



Unite 25 – 2018 IL 4th Congressional District Candidate Questionnaire

Unite 25 is an independent community organization building grassroots political power in and around Chicago's 25th Ward. We are dedicated to supporting local leaders who are committed to ensuring that government puts people before profit. To this end, we are committed to fully supporting those candidates who we believe will best support our communities. In order to be favorably considered for the Unite 25 endorsement, follow the below instructions carefully.

Instructions:

- From within your Word processor, please answer all questions in Part I (Instructions and Candidate Details) and Part II (Issue Questions). In the Essay section, please answer the questions at the level you deem sufficient.
 - Y/N questions may also include a short answer if you deem it necessary. Please use as much space as necessary when answering each question. Please also feel free to include supporting documents as necessary.
- **Please email your completed Unite 25 questionnaire to info@unite25.org no later than 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, January 16th. Candidates who fail to meet this deadline will not be able to be considered for endorsement.**
- All responding candidates will be invited to appear before an interviewing committee on Saturday, January 20. Unite 25 will then endorse candidates following a majority vote of its members. For each office, Unite 25 will endorse only one candidate or make no endorsement.
- Completed Unite 25 questionnaires will be posted on our website after the submission deadline has passed. For privacy purposes, your home address will be redacted from the questionnaire prior to posting.
- All candidates who submit their questionnaires by the deadline will be notified by email of the endorsement decision.
- **If you have any further questions, please contact us at info@unite25.org.**

CANDIDATE DETAILS	
DATE	1/16/18
NAME & PARTY	Jesus "Chuy" Garcia
AFFILIATION	Democrat
CAMPAIGN MANAGER	Manny Perez
NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED	1500
WEBSITE	www.chuyforcongress.com



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A) Elective or Appointive Offices Held (including dates)	Cook County Commissioner, 2010 - Present; Illinois State Senator, 1st District, 1993 - 1998; Chicago Alderman, 22nd Ward, 1986 - 1993; Committeeman, 22nd Ward, 1984-2000
B) Other elective offices for which you have been a candidate	Mayor, City of Chicago, 2015
C) Current occupation	Cook County Commissioner, 7th District
D) Briefly list your civic activities over the past ten years	Cook County Commissioner, 7th District; Board Member, Woods Fund Chicago; Board Member, The Center on Leadership Innovation (TCLI); Founding Executive Director of Enlace Chicago
E) What experience will be most helpful to you in fulfilling the responsibilities of the office you seek?	<p>Harold Washington tapped me to become the city's deputy water commissioner in the early 80s. In 1986, I ran for and was elected alderman of the 22nd Ward, giving Harold Washington and progressives the majority on the city council. I ran for the Illinois Senate in 1992 and became the first Mexican-American elected to that post.</p> <p>When I was defeated for reelection in 1998, I turned to community organizing and founded the Little Village Community Development Corporation, now Enlace Chicago. Enlace pushed to upgrade housing in the community and organized to force the city to build the first High School in the community in nearly 100 years.</p> <p>In 2010, I was elected to the Cook County Board of Commissioners. I pushed through a ban on housing discrimination based on use of vouchers by low income families, veterans, the disabled and others. I also put an end to Cook County's cooperation with the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency. The measure became the first of its kind in the nation and more than 250 localities followed.</p> <p>When progressives needed a challenger for Mayor of Chicago in 2015, I stepped up. Despite my loss, I put together an impressive coalition of support across the city and forced the first ever run-off election in the city's history.</p> <p>Following the mayor's race, I became a prominent supporter and surrogate for Sen. Bernie Sanders' presidential campaign, traveling across the country to help build a strong progressive movement.</p> <p>I have spent my adult life working to improve my community and the lives of working people. On the County Board, we have passed a \$15 minimum wage ordinance and the requirement that County employers provide paid sick leave. We worked to ensure that County residents are not detained without cause and turned over to Immigrations and Customs Enforcement. We successfully changed the cash bond system and decreased the detainees at the County Jail by 33%.</p> <p>We have much work to do in Congress. When your history is that you risk leaving all you know for a better life, fear and hardship is something you take in stride. We must never allow fear and oppression to catch fire and guide our nation.</p> <p>Rather, we must be leader on immigration reform — whether it be understanding the plight of dreamers and immigrants stranded at our borders or fighting against this multi-billion dollar boondoggle of a wall. I am committed</p>



