2023 Mayoral Candidate Questionnaire



Both run-off candidates (Brandon Johnson and Paul Vallas) replied yes to all questions:

1. If a runoff election occurs in 2023 and you are a candidate on the runoff ballot, do you commit to participate in a public candidates' forum held by One Chicago for All on Saturday, March 25 from 11am-1pm to discuss these and other pressing issues in our communities with your opponent?

2. If elected as Mayor, do you commit to meet personally with One Chicago for All prior to your inauguration and at least quarterly during your term to discuss progress on these commitments?

Jobs, Hiring & Pathways to Careers

3. Will you commit to a workforce and leadership in your cabinet, City Departments and sister agencies that matches the race/ethnicity and gender makeup of Chicago's population?

4. Will you adopt more inclusive hiring practices and reduce barriers, including for people with arrest & conviction records, for all City Departments and sister agencies?

5. Will you increase workforce development funding in Black and Brown communities and ensure it supports equitable outcomes within Chicago – targeted to those most in need of workforce supports and services?

6. One Chicago for All is seeking a change in Chicago bank hiring and employment practices to provide access to careers to people in our communities, and to fund organizations to prepare a pipeline of job seekers and support newly hired employees.

a. Will you publicly join in and support this ask to banks?

b. Will you use the tools available to the City of Chicago Finance Department and Treasurer's Office (regulatory, pension investments and other) to further this effort with banks and expand it to other companies?

Small Business Support and Capital

7. One Chicago for All is seeking support from banks to provide at least 300 small business owners in communities of color with low- or no-interest early capital to make them bankable over the next five years, and fund organizations to train & support this cohort of business owners.

a. Do you agree this is necessary to address the racial wealth gap from decades of redlining, discrimination, and predatory lending?

b. Will you publicly join in and support this ask to banks?

c. Will you support this effort with City actions and resources?

8. The City of Chicago has launched a Community Wealth Building Initiative. Will you commit to increasing the funding and prioritizing City spending with businesses willing to share profits and/or equity with employees and community residents?

Education

9. Will you create a sustainable structure of institutional support for community schools directly aligned or within the Mayor's office, similar to New York City's Office of Community Schools, that will increase in-school community partnerships and after school programming?

10. Will you work within the power of the Mayor's office and other branches of government to increase funding per pupil and wraparound support for schools in disinvested communities, doing away with student-based budgeting?

11. Will you commit City resources to reestablish Career Technical Education programs in CPS high schools to provide an option for students who are not college bound to earn industry recognized credentials for careers in high demand industries in the Chicago area?

Stable and Affordable Housing

12. Would you commit to restructuring the process in which Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC), one of the City's most valued assets for community development, are awarded to: (1) place the equity value of this significant resource in the primary control of BIPOC developers, CDCs and non-profit organizations based in and serving the local community, and (2) use a more transparent system similar to SBIF rollouts with specific geographic focus areas and clearer criteria for awards?

13. Will you commit to working with One Chicago for All Alliance members and their partners to develop and fund additional programs to help prevent the displacement of low-income residents from gentrifying areas and the redevelopment of housing in underinvested communities of color (for example, a \$10M fund to support existing homeowners on fixed incomes make needed repairs)?

14. One Chicago for All is seeking support from banks to provide at least 3,000 families in communities of color with flexible homebuyer subsidies of \$60,000 per family over the next five years, and to fund organizations to train & counsel the homebuyers.

a. Do you agree this is necessary to address the racial wealth gap from decades of redlining, discrimination, and predatory lending?

b. Will you publicly join in and support this ask to banks?

c. Will you support this effort with City actions and resources?

Leveraging Existing Community-led Efforts for Faster and More Equitable Recovery

15. Will you consistently, for all programs, prioritize/maximize City funding to the most impacted communities with the highest: Community COVID vulnerability index - particularly death rates, economic hardship index, and rates of violence?

16. One Chicago for All identified over \$500M in funding needed for existing community-led projects in 2021, which is 3% of the City's budget in 2023. Will you commit to investing at least 3% of the City's annual budget towards existing comprehensive approaches and projects local organizations have already built community support for, such as through Quality-of-Life Plans, and working directly with these organizations as partners?

17. Will you co-design any new or revised programs & RFP processes with community-based organizations, including members of One Chicago for All?

18. Will you remove barriers for smaller and BIPOC-led organizations to apply for City funding, including at least 4-6 weeks to respond to RFPs, and providing a single, responsive, accountable point of contact from the Mayor's Office for each RFP/program who can resolve differences between program departments/sister agencies and Departments of Law, Finance and Budget?

19. Will you ensure City funding and programs start quickly and prevent financial burdens on community-based organizations, including a commitment to continue providing 25% advance payments to non-profit grantees?

Public Safety and Youth

20. Will you work to ensure that the Chicago Police Department supports community policing and other reform efforts and abides by the guidelines set forth by the Community Policing Advisory Panel?

21. Will you invest City funding and resources to increase safety and decrease violence in Black and Brown neighborhoods?

22. Will you ensure CPS has adequate funding to address safety concerns in and around schools to ensure that all our students are safe?

23. Will you provide adequate resources, including mental health services, and funding to communities and schools when safety is compromised?

24. Will you continue to build out the Community Safety Command Center or a similar entity that brings community organizations, City agencies and the police department together to improve public safety?

25. Will you commit to including year-round job opportunities, not just stipends, for in-school and out-of-school youth?

26. Will you commit to investing in more safe spaces for young people in communities that are most in need?

27. Will your administration prioritize the issues that young people engaged with 1Chi4All members and partners in our communities care about?