



2019 Candidate Questionnaire—Chicago Municipal Election

The Chicago Federation of Labor represents approximately 300 local labor unions and organizations who in turn represent more than 500,000 working men and women in Chicago and Cook County. This election cycle, the CFL will determine who best supports working families' issues and merits Labor's endorsement.

You may type your answers onto this questionnaire and use additional paper, if necessary, to fully respond to each question. Answers **must** be limited to one page. Your responses to these questions will help us make endorsement decisions and may be used to communicate the difference between candidates to union members. Please be candid, complete, and forthright in your responses.

Questionnaires should be e-mailed to elections@chicagolabor.org and must be received by 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 5, 2018.

The endorsement procedure is a two-step process. Once a questionnaire is submitted, candidates must interview with the CFL screening committee according to the schedule below. Please make sure you are available on your screening day. You will be contacted with your exact screening time a few days prior.

CFL Screening Days

Monday, Dec. 10 – Wards 1-14

Tuesday, Dec. 11 – Wards 15-28

Wednesday, Dec. 12 – Wards 29-43

Thursday, Dec. 13 – Wards 44-50,
City Clerk, City Treasurer & Mayor

Campaign Information

Candidate Name: Jacob Ringer

Campaign Office Address: 2120 North Halsted Street

Website: www.Ringer4Results.com

E-mail: Jacob@ringer4results.com

Cell: [REDACTED] Phone: 312-544-9510

Campaign Manager: [REDACTED] Phone: [REDACTED]

Campaign Treasurer: David May Phone:

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Campaign Committee Name: Ringer For Results

Office Seeking/Ward: 43rd Ward Alderman

Personal and Professional Information

1. Briefly describe your background, including personal, educational and professional information. If you currently or previously have been elected to office, please list what office, when, and whether you received an endorsement from a labor organization.

A: As a longtime Chicago resident with deep roots in the Lincoln Park neighborhood. From the time I was old enough to walk, I understood that serving this community would be my life's work. As a kid, I went community meetings with my parents. As a teen, I volunteered for area programs that helped my severely disabled sister. Now as an adult, I seek to represent the people of this area in City Council.

I graduated as valedictorian of a private high school that helped me navigate my own learning differences. I received my undergraduate degree in finance from Tulane University. While there, I saw tragedy strike first-hand as Hurricane Katrina literally uprooted my school community. It was an education that accelerated my interest in serving others. I later completed my Masters degree from Tulane. As part of my commitment to serving others, I spent close to a year in Ghana, Myanmar and Indonesia working in schools and on community projects.

When I returned to Chicago after grad school, I knew my professional life must be rooted in helping make Chicago and our neighborhoods stronger. In 2011, I became the first chief of staff for the Chief Financial Officer of Chicago. Clearly, city finances are one of the most pressing problems we face and I immersed myself in understanding the challenges and opportunities we face. I smiled with pride when I heard Mayor Emanuel say that his greatest accomplishment in 8 years as Mayor was in strengthening our city finances.

Among the projects I worked on with the City's Finance team was municipal marketing. With innovative ideas, we helped deliver \$25 million of new revenues without raising taxes or cutting services and is on track to deliver more than \$200 million over 20 years. I also helped create the first Chicago Investors Conference, opening the City's books to the people that buy City bonds and providing transparency to our citizens. That idea has now become a market best practice, copied by cities around the nation. I participated in reworking the highly-disparaged parking meters contract, eliminating paid parking in our neighborhoods on Sundays and launching pay-by-cell. I helped shine a spotlight on the unacceptable funding levels of our 4 pension funds.

After my time at the City, I went to work for a law firm, where I focused on consulting and strategy for companies ranging from start-ups and non-profits to Fortune 500 sized companies. I used my expertise to help clients with Chicago-based projects work with current Alderman and other stakeholders to guide them to make decisions more quickly and strategically. I then joined mHUB, Chicago's non-profit manufacturing incubator focused on creating jobs for Chicagoans and providing the conditions for physical product innovation to thrive. At this incubator, I was responsible for maintaining and recruiting a diverse membership and helping start-ups and others in the industry look at old problems in new ways.