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	to keeping the rights of women — one half of our country's population — front and center, keeping our nation safe from terror and fighting for jobs and fairness as well as managing our nation's purse strings with common sense.
F) Please list any candidates you have supported in the past and roles in past campaigns	I was a prominent supporter and surrogate for Sen. Bernie Sanders' 2016 presidential campaign, traveling across the country speaking at events and building support for the campaign. I have also supported many other progressive leaders throughout the years.
G) Please list all endorsements you have received	Cong. Luis Guttierrez, Senator Bernie Sanders, Cong. Danny Davis, Cong. Raul Grijalva, Cook County Clerk David Orr
H) Please concisely state why you feel you should be endorsed above other candidates (a) and why holding this office is important to you personally (b)	<p>(a) The critical difference is my experience and track record working in communities as both an organizer and as a legislator. At Enlace we successfully built a large coalition to push the City and State to upgrade housing in the community and organized to force the city to build the first High School in the community in nearly 100 years. Building on my experience as an Alderman and State Senator, I successfully combined that with our community success at Enlace to the Cook County Board.</p> <p>At the County, we pushed through a ban on housing discrimination based on use of vouchers by low income families, veterans, the disabled and others. We put an end to Cook County's cooperation with the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency. The measure became the first of its kind in the nation and more than 250 localities followed. We also passed a \$15 minimum wage ordinance and the requirement that County employers provide paid sick leave. Finally, we worked with other elected officials at the County to successfully change the cash bond system and decreased the detainees at the County Jail by 40%.</p> <p>No one congressperson does it all. Coalition building is another thing that is in my bones. Leadership is a team sport and if elected to Congress, I will work hard and use my experience to move the progressive movement forward.</p> <p>(b) We are a nation of immigrants. Fighting for comprehensive immigration reform, with a path to citizenship to bring undocumented residents out of the shadows, is one of my top priorities.</p> <p>I believe we must do everything possible to allow the 800,000 Dreamers to stay and contribute to this country. These are Americans in everything but status, who have done nothing wrong. They were brought to this country as children and for many, the U.S. is the only country they know. We all lose when Dreamers aren't allowed to contribute their talents and passions to this country.</p>
I) What is your campaign budget and how much have you raised to date?	a) \$600,000 (b)\$200,000
J) (a) How many paid staffers and (b) how many volunteers do you have on your campaign?	3 Paid Staffers plus consultants; (b) Over 400 volunteers collected over 15,000 signatures in 5 days to get us on the ballot.

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Long Answer Questions

1. Why do you want to become the Congressperson for the 4th Congressional District? To continue fighting for the priorities of everyday people over the wealthy and connected.

2. What are your top 3 legislative priorities as U.S. Congressperson? (1) We need to address our immigration system and end the uncertainty for our immigrants and businesses. We should be clear that we are a nation of immigrants; my district alone has 230,000 foreign born residents. Immigration is the lifeblood of this country and has been the engine of growth and productivity for more than a century. Trump's draconian immigration policies are tearing families apart, and hurting our communities and our economy.

We must not stop welcoming immigrants and refugees to this country and we need to encourage immigrants already here to stay and continue contributing to our growth. We should pass legislation recognizing the immigrants already here and positively contributing and grant them permanent status and a pathway to citizenship. We should also continue to enthusiastically accept migrants and refugees from all over the world with their families and establish a proper vetting system. It is unacceptable that we have not secured the status of the 800,000 Dreamers through incorporating DACA into regular legislation. It will be my priority to do this in Congress. At a time when important domestic programs are being starved of funds, we must also fight against the multi-billion dollar boondoggle of a wall.

(2) A second priority of mine will be to improve our education system. Latinos are disproportionately young and although we make up only 17% of the overall population nationwide, 25% of students in public schools are Latino. We need to make sure our public school system remains strong with secure funding that doesn't discriminate against poor, minority communities. We also need to eliminate the schools to prison pipeline and ensure that minorities aren't disproportionately suspended or expelled.

