siting the main/opening Olympic venue in Washington Park?

I do. I support my colleagues on the city council and the opportunities that new development will provide for their communities.

TRANSPORTATION

27. a. What will you do to expand CTA services to more neighborhoods?

b. Is CTA service sufficient in your ward?

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

My main concern with CTA is the completion of the Brown line reconstruction in a timely manner. Service delays are upsetting many residents in my ward and we would like the CTA to focus on that matter first. My other main concern with CTA is that fares stay low and their budget remains secure. The City Council needs to have more hearings and provide more oversight over the entire city's budget.

28. In what situations would you support permit parking?

I look to community input to help guide any zoning, development and parking decisions that I make. I am mindful of traffic, business and community needs when addressing parking.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

29. a. Is response time adequate in 911 service?

b. Are there inequities in 911 service in your ward? If so, what can be done to redress them?

We do not have many problems with 911 in our ward.

30. a. Do you support community policing?

b. What improvements would you suggest for this program?

We have a very strong relationship with our CAPS officers and the community is very good about communicating their concerns to these officers. I or a member of my staff attend every CAPS meeting that represents an area of this ward.

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?

I support efforts to revoke the pension of Mr. Burge. The City should do what it can to enforce the law first and then make financial decisions after those issues are addressed first.

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.

There is a balance between independence and the proximity needed to ensure OPS is doing its job. I believe the leadership of the CPD and OPS is sound and that they are maintaining the proper relationship.

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?

I believe that is the responsibility of the alderman who is charged with representing the people.

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

I support more public access to all areas of government.

c. 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?

There are many communities with many different agendas in this city. The budget is presented at several public hearings (2 in the community and 1 at City Hall). If these prove to be insufficient I would encourage additional hearings. At this time, I believe that everyone who attends is heard from and that additional hearings are not necessary.

34. a. Do you support casino gambling for Chicago?

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

I would need to see a concrete proposal before I commit. I would be supportive of a citywide referendum.

35. What level of city support do you favor for the arts and cultural events?

I am a big supporter of the arts and cultural events. For 5 straight years I've sponsored a temporary sculpture show in Lincoln Park. Private citizens and businesses have been very supportive of this program and I believe this is another opportunity for a public-private partnership to continue providing a benefit to the residents.

36. Do you support

a. rescinding the recent Mayoral and Aldermanic salary increases?

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

I have voted against aldermanic pay raises both times they came before the council. I'll be more interested in assigning a structure for pay increases after we reform our budget systems.

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

Each ward office is given the same budget regardless of where they provide services in the city. I think that system is inequitable and needs to be revisited.

CITY COUNCIL

38. a. What reforms are necessary in the City Council's committee structure?

b. Do you favor keeping the current number of committees?

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

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

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

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

I want to address both questions in one paragraph. The City Council needs to provide 3 things to the citizenry: more oversight, more openness and more efficiency. That involves our own proceedings as well as the proceedings of the administration. This will help promote a better working relationship with our communities and will provide us with new ideas on how to best run government. I often times find some of the best ideas come from my constituents and their involvement helps me do my job better.

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 support equal rights for everyone regardless of race, color, creed or sexual orientation.

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

I support equal opportunity for all contracting and leveling the playing field for all applicants. Too often minority and women owned businesses are not aware of the opportunities, rules and regulations that prevent them from getting contracts. We need to open up the process and make information readily available so that they can participate in the process.

c. 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.

I'll refer to my previous answer.

41. Do you favor restructuring the wage scale of city employees to institute gender-equal pay for jobs of comparable worth?

I support equal pay for everyone.

42. Do you support requiring all City vendors to provide spousal benefits for same-sex partners of their employees?

I support equal benefits for everyone.

ETHICS & CAMPAIGNING

43. Do you support patronage in hiring and promoting public employees?

Nobody should be required as a condition of their employment to participate in the political campaigns of their employer. Everyone should be allowed to express their own beliefs and advocate on behalf of them in their own time.

44. Do you support the Accountability in Privatization Ordinance?

I support accountability in all functions of government.

45. In what circumstances should the City contract for outside professional services? Please comment on any existing abuses.

I think the main focus here should be efficiency and cost savings. Has the private sector already found the most efficient way to serve the taxpayer and is this service consistent with the goals and ideals of this government? If those answers are yes, then we should consider that private vendor.

46. Would you support contracting for outside services with companies located outside Chicago? Why or why not?

I cannot see too many instances where this would occur. The service provider would have to provide something pretty much unattainable anywhere else.

47. a. Will you employ or have you employed staff in your office who hold other public sector jobs concurrently?

I will not employ on a full time basis anyone who still would hold a public sector job. I am open to hiring anyone in my office who already has experience working with they city.

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?

Again, anyone who works in my office full time will only work for my office. An applicant's experience, if beneficial to serving this ward, will be considered based that as well as many other factors.

48. Will you or have you accepted campaign donations from current or potential suppliers or employees?

I do not accept contributions from employees and I am unsure as to IVT's meaning of the word "suppliers" in this question. I'd be happy to respond after clarification.

49. Do you support extending all of the provisions of the City Ethics Ordinance to City Council members?

I voluntary comply with that ordinance and do not accept contributions in excess of \$1,500 dollars per year from any person or company.

50. Do you support expanding the jurisdiction of the City Inspector General to include City Council members?
I believe that is a good idea that needs to be considered. If not an inspector general, some sort of independent body or committee consistent with the separated branch of government philosophy we currently operate under.

51. Do you support public financing of municipal campaigns? Please explain your position.
I would like to see what costs would be imposed on taxpayers, what methods of communication are available and what rules and requirements candidates would be subject to under such a proposal. No candidate enjoys raising money for campaigns and no person should be denied to the right to publicize their views and support of one candidate versus another. There are 1st amendment considerations I would need to study more before I agreed to a system. I do support the goals of public financing, preventing corruption and abuse by public officials. I wonder if stringent, full-disclosure requirements can't accomplish the same goals.

52. Who are your top 5 contributors and how much has each contributed to your campaign?
I have limited all donations to \$1,500 from any individual or company. Therefore my top campaign donors are numerous – but none exceed the \$1,500 limit in any year.

53. Are you supporting any mayoral candidate?
I support the reelection of Mayor Daley. He has done a good job as Mayor and is continuing to move Chicago forward.

Signature 

Date: 1-12-07