I left that position to focus full-time on the 43rd ward.

From 2016 to 2018, I served as President of the Lincoln Park Zoo Auxiliary Board, made up of 85 young professionals. I served on the Executive Committee of the Center for Economic Progress from 2014 to 2018 helping 10,000's of low-income clients get free assistance with income taxes and take advantage of the Earned Income Tax Credit.

I am married to Dana Sodikoff Ringer, an entrepreneur that has worked to help reduce the burden of student loan debt, provide quality health care for low income residents and provide specialty transportation services for those needing health care.

We have 2 sons, Leo (age 3) and Henry (age 1). Leo attends Chalkboard Pre-School, an organization that threatened to close after 40 years in the Lincoln Park neighborhood. I'm proud to have organizing the Chalkboard parents to keep this valuable resource open for generations to come.

2. Have you ever been convicted of a crime in a court of law? If so, please explain.

A: No, I have not.

3. Is there any additional information, that we should be aware of, that may impact your campaign?

A: My family has owned property in Lincoln park and Old Town for 50+ years and I have knocked 5000+ doors personally.

Labor Information and Positions

4. Briefly state why you are seeking the Chicago Federation of Labor's endorsement.

A: I support workers' right to organize for better working conditions. I believe that, as alderman, I and the rest of the city council will need the CFL and the voice of Labor as a partner in creating a plan and a path for addressing the city's financial woes.

5. What is your connection to the labor movement?

A: In the course of my work for the CFO of Chicago, I had the opportunity to meet hundreds of labor leaders. I was always impressed by the resolve, pragmatism and wisdom of our community's labor leaders. In particular, I was deeply moved to see Jorge Ramirez's work on behalf of this community for the Chicago Infrastructure Trust and the many labor leaders that worked side-by-side with the Mayor's office on financial issues.

6. What have you done to help improve the lives of working men and women in Chicago?

A: I have spent my career focused on doing right by the working men and women of Chicago. Transparency in City finances, innovative ways to create revenues without hitting the taxpayer, improving irritants like the parking meter contract, keeping neighborhood institutions alive, fighting to protect existing jobs and create new jobs in manufacturing in a rapidly changing world. These are all part of my history – and my future. My work with the Center for Economic Progress also stands out, as it returned millions of dollars every year through our efforts to assure that working people got the tax benefits they were owed.

7. Have you ever worked with a labor organization to achieve/accomplish any of its goals? If so, please explain.

A: Not directly. My work as Chief of Staff for the CFO included preparation for Police Annuity and Benefit Fund and Laborers Annuity and Benefit Fund. I was privileged to meet many outstanding elected pension fund representatives as part of that process. Our work to provide complete transparency on abysmal pension funding moved toward fair and adequate pension funding for all 4 City pension funds.

8. Please tell us how you celebrate Labor Day.

A: I spent the holiday knocking on 100's of doors and asking people about their concerns for our neighborhood. I brought my family with me, to serve as a living example of how to listen and serve my fellow citizens.

9. Do you support the right of workers to organize unions – entirely independent of the employer and free from management interference?

A: Without hesitation.

10. Do you support the right of workers to bargain collectively for wages, benefits, and working conditions?

A: Without hesitation.

11. Would you be willing to intervene in a labor dispute that did not involve the city as an employer?
Are there any instances in which you would not?

A: If labor disputes had an impact on the citizens of the 43rd ward or adjacent areas, I would be anxious to lend an ear and a hand to best protect the interest of our community.

12. UAW members assemble an impressive array of vehicles that are second to none in quality, styling and value. What model car do you currently own and would you consider buying a UAW vehicle as your next purchase? Please explain your answer.

A: My family's only car is a Ford Edge. Yes.

13. Have you heard of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC)? If so, would you support any of their legislative initiatives at any level of Government – City, State, or Federal?

A: Yes, I've heard of them and I would not support any of their initiatives.

14. The Chicago Police Department no longer has a full-time Labor Detail, a group of officers who, among other things, understand the rights of union members to publicly demonstrate. If elected, will you commit to reinstating a full-time Labor Detail staff to the CPD?