We need to make college more affordable. The average student takes on over \$30,000 in debt to get a B.A. from a four-year college or university. According to the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP), many low-income and minority students have unmet financial need, even at lower-cost community colleges.

I support Rep. Pramila Jayapal's College For All Act. This legislation would make public colleges and universities tuition free for working families, as is already done in many other industrialized countries. We should get corporations to contribute more in support of our public education system both K-12 and higher education as it is an essential pipeline for skilled workers in the future. We should also consider a tax Wall Street speculators to pay for expanded college and training programs.

We also need to reduce interest rates for current borrowers. Americans currently have more than \$1.4 trillion in student loan debt, with 70% of college seniors graduating with debt. The government actually profits off of these graduates. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) found that the government will make \$66 billion from student loans issued between 2007 and 2012. Lowering interest rates will allow recent college grads to have more money to start a business or buy a house, and I support Rep. Courtney's Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act to allow current borrowers a chance to refinance to a lower rate.

(3) My third priority would be to boost infrastructure funding, especially public transit. Such funding is essential for urban economic development and to ensure minorities have access to jobs and services. Residents in my District need the infrastructure and transportation improvements to both bring jobs into these communities and allow residents to access good paying jobs throughout the region.

Transportation is critically important to the country and to industry. The Federal government was instrumental in creating and funding the national railroad system, the interstate highway system and integrating/expanding the transit systems throughout the country. I support a substantial federal infrastructure program based on federal funding and not privatization of the ownership of transportation assets. Funding could come from increasing the gasoline tax, as well as taxes on vehicle-miles-traveled as we move away from gasoline-powered transportation. An additional priority given the large Puerto Rican community in my District will be to advocate for and support the rebuilding of Puerto Rico. I think it is important for me to be an advocate for the more than 3 million Puerto Ricans that lack a voice in Congress. Many Puerto Ricans have had to flee from the island to Chicago because of debt crippling the island and the devastation of Hurricane Maria. I believe we need to forgive some of Puerto



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Rico's debt, give aid to rebuild the island and then invest long term in the economic development of the island.

3. Unite25 is a progressive and working-class organization dedicated to the causes of economic and racial justice for those in our community and beyond. Many of us were inspired by Senator Bernie Sanders' call for a 'Political Revolution.' A common concern of our members is the increasing influence of big money and concentrated wealth in our political process. How do you believe working people can build significant political power, be it through the establishment of local independent political organizations or other means? Please be as specific as possible in both the process by which this revolution can be achieved and what you believe your role as an elected official should be in making it reality.

I was a national surrogate for Bernie Sanders and traveled the country meeting with people who share your concern with big money and concentrated wealth in our political process. My whole life I've been running against the Chicago political machine and its self-enrichment. I am currently supporting a slate of young progressive Latino candidates running against political machine families. We will win because we mobilize grassroots supporters, like Unite 25. I've had the unique experience while stumping for Bernie to see how the events in Chicago are part of a growing grassroots movement nationwide. Together, we can reduce wealth inequality, overturn Citizens United, and achieve campaign finance reform. Together, we can ensure our community is engaged and achieve a political revolution with grassroots organizing.

A. Health & Human Services (HHS)

Do You Support:

	Y	N	
1.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Federal Single Payer Healthcare?
2.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Amending the ACA to extend coverage to undocumented immigrants?
3.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Amending the ACA to extend coverage to those with incomes above 133% FPL?
4.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Amending the ACA to provide for a public option?
5.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Federal legislation expanding HRSA loan repayment programs to help alleviate the shortage of physicians and nurses?
6.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Increased funding for WIC to provide for childcare expenses?
7.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Funding of scientifically based sex-education programs?
8.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Federally allowing Nurse Practitioners to practice without physician supervision in circumstances when it's unavailable?
9.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The expansion of VA healthcare vouchers for veterans to see health providers outside the public system?
10.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Funding all safety-net programs to enable them to provide services to all who qualify?
11.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Federal legislation codifying Roe v Wade?
12.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Expansion of Medicare to provide for the evolving needs of the elderly?

