



The Nurses' Union

Illinois Nurses Association Political Action Committee 2019

Election Candidate Questionnaire

Dear Candidate:

Our member nurses and their families are interested in the views of candidates who hope to make the important decisions that will shape our future health care system.

This questionnaire is designed to address key questions regarding issues important to Illinois nurses. Our positions and actions on legislative initiatives are designed to improve the delivery of health care, enhance patient safety and provide nurses a voice in the workplace.

Please return this questionnaire by December 27, 2018 to INA/PAC 911 South 2nd Street Springfield, IL 62704. If you have any additional comments regarding any of these questions, please attach a separate sheet.

Should you have any questions, please contact Staci Moore at 217-523-0783 or by email Staci@illinoisnurses.com. We look forward to working with you.

Candidate Information - Please print or type

Candidate Name: Jacob Ringer

Office Sought: Alderman Ward: 43rd _

Campaign Office Address: 2120 North Halsted Ave

Campaign Email & Website: Jacob@Ringer4Results.com, www.Ringer4Results.com

Campaign Phone: 312-544-9510

Campaign Contact: [REDACTED]

Campaign Committee Name: Ringer for Results

Candidate Questionnaire

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.

Answer:

I am 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 to community meetings with my parents, who taught me how to speak up and advocate for what I care about. 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 Master's degree in Finance 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 for our city and I immersed myself in understanding the challenges and opportunities we face. I am proud when I hear 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 also 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.

I have always volunteered in some capacity and after I moved back to Chicago I made an effort to get involved at the community level. I joined the Lincoln Park Auxiliary Board in 2012 and from 2016 to 2018, I served as President and am proud of the over \$500,000 raised while I was heading the organization. I served on the Executive Committee of the Center for Economic Progress from 2014 to 2018 helping over ten-thousand 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 who 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 organized the Chalkboard parents to help keep this valuable resource open for generations to come.

2. Have you ever worked under a collective bargaining agreement?

Answer: No.

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

Answer: No.

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

Answer: My family has owned property in Lincoln park and Old Town for over 50 years and I am a long-time resident of the neighborhood. I have knocked over 6000 doors personally and intend to knock every door in the ward by election day.

Policy Positions

5. Privatization of healthcare services within the Chicago Department of Public Health has resulted in a lack of access to care in underserved areas. Do you oppose the privatization of healthcare services provided by CDPH?

Answer: Both my wife and I have a long commitment to the Night Ministry and other organizations that serve at risk communities. 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. The City has and will continue to have a broad range of contracts with vendors that could be called "privatization." 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. These shortsighted deals can have a short-term benefit or savings but a lasting impact on costs and quality of care or service.

I think true fair competition can lead to better services, but I believe that we need to continuously reevaluate competition both in near and long term. In recent years there has been privatization that upon further review should come back to City services and likely would if we had a continuous and open evaluation process. We also need to ensure that the City's interests are aligned with private contractors rather than a relationship where for one to win, the other must lose.

Lastly, these decisions are often made behind closed doors and without consideration of the effects on the people who rely on City services. Transparency is a strong disinfectant. I helped 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 and commitment to quality City services will be of significant help to the Council and communities we serve.

6. The closing of the Chicago Department of Public Health STI clinic in Englewood

cut access to free testing and treatment for sexually-transmitted disease. Would you support initiatives that would reinstitute these service to Englewood through the Chicago Department of Public Health?

Answer: I support access to health centers that provide preventive health care, including reproductive health care, especially to underserved communities. This is an issue that hits close to home with me and I support the best services possible for all Chicago communities, given our current fiscal reality.

7. Would you support a city ordinance that mandates safe nurse to patient ratios, similar to California, which has been law since 2004? Since 2008, Illinois law mandates only that hospitals comply with acuity based staffing plans and assign committees to monitor staffing trends, and make recommendations to resolve staffing shortages. Evidence-based research across the country has revealed in the last 10 years that mandating ratios decreases: (a) risks of infections; (b) falls in the hospital; (c) heart attacks; (d) and death.

Answer: A 2006 study shows lower nurse-to-patient ratios significantly lowered the likelihood of a patient's death as well as improved nurse retention and quality of life. Based on the conclusion of this study and general information regarding lower nurse-to-patient ratio, it seems that lowering the nursing ratio in fact improves both the patient outcome and the nurses' quality of life and retention, so I support this initiative. In addition, I believe that a statewide solution is best for issues like this that have far-reaching consequences and that acuity-based staffing should be part of a statewide healthcare framework informed by successes in other states.

8. Recently there has been a push to allow unlicensed personnel to administer medication in certain settings, creating safety risks. Registered Nurses have the required skills and education to safely administer medication. Would you support or

oppose efforts to limit medication administration by unlicensed personnel?

Answer: I will oppose it. I believe that licensing exists for a reason and that no healthcare personnel or provider should be administering any treatment or service for which they are not properly trained or licensed.

9. Will you support the creation and continuation of programs that help nurses achieve the necessary qualifications to complete and maintain their educational and practical qualifications?

Answer: Yes, with due consideration of the city's finances. If we can incentivize hospitals and clinics to support nurses' continuing education that would be best.

10. Local budgets affect important decisions that impact the lives of working men and women. Would you seek input from organized labor when making budgetary decisions about staffing levels, efficiencies, and privatization in departments?

Answer: I support workers' right to organize for better working conditions and I do not believe that undermining that is the way to solve our fiscal problems. I believe that, as alderman, I and the rest of the city council will want Labor as a partner in creating a plan and a path for addressing the city's financial woes.

14. Would you join union nurses by walking a picket line in support of their campaign for patient safety?

Answer: I would determine this on a case-by-case basis for affected business or residents of the 43rd ward.

15. Do you support eliminating collective bargaining positions for public employees?

Answer: It's hard to know what financial realities will require in the future, but I believe that any future outcome should be the result of good faith negotiation with the City and our labor partners. I also 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 and if they are not, they should be eliminated.

Labor and Collective Bargaining

11. Do you support the right of all workers to organize unions and bargain collectively for wages, benefits and working conditions? Would you speak out publicly in support of that right?

Answer: Yes, and as alderman I will oppose any attempts to weaken the right of workers to organize.

12. Collective bargaining is the way people join together to improve many aspects of their lives as well as their communities. Currently employers are using a variety of ways to deny their employees the opportunity to form a union and bargain collectively. Many of these employers who receive millions of tax dollars often spend large sums of money funding anti-union activities when their employees try to form a union. Would you support efforts that prohibits employers who receive tax dollars from spending those dollars on activities opposing their employees' efforts to form a union?

Answer: Yes, for private contractors or vendors doing business with the City. In addition, they should be evaluated regularly 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.

13. There has been a recent push to allow local governments to establish "Right to Work" zones - jurisdictions where employers and unions are prohibited from entering into agreements that require workers to either join a union or pay related fees. What is your position on "Right to Work" zones? Would you support or oppose "Right to Work" efforts to establish "Right to Work" zones in the jurisdiction you hope to represent?

Answer: I oppose "right to work" zones.