A: Restoring community-police relations is essential for the long-term health of our City. That should be the #1 focus of our work with the Police Department. To the extent that there are sufficient resources to accomplish that, I would be open to considering how a full-time Labor Detail could be restored.

15. Would you be willing to provide public support for an organizing campaign and other relevant issues important to working men and women by: (check all that apply)

Speaking at a rally?

Asking an employer to remain neutral in an organizing campaign?

- A: Yes
- Holding a hearing to draw attention to employer abuses of workers' rights?
- A: Yes
- Sending a letter to employees in support of organizing a union?
- A: Yes
- Urging an employer to re-hire worker because he/she supported the union during an organizing drive?
- A: Yes
- X Urging the public and public bodies to utilize domestic, union produced products?
- A: Yes
- Walking a picket line?
- Requiring developers to use Union contractors in your ward?

State of Current Campaign

16. What is your campaign budget and how much have you raised to date?

A: We anticipate spending \$200,000, we have approximately \$115,000 in receipts

17. Does your campaign have restrictions on PAC contributions?

A: That's something we're considering

18. What are the main policy priorities of your campaign?

A: Crime is one of the top issues, if not the number one, that I hear about in every part of this ward. I think we need to rethink crime prevention in Chicago and have more police walking a beat so that they are part of our communities and able to proactively address crime while it's happening or even prevent it from happening in the first place.

As a full-time alderman, I will be active and engaged in this and other community issues, especially around, attracting local business and filling vacant storefronts. I will be transparent and responsive, bringing back weekly ward night and open office hours and proactively communicating with ward residents when there are interruptions or modifications to city services.

I will be a unifying voice in City Council, working with both new and current aldermen to explore new sources of revenue and creative solutions for more efficient government. My understanding of city finances and the challenges ahead will be invaluable to appropriately evaluate financial proposals. I have personally worked with many of the aldermen and government officials on legislation both in and around government.

19. Have you received endorsements from other groups? If so, which ones?

A: We are currently seeking endorsements

Policy Positions for the City of Chicago

20. The City of Chicago's budget is extensive – affecting the lives of millions of working men and women. How would you ensure that the budget process is fair to these working families?

A: In 2011, I was part of the Finance team that launched the Annual Financial Analysis, a 3-year projection of City finances. That was an important step forward, providing transparency to taxpayers about what things would look like without City action. I would fight to expand that to 5-year forecasts and include a new section outlining the impact of the top 25 budget drivers. I would seek public hearings on tax increases with detailed reporting about the impact of revenue proposals. In particular, I would demand disclosure of the impact on working families of regressive taxes, fees and penalties.

21. Would you seek input from organized labor when making budgetary decisions about staffing levels and efficiencies?

A: Labor must have a place at the table in charting the City's future.

22. It is widely recognized that the City of Chicago's current revenue streams are not sufficient to fund services that are vital to City residents and to fulfill the City's obligations to employee pension funds. What new measures would you support to raise additional revenue to ensure that the City of Chicago is meeting its pension obligations and the needs of its citizens?

A: I strongly believe that the State – which passes pension laws that Chicago taxpayers must fund – should be part of the solution. Taxing retirement income is one area that could be considered, with the pensions funds a recipient of that new revenue stream.

I would also expand efforts to find entirely new revenue streams including municipal marketing.

To the extent that commuters depend upon the services of our City, I would seek out ways to ask them to contribute to the costs we incur on their behalf.

23. Negotiations for collective bargaining agreements often extend years past the expiration date of the prior agreement. Would you work with the Administration and Labor Unions representing those workers toward an agreement in an acceptable timeframe?

A: It is bad budget practice to bargain for years after expiration of labor contracts. We would push the Administration and Labor unions to work on an acceptable timeframe, with periodic reports to Council. As aldermen tasked with approving a budget, we simply must know what our costs are and assure that there are sufficient revenues to pay those costs.

24. How long should it take to fill City of Chicago job openings? Would you work with Human Resources (or the appropriate agency/personnel) to fill job openings in a timely manner?