Health & Human Services (HHS) (Long Answer)

13. Beyond improved funding for programs like WIC, what steps would you take to eradicate childhood malnutrition in the United States? The U.S. is one of the wealthiest countries in the history of the world and no child should go hungry here. Outside of WIC, we need to strengthen school nutrition programs. This includes expanding eligibility, including after school and weekend programs at schools and eliminating the stigma of getting food assistance.

14. How would you propose to make healthcare and access to life-saving medication affordable to all? I support Medicare for all. At the state level we need to support legislation and funding to maintain the expanded Medicaid programs, like County Care, which was created under the ACA. We also need to ensure that we continue support for programs at local hospitals and community clinics that ensure affordable access to health care for low income people. Funding for subsidized programs is in danger.



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Medicare and Medicaid are crucial programs for more than just the elderly and low-income residents. While they will face a financial crisis in 20 to 30 years if nothing is done, we do not have to panic. It is important to remember that Medicaid covers the cost for 45% of all births in this country and approximately 62% of people currently in nursing homes receive some or all of their coverage from Medicaid. The long term solution is not to drastically cut back these programs, but to expand the pool to include younger and healthier people to reap the benefits of singlepayer/universal health insurance. Every study has shown that Medicare is incredibly efficient and cost effective at providing health care. Expanding that and reaping the benefits of new technology and preventive services will bring our total health costs in line with every other industrial country. This will allow us to control our costs, take the burden off of industry and to provide efficient and equitable care. To be clear, preventive care and essential, life-saving procedures and medical care should be available immediately as needed.

15. What changes would you propose to the social security system? I would eliminate the earnings cap so that the wealthiest Americans pay into Social Security at the same rate as everyone else. I would include investment income when calculating someone's Social Security contributions. With this increased revenue, we can extend the solvency of Social Security for decades and look to expand benefits, including an across the board increase, increasing the COLA, increasing the special minimum benefit, having a caregiving credit, and extending the benefit for children of deceased or disabled parents. Additionally, I support efforts to create a paid leave time, including paternal and maternal leave, that would operate in conjunction with our current Social Security system.

B. Labor

Do You Support:

	Y	N	
1.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Right to work?
2.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Prohibition on permanent replacement of strikers?
3.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Granting to federal employees the right to strike?
4.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The Employee Freedom of Choice Act? I fully support a women's right to choose. When it comes to labor issues, I support the Employee Free Choice Act and the updated version, the Workplace Democracy Act.
6.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Affirmative action with specific goals, targets, and timetables for federal employment grants and contracts?
7.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	A Federal living wage law calculated at \$15/hour and pegged to inflation?
8.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	A law mandating sick time and parental leave for all workers?

Labor (Long Answer)

9. What do you propose to support people whose jobs have been outsourced or otherwise been rendered obsolete by recent changes to the workforce? First, I am against trade agreements and tax laws that promote outsourcing. I believe we should reexamine the agreements and laws to discourage outsourcing. For those workers outsourced, we need a strong social safety net, including universal healthcare. We also need to provide educational and training opportunities to help these workers get new jobs. Finally, we need to encourage development of new industries in areas where jobs are being lost.

10. Should NAFTA be renegotiated and, if so, how? Yes. I opposed the passage of NAFTA because I believe it needed to have more public input and gave corporations too much power. I believe it should be renegotiated to be stronger on labor rights and environmental protections.

A. Education and the Arts?

Do You Support:

	Y	N	
1.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tuition Free College?



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2.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mandating a reversal of Department of Education Title IX Guidance under Secretary DeVos that exposes students to an increased threat of sexual assault and harassment?
3.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Vouchers for private or parochial schools?
4.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Student Debt Forgiveness?
5.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rollback of Dept of Ed guidance encouraging private schooling at the expense of public education?
6.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Increased funding for charter and parochial schools?
7.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Funding for the National Endowment of the Arts to ensure education isn't limited to STEM curriculum?
8.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Funding for PBS to provide quality educational programming for all Americans?
9.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The effort to enable independent journalism through the repeal of the <i>Telecommunications Act of 1996</i> ?