A: Chicago hiring is often a burdensome process for some very good historical reasons. I do believe that city jobs should be filled in a reasonable time frame and I do believe in honest budgeting. City budget staff should not use unfilled positions for annual budget balancing. If these positions are actually going to be filled, then it should be done in a timely manner.

25. Would you resist any attempt by the City of Chicago to enact a policy that would violate an existing collective bargaining agreement for city employees?

A: It's hard to know what financial realities will require in the future but generally I am opposed to violating an existing agreement.

26. What is your plan to sustain and create jobs in Chicago? What are some ways that you would support Labor's efforts to expand and create jobs, training and education initiatives for young and displaced workers?

A: I am a strong believer in the importance of a robust community college system that partners with employers and labor to create the workforce we need for the community we hope to build. The City Colleges of Chicago have done a nice job of reinventing themselves around specific industries and specialized training. Those efforts must be constantly maintained and refreshed to keep current with the rapidly changing economy. I think efforts like mHUB and 1871 are essential to providing our current generations with new skills rather than wait for the next generation.

I would encourage the Council to create an Economic Development Committee tasked with identifying economic opportunities and job development initiatives throughout our neighborhoods.

27. Chicago's unions have embraced the green economy by committing resources toward emerging industries such as renewable energy and energy efficiencies. What is your plan to make Chicago a key player in this new economy, and how would you work with organized labor in doing so?

A: Like our labor partners, I am committed to making a better, smarter, healthier planet and economy in Chicago. Nothing could be more terrifying to a parent of young children than reading the November 2018 report of the EPA on our environment. I would encourage the City to evaluate PACE bonds to fund solar projects for commercial buildings and residences. And since all efforts start at the home, I am already working to retrofit my house with solar panels.

28. Responsible bidding is the idea that public construction projects (such as schools, libraries, water treatment plants, tax increment financing, mixed income developments, low income housing, and Empowerment Zones) or city procurements paid for by taxpayer money should not automatically be awarded to the lowest responsive bidder, but rather to the lowest "responsible bidder." In many local units of government with no responsible bidder provisions, there are no front-end criteria applied to contractors bidding public works construction projects and procurement officials lack knowledge of employee trade classifications sufficient to detect erroneous bids. Responsible bidder laws typically require a contractor wishing to bid on public works to comply: with all applicable laws concerning their entitlement to conduct business in Illinois; with prevailing wage laws; and with federal civil rights laws and executive orders. These laws also typically require contractors to have: a valid Federal Employer ID number or social security number; valid insurance; and a federally approved and currently active apprenticeship training program registered with the US DOL Office of Apprenticeship. They must also maintain an Illinois office as the primary place of employment; Would you support responsible bidder language being included into local contracts?

A: Responsible bidding is all about aligning the City's interests with contractors. Being able to fully evaluate the qualifications of a bid helps both the bidder and decision makers in making procurement decisions. However, we must make certain that any such provisions are carefully documented and fully transparent to assure the public that the basis for each procurement decision is in the best interest of our taxpayers.

29. A Project Labor Agreement (PLA) is a form of pre-hire collective bargaining that covers all terms and conditions of employment on a specific construction project. PLAs can ensure the highest standards of quality and efficiency at the lowest responsible cost on appropriate public works projects; they also contain no-strike or lockout provisions. PLAs have been successfully utilized on public and private projects such as Rush University Medical Center, the O'Hare Modernization Program,

McCormick Place expansion, and the redevelopment of Soldier Field. Would you support PLAs for public works projects in the city?

A: This is something I believe I can support but I'd have to see the language.

30. The city of Chicago invests in projects such as airports, sports stadiums, convention centers and hotels using a variety of economic incentives. Are you in favor of requiring developers and operators of such establishments to obtain labor peace agreements to protect the City's proprietary interests in these cases? Would you support an ordinance to this effect?

A: I support workers' right to organize.

31. In 2013 the city of Chicago began an effort to eliminate health care coverage to City retirees. As a result, the city has eliminated subsidies to almost all the retirees for such coverage, causing considerable hardship for many retirees who have only modest pensions and do not receive Social Security or, in some cases, Medicare. Will you support efforts to establish a retiree health insurance program to ensure that affordable health care is available to City retirees for whom the City's elimination of subsidies has created a financial hardship?

A: I believe that healthcare is a human right and that protecting and expanding coverage under the ACA is the appropriate solution to realizing the goal of quality healthcare for all Americans.

32. Chicago has a history of unsuccessful privatization deals that have increased costs to City residents and resulted in layoffs of City employees. Would you support efforts to establish stronger oversight of city contracts to ensure that cost savings claimed by privatization are real and do not cause lower quality of services for City residents, cuts in employee wages, or elimination of family supporting jobs? Would you support efforts that ensure any further asset privatization be based on demonstrable savings over the long-term, not just short-term gain?

A: The City has and will continue to have a broad range of contracts with vendors that could be called "privatization." For example, parking at the airports is managed by private parties. What has created the most egregious problems are when the rights to provide City services is literally sold to a private vendor and cash is used to offset budget crises. I believe my voice would help other aldermen evaluate these projects. As Chief of Staff to the CFO, I was deeply immersed in helping evaluate the privatization agreements for the parking meters, underground parking garages, digital network, and other contracts. We immediately posted activity reports and worked to help the public understand those contracts. Transparency is a strong disinfectant. I also help review the privatization of Midway Airport, which was considered in great detail and rejected. As part of that process, an oversight board including labor, City Council and independent community voices was tasked with reviewing every step of the process. That outside review board was also provided with its own, separate financial advisors and outside counsel. Every document was posted online for public consideration. Importantly, Chicagoans knew that the opportunity had been thoughtfully analyzed by City officials and reviewed by outside, independent experts. It represents a model for how all future contracts should be considered. I believe my experience will be of significant help to the Council. Additional regulation is no replacement for transparency, judgment and proper analysis.

33. The Chicago Department of Public Health has closed several City mental health clinics despite a widely-documented crisis in the availability of mental health services, especially for low-income individuals. In addition, CDPH has pursued a strategy of privatizing critical public health services,

such as mental health and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases. Would you support strengthening the City's network of CDPH community mental health centers to ensure access for those in need?

A: Both my wife and I have a long commitment to the Night Ministry and other organizations that serve at risk communities. My mother was an art therapist for people with mental and physical disabilities in the UIC system for many years. This is an issue that hits close to home with me and I support the best services possible for that community, given our current fiscal reality.

34. An Office of the Inspector General report found that the Chicago Police Department often assigns full-duty sworn officers to jobs that do not need to be performed by sworn personnel. This practice results in higher costs and fewer officers on the streets. Would you support policies to ensure that sworn officers are dedicated to the vital community safety roles they have been trained to carry out, and administrative functions are assigned to appropriate civilian staff?

A: Yes, crime and financial responsibility are two of my top priorities. It is time to rethink how we do crime prevention in Chicago. We need more cops walking a beat so that they are part of our communities. Residents need to know and trust those police. When cops and communities connect, they know when something is out of place and they are in a position to respond to crimes while they are happening. That connection is the best way to prevent crime from happening in the first place. This is a financially responsible solution to community policing.

35. The Tax Increment Financing (TIF) program has been an active yet controversial portion of the city budget. How would you manage or reform this program?

A: Each TIF needs to be individually and continually evaluated. We have a TIF in this ward being used in a way that they were designed for and I support that TIF. I am an advocate for infrastructure and I believe that some financing structures could make sense to fund public infrastructure. I think TIF as a tool justifiably so has issues but under certain circumstances, it could be a viable funding mechanism.

36. Would you oppose any further attempts to cut to pension benefits for current or future City employees and retirees?

A: The Supreme Court has been clear and unequivocal in the right of City pensioners to receive their benefits. I believe pensions are a clear fiscal debt of the City of Chicago that must be paid for. I believe it is time to have a true and honest conversation with the public about how many decades it will take to pay those obligations.

37. The Illinois General Assembly has previously passed legislation that drastically reduced pension benefits for all employees hired after 2010. These steep reductions, while constitutionally permissible, do not provide adequate retirement security for City employees who do not receive Social Security. Would you support improving the retirement security of City employees impacted by these changes?