Education (Long Answer)

10. How would you propose to level the playing field to provide the greatest equality of educational opportunity to all? I believe we rely too much on local property taxes for our schools. Additional federal funding and oversight can ensure a level playing field. We also need to stop diverting needed public funds to private schools.
11. What changes do you propose to educational standardization to eliminate test-fatigue, encourage the Arts alongside STEM, and ensure that immigrant communities are not adversely affected? Standardized tests can provide a useful benchmark of student progress, but we need to be careful not to overly emphasize these tests to the detriment of students learning the arts and getting a well rounded education.
12. How do you believe student achievement should be measured and how should the Federal government act to ensure all schools are providing students with a high-quality education? Student achievement shouldn't be solely based on standardized test, but should be based on a wide range of criteria to ensure we have well rounded students ready to compete in today's information age economy.

B. Housing and Urban Development

Do You Support:

	Y	N	
1.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Protection against housing discrimination for holders of Section 8 housing vouchers?
2.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Funding for Project Based Section XIII?
3.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Funding for Section XIII housing vouchers?
4.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Federal support for co-op housing programs?
5.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Federally funded oversight of residential re-zoning? Should be a local issue
6.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Review of the HUD calculus used to determine median income in affordable housing determination?

Housing and Urban Development (Long Answer)

7. What steps would you take at the federal level to relieve displacement of working families by the forces of privatization and gentrification? The major federal role in housing is ensuring that low income and working families are able to obtain affordable mortgages to buy and maintain their homes. Preserving the subsidized mortgages with low downpayments is an important way to slow down displacement.
8. How would you maintain and/or modify existing tax-credits to protect those communities most at-risk of displacement? I would fight to protect existing tax-credits that protect communities at-risk of displacement.

C. Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

Do You Support:

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	Y	N	
1.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Restoration of the Voting Rights Act?
2.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Legislation to ban states from requiring voters to show an ID to vote in Federal elections?
3.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Repeal of the Jones Act?
4.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The legislation put forth by Sen. Sanders to provide \$146B aid package to Puerto Rico?
5.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Federal legislation to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in housing, employment, and education?
6.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Amending Federal legislation to protect states that have legalized medical or recreational marijuana from Federal enforcement of Federal marijuana laws?
7.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Changing the classification of marijuana in Federal controlled substance schedules?
8.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mandatory drug testing for recipients of federal benefits?
9.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Restoration of 4 th amendment rights guarding against unreasonable search and seizure by removing the power of government agencies to collect identifiable data on U.S. citizens without a warrant?
10.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The restoration of the rights of habeas corpus through the full repeal of the <u>ANTITERRORISM AND EFFECTIVE DEATH PENALTY ACT OF 1996</u> ?

Civil Liberties and Civil Rights (Long Answer)

11. Should the USA Freedom Act be repealed or amended in any way? Please explain your position I think that the USA Freedom Act should be reviewed to understand how it is balancing protecting the US and unreasonably threatening civil liberties. In particular, the balance in accessing phone and internet activity of persons without clear evidence of illegal activity should be adjusted given the evidence that many errors occur in including people on watch lists.

12. Please explain your position on gun regulation and specify any existing statutes you feel should be changed, or new statutes that you feel should be passed. Reasonable gun controls on the sale and ownership of guns is clearly within the bounds of the Constitution. Such controls include a unified federal background check system for gun sales and limits on certain kinds of rifles that are not designed for sport use. The 2nd Amendment guarantees rights for sport uses and militias, such as the National Guard. Constraints on the sale and ownership of certain types of guns will not compromise our constitutional rights or our safety. The plethora of guns in this country clearly contributes to the escalating level of violence. Other countries, such as Australia and the EU properly constrain gun ownership and have lowered gun shootings and gun-related deaths.

13. What is the importance of the modern-day separation of church and state in preserving the integrity of our democratic institutions? The separation of Church and State is fundamental to our democracy. I oppose efforts to allow churches to become political and also oppose diverting public education funds towards religious schools.

D. Immigration

Do You Support:

	Y	N	
1.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Prohibiting deportation of undocumented immigrants arrested for misdemeanors or traffic violations?
2.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The DREAM act?
3.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Restoration of DACA?
4.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Halting deportations of immigrants until final determination of residency status has been made and appeals have been exhausted?
5.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	A full moratorium on deportation and immigrant detention until a swift pathway to citizenship is established for all undocumented people living in the United States?
6.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	A pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants currently in the country?
7.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Travel Ban Executive Order?