A: Yes I support it. Hard working people deserve access to adequate retirement security with due consideration to the City's financial situation.

38. Do you believe the City of Chicago should ask employees represented by unions for concessions when the city has private contractors with sub-standard wages performing the same duties as those same employees?

A: I believe that Chicagoans deserve the best service possible. Ultimately, I believe that can be provided through an aldermanic-led budget process. The City of Chicago is the city that works and I think the city can be as good as or better than private contractors for city services. It's hard to know what financial realities will require in the future, but I believe that ultimately the job of annual budgeting should be in the hands of the aldermen.

39. Would you support legislation prohibiting companies that willfully violate labor laws (including the Minimum Wage and Overtime, Prevailing Wage, and National Labor Relations Acts) from receiving city contracts or grants permanently or for a defined period of time?

A: Yes, private contractors should be evaluated to determine that the people of the City are getting the best value for our dollars in the form of responsible partners and the highest quality services.

40. Would you support an ordinance that required a prevailing wage be paid for all contracted employees with the city? Should private developers (or entities hired by developers), companies or other organizations who seek financial considerations or support from the city (i.e. Tax Increment Financing, Mixed Income Developments, Low Income Housing, Empowerment Zones, Special Service Areas) be required to pay locally negotiated area wage and fringe benefit standards and/or the prevailing wage and fringe benefit rates as determined by the Illinois Department of Labor? Would you support a City Ordinance requiring them to do so?

A: Yes, prevailing wage ensures that workers earn a fair wage for their labor.

41. The tourism and hospitality industry is a vital part of the city and regional economy. Union members—from the members of the trades who set up and dismantle shows at McCormick Place to hotel doormen—play a key role in making Chicago a world-class destination for business and vacation travel. Would you participate in and support efforts by the MPEA and Choose Chicago to attract business and visitors?

A: Tourism has grown dramatically and now tops 55 million visitors/year. That stream of tourists provides an important economic engine for our City. Each tourist means money in taxis, restaurants, hotels and shops. I would welcome the opportunity to participate in efforts to attract more businesses and visitors. I would particularly encourage international tourism because international visitors spend longer in our city than domestic tourists. We could capitalize on the growing middle class throughout the world, driven by our extraordinary physical and cultural assets. For example, China imposes a 1-week vacation period for its entire 3 billion people every October. Creating events to attract Chinese tourists – like table top tennis championships – could strengthen our tourism revenues.

42. O'Hare and Midway airports are economic engines for the entire region, and the City of Chicago depends on revenue from airport concessions. Will you support living wage, labor peace and job stability policies at Chicago's airports to protect the City's interests?

A: The City has recently passed strong measures to protect labor interests at the airports. We need to evaluate how these provisions affect the City and make modifications based on our experience.

43. What is your position on the O'Hare Modernization Program?

A: O'Hare is an enormous economic asset for Chicago. But we cannot rest on our laurels. We must constantly modernize O'Hare and our City to remain economically vibrant and competitive.

44. Please describe your ideas for revenue to fully fund and provide equity within Chicago Public Schools.

A: The State's track record of funding schools is a disgrace. We are among the lowest states in the nation for State funding of schools. While tremendous, difficult progress in this regard was made in Springfield in 2018, we must continue the fight for fair funding for CPS students. That begins with data and an assessment of our service levels. It is of concern that we have opened approximately 130 new charter schools while closing over 50 public schools. That means an incremental 80 schools are being funded while our school population has declined. We need to fight for the services the CPS students need and recognize the significant portion of our students that would be considered "at risk."

45. Do you believe there should be an elected representative School Board and why? Under the current system, what would be your criteria for selecting the Chief Executive Officer of CPS?

A: I am not in favor of politicizing CPS more than it already is. Managing the schools is an essential responsibility of the Mayor and City Council must hold the Mayor accountable for its results. Every school board member should be publicly vetted to assure there are no conflicts of interest and that the proper skill set is found in that board room and they should be accountable to review by the City Council. The skills of the CEO should include fiscal responsibility, communications and educational leadership, not politics.

46. Describe your position on Charter schools. Does the Chicago Public Schools need to continue expanding charter schools?

A: I favor a moratorium on new charter schools until there is a complete and detailed assessment of our current school system. The public deserves to know the population of our schools, the condition of our building facilities, the capacity of the system, the number of seats in charters and the educational outcomes school-by-school.

47. Wal-Mart made \$466.1 billion in fiscal year 2013, yet taxpayers covered \$6.2 billion in public aid expenses for Wal-Mart employees. How would you address future proposals to build additional Wal-Mart stores in Chicago?

A: Wal-Mart is a two-edged sword. While it has not done enough for its own workers, they have provided a lot of jobs in our neighborhoods – jobs that our citizens are proud of and don't want to lose. I would encourage Wal-Mart to continue investing in our neighborhoods while pressing for more responsible corporate practices nationwide.

48. Would you have an open-door policy and be willing to work with Labor to find reasonable solutions to issues affecting the hard-working women and men in the City of Chicago?

A: Absolutely. I see my job as alderman as being open to all the voices of our community.

49. Taxi cabs are a vital part of the city's transportation system. But recent city policy changes have had a major impact on drivers' abilities to stay afloat financially. Drivers today face increased competition from under-regulated "rideshare" competitors. Would you support drivers' union organizing efforts to have a voice in city policies that govern their working conditions, profession and income? Would you support an ordinance that would reform the skewed rules and processes that can leave taxi drivers making less than minimum wage?

A: I previously have supported the ITTA and legislative attempts to regulate rideshare in the City of Chicago and will continue to do so. I believe we need to find a level playing field that also protects our residents.

50. New York City recently enacted legislation aimed at establishing minimum earnings standard for "rideshare" drivers and a cap on the number of licenses to keep supply in line with demand. Would you support similar legislation in Chicago to help raise standards for the 60,000 rideshare drivers in Chicago, address traffic congestion and help level the playing field for licensed taxi drivers.

A: I previously have supported the ITTA and legislative attempts to regulate rideshare in the City of Chicago and will continue to do so.

51. Research has found that increasing Chicago's minimum wage would not only help many low wage workers but would also help the city's economy. Would you support a significant increase in the minimum wage to bring more money into the working-class economy and grow the tax base?

A: I support a statewide solution. Our governor-elect has stated that he will act on this in his first six months and I hope that he is successful. As alderman, I will seek a balanced approach to wage growth to assure we remain competitive with our neighboring communities and national competitors. The best plan for the working men and women of our City is creating, protecting and preserving a healthy, growing economy.

52. Chicago's economy is fueled by growth in retail, food service, hospitality and healthcare. But too many people working in these hourly service jobs can't keep up with unpredictable, last-minute fluctuating workweeks over which they have little to no control. The City Council is considering the Fair Workweek ordinance which would, among other things, require a two-week advance notice of scheduling, provide an extra hour of pay for someone called into work who was not previously scheduled, and allow a minimum 11-hour rest period between shifts. This ordinance will affect companies with more than 50 employees nationwide and workers who make less than \$50,000 a year. Exempt industries include construction, railway, City of Chicago sister agencies, and those under a collective bargaining agreement (exemption only for the life of current contract). By our best projection, this ordinance will affect around 250,000 workers in the City of Chicago. Would you support this ordinance?

A: I would like to be better informed on this subject and review data about its potential impact. I remain open to consideration and input.

53. Illinois' medical cannabis program may expand to recreational use in the coming years. Would you support zoning changes to allow for a dispensary/cultivation center in your community/Ward and would you demand that such companies have a labor neutrality clause in their contracts that protects workers and allows them to organize free from management opposition?

A: I support medical marijuana and recreational marijuana for those over 21. I would not oppose facilities in the 43rd ward, particularly knowing how such products have helped so many people. I would expect any such companies to treat labor with the same respect it deserves with all other companies licensed to do business in Chicago. I continue to monitor the federal banking regulations around this issue.

SIGNATURE

I attest that these answers represent my actions and beliefs, are now part of my public record, and may be used by Chicago Federation of Labor unions to keep union members informed about important issues.



Signature

12/5/18

Date