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8.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The elimination of the 287(g) program and all other programs that mandate collaboration between local law enforcement and federal immigration authorities?
9.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The elimination of the 3-year, 10-year, and permanent bars on legal immigration?
10.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The repeal of The Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 also known as “The Mexican Exclusionary Act of 1996”?
11.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The abolition of United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)?

Immigration (Long Answer)

12. What other immigration reforms do you support? It is very important that Temporary Protection Status (TPS) be extended for 200,000 Salvadorans, 60,000 Haitians and 2,500 Nicaraguans. I also support eliminating family detention and private, corporate detention centers. No company should be making a profit from detaining immigrants.

13. Would you prioritize family unification or skilled labor as the principle criteria in granting visas and processing citizenship/permanent resident applications? Why? America has always been a nation of immigrants, and in that tradition I do not believe we need to accept the false choice of either family unification or skilled labor immigrants. The U.S. needs both family unification and skilled labor migrants.

E. Law, Justice, and the Correctional System

Do You Support:

	Y	N	
1.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Capital punishment?
2.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Criminal prosecution of juveniles as adults?
3.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Detention of suspects and material witnesses without charges and/or probable cause?
4.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mandatory sentencing?
5.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Legislation prohibiting racial profiling in law enforcement?
6.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Civil asset forfeiture?
7.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Publication of FISA opinions? Still evaluating.
8.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Repeal of the FISA Amendments Act of 2008? Should be modified to protect civil rights, but not sure if a full repeal is necessary.
9.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Elimination of Cash bail? I helped lead the effort to reform the cash bail system in Chicago, helping ensure individuals weren't held in prison just because they were poor.

Law Justice and the Correctional System (Long Answer)

10. How would you propose that all have equal access to legal protections regardless of their ability to pay for representation?

We must reinstate federal and state support for Legal Aid and Public Defender services to ensure that the poor have sufficient access to legal services. Given the continuing problems with false convictions and punitive sentencing laws, there is still a great need for access to quality legal services. In addition, the US Attorney General needs to return to the active oversight of state and local police and justice systems to make sure they are operating fairly and legally.

No one should be in jail simply because they are poor. We need to reform our criminal justice system to avoid jailing citizens simply because they are too poor to pay a fine or a bond. As a Cook County Commissioner, we successfully changed the cash bond system and decreased the detainees at the County Jail by 40%. We are beginning to use the cost savings to assist potential detainees with increased services for education, training, counseling and housing.

11. What is the role of the Federal government in ensuring just treatment of minority communities by local law enforcement? The Federal government has a critical role in ensuring the just treatment of minority communities.



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In the Obama administration, the Justice Department looked at the treatment of communities by local law enforcement, including the systemic civil rights abuses at the Chicago Police Department and negotiated federal monitoring agreement. Unfortunately, under Jeff Sessions the Department of Justice has been going backwards on protecting minorities. I believe we need to go back to federal oversight of local jurisdictions where there is widespread abuse. I also think we need to end the sale of military surplus equipment to local law enforcement agencies, as this is often counter productive to community policing and working with minorities.

12. How would you address the problems of mass incarceration and the militarization of the police?
We need Criminal Justice Reform. America should not have the highest proportion of prisoners per capita in the world. We have less than 5% of the world's population, but nearly 45% of prisoners. Unfortunately, Latinos are one of the fastest growing groups imprisoned and can face discriminatory policing and criminal justice practices.

We should look at decriminalizing the possession of small amounts of marijuana. Though Hispanics have similar marijuana use as other groups, they are more likely to be stopped, searched, arrested and convicted. And when they are convicted, Latinos were more likely to receive longer mandatory minimum sentences.

I also believe we should eliminate corporate, for-profit prisons. A DOJ study found that these private prisons were less safe and more costly to taxpayers. For-profit prisons are less likely to release people early for good behavior and can lobby for policies of mass incarceration.

F. Infrastructure

Do You Support:

	Y	N	
1.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Net Neutrality?
2.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Treating the internet as a utility?
3.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Increasing federal funding for the development of high-speed rail links between major metropolitan areas? This must be part of a larger investment in infrastructure and public transportation so that minority and low-income communities are included in this network and not left behind.
4.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Increased federal subsidies for local transportation networks?
5.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Increased funding for the renewal and improvement of water treatment and sewage systems?
6.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The right of municipalities to establish their own broadband service networks?
7.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Would you support the vision set forth by Senator Sanders for investing \$1 trillion over 5 years to rebuild our nation's crumbling infrastructure?

Infrastructure (Long Answer)

8. What would be your greatest infrastructure priority and why? Investing in infrastructure is a top priority of mine, especially public transit. Having a strong public transit system is essential for urban economic development and to ensure minorities have access to jobs and services. Residents in my District need the infrastructure and transportation improvements to both bring jobs into these communities and allow residents to access good paying jobs throughout the region.

Transportation is critically important to the country and to industry. The Federal government was instrumental in creating and funding the national railroad system, the interstate highway system and integrating/expanding the transit systems throughout the country. I support a substantial federal infrastructure program based on federal funding and not privatization of the ownership of transportation assets. Funding could come from increasing the gasoline tax, as well as taxes on vehicle-miles-traveled as we move away from gasoline-powered transportation.

G. Taxes & The Economy

Do You Support:

	Y	N	



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1.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	A more progressive income tax?
2.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A flat Tax?
3.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Elimination of the estate tax?
4.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Taxing investment income at the same rate as earned income?
5.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Elimination of the mortgage interest deduction?
6.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Elimination of the state and local tax deduction?
7.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Revival of Glass-Steagall?
8.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ending tax incentives for companies to shift profits offshore?
9.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	A Financial Transaction Tax?

Taxes & The Economy (Long Answer)

10. What would you do to create jobs? While there has been growth in some areas and the stock market, too many people are either under-employed or employed in jobs with no future, no benefits or job security. Youth unemployment, especially in low-income communities, rural communities and communities of color is too high. Black youth (aged 16-24) had over 3 times the average unemployment rate for white youth in July 2017. Latino youth unemployment was 25% higher than white youth. The percentage of the workforce unemployed, temporarily employed or involuntarily in part time employment is still 8%. The median hourly wage is still only \$14 per hour.

We need to increase our commitment to education and training for all people so that young people can get more skilled jobs and older people can be trained in new fields. We need to embrace alternative technologies for energy production, develop new electronic and biological technologies and invest in our infrastructure as other countries are doing.

11. How would you address increasing income inequality and the shrinking middle class? America's growing wealth gap is the fundamental challenge of our time. Numerous studies implicate increases in economic inequality with social problems and social unrest. We need to create a system that makes everyone a part of the economy and society in general. The tax bill attacks Democracy itself when the wealthiest Americans are able to effectively buy control of our political system. Some Republican members spoke openly during the process about how they had to pass the bill for their donors.

The tax overhaul gives trillions in tax handouts to the corporations and the wealthiest Americans. It does not require them to invest in America, hire and train American workers, invest in schools, transportation, or American institutions and infrastructure. The bill will expand deficits and create a climate for cutting basic services and safety net programs like Social Security and Medicare/Medicaid. We need to ensure government creates the environment for people and businesses to have the tools and opportunities to succeed. We need a fair system, a good public education system, a safe and modern transportation system for people and goods and affordable health care for all. As a first step, I believe we need to make it easier for workers to form unions, increase and index the minimum wage and reverse the Citizens United decision that allows Corporations to spend unlimited amounts on political influence in the name of "free speech."

H. Consumer Rights

Do You Support:

	Y	N	
1.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Federal Legislation to cap interest rates on credit cards and other consumer loans?
2.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Federal legislation to regulate ATM fees and service charges on credit cards and other consumer loans?
3.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Allowing states to enact consumer laws which go beyond the protection of federal legislation?
4.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The continued independence of the CFPB?
5.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The strict regulation of payday loan lenders?



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6.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Severely limiting the use of arbitration in settling consumer disputes with corporations and rolling back the rules against class action lawsuits?
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Consumer Rights (Long Answer)

7. Under what circumstances would you support the establishment of the Post Office as a public bank to secure access to capital for low-income and marginalized communities? There are more than 10 million Americans who are 'unbanked' and who could benefit from getting basic financial services at affordable prices from a postal branch. And at a time when the Post Office is under financial strain, postal banking is estimated to generate \$8.9 billion in revenue for the U.S. Postal service. Many other countries, including Britain, France, China and Japan, have post offices that also serve as banks. I believe we should consider having the postal service offer bank services and would be supportive of this independent agency doing so.

I. Good Governance

Do You Support:

	Y	N	
1.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	A constitutional amendment authorizing Congress to regulate campaign finance and supersede Citizens United?
2.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	A constitutional amendment to abolish the electoral college?
3.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Legislation to prohibit incumbency and political affiliation as criteria in the Congressional district mapping process? I fully support efforts to eliminate gerrymandering. I believe the elimination of the gerrymandered Congressional Districts in Illinois should be paired with conservative leaning state or states of similar size doing the same to avoid giving a partisan advantage to Republicans.
4.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Increased Congressional oversight of federal contracting?

Good Governance (Long Answer)

5. What steps would you take to decrease government waste in the form of tax breaks and contracts awarded to politically connected private entities? My whole life I've been running against the Chicago political machine and its self-enrichment. I am currently supporting a slate of young progressive Latino candidates running against political machine families. We will win because we mobilize grassroots supporters, like Unite 25.

J. Energy and Environmental Policy

Do You Support:

	Y	N	
1.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Increased incentives for investment in renewable energy generation?
2.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	A ban on fracking?
3.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Opening of Federal lands for more timber and mineral exploitation?
4.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Keystone Pipeline?
5.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Increased incentives for investment in renewable energy generation by municipalities?
6.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cap and trade policies?

Energy and Environmental Policy (Long Answer)

7. What steps would you have the federal government take to mitigate and adapt to the crisis of climate change? We need to promote renewable energies, sustainable development and public transportation. Its important that our decisions are based on science. I would push for the U.S. to work building an international coalition to oppose climate change, including rejoining the Paris Accords.

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K. Foreign and Military			
Do You Support:			
	Y	N	
1.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Use of lethal drones?
2.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Normalization of relations with Cuba?
3.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Extending the protections of the US Constitution and the Geneva Convention to all combatants regardless of circumstances of capture or any other considerations?
4.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Closing Guantanamo?
6.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Increasing sanctions on Russia in retaliation for alleged tampering in U.S. election?
7.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Treating Russian propaganda intervention in Western politics as acts of foreign military aggression subject to a proportional response?
8.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mandating the inclusion of the lifetime cost of fully funded veterans' health in military budgeting both in times of peace and times of war?
9.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining the Iran Nuclear Deal?
10.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Military intervention in North Korea?
11.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	A two-state solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict?
12.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The privatization of the military and awarding of contracts to private contractors like Blackwater?

Foreign and Military (Long Answer)
13. Under what circumstances would you support armed military intervention by U.S. forces? Additionally, what steps would you take to impose Congressional review and control over small-scale U.S. involvement in global conflicts? Armed US military intervention should be used only as a last resort and in response to a direct threat to the US. Congressional oversight is essential of military expenditures for Military operations needs to be maintained and expanded.
14. What degree of U.S. involvement do you support for the resolution of the conflict in Syria? As ISIS is contained in Syria and Iraq we need to continue our efforts to track terrorist activity in the US and around the world.
15. To what degree do you support military intervention to act against terrorist organizations such as ISIS, Al Nusra, and Boko Haram? At this point, our involvement should be limited to material support for local groups fighting terrorist in their own countries.
16. Should the military budget be cut, expanded, or remain at the same level? Please be specific as to what you would cut or add and why. The Military programs should be subject to performance reviews to see if they are meeting their goals and whether they are needed or should be modified. We should not tolerate wasteful spending in the Military budget.
17. Should military aid to Israel be cut, expanded, or remain at the same level? Please explain why. I support U.S. assistance intended to make both the Israelis and the Palestinians secure and to strengthen their economies and self-governing capacities. The exact level has to be determined based on that criteria.