



Chicago Mayor 2019 Election Guide

**Candidate:
Jerry Joyce**

The Office of the Mayor has many responsibilities that impact those who have experienced domestic abuse, human trafficking and sexual violence, including drafting and managing a \$8 billion-plus annual budget, appointing nominees to lead Chicago Public Schools and the Chicago Police Department (among other entities), and advocating for the needs of city residents. With this in mind, anti-violence experts from five Chicago-based organizations - Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation, Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women's Network, Life Span, Resilience, and Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law asked mayoral candidates to complete a questionnaire regarding their plans for addressing gender violence in Chicago. Municipal governments like Chicago have the unique opportunity to step in and support those at risk of domestic abuse, human trafficking, and sexual violence particularly because of the gridlock and divisiveness in federal government and state government systems that can directly harm those we serve.

All of these organizations are 501(c)(3) nonprofits, and are nonpartisan entities that do not support or oppose individual candidates or political parties.

All responses are posted as submitted on January 22, 2019.

No part of this Election Guide may be construed to be an endorsement of either candidate's campaign or views by the five organizations listed above.

Questions

Please answer the following questions with a Yes or No response.

1. Do you support an elected school board?

Yes.

2. Do you support eliminating the rent control ban?

Yes.

3. Have you asked an employee, supervisee, colleague, consultant, contractor (or similar) to sign a non-disclosure agreement after learning of claims of sexual harassment or gender or race discrimination against you or someone on your staff?

No.

4. Will you continue or /expand the new Office of Violence Prevention approved for 2019 budget?

Yes.

5. Will you prioritize a response to violence against women and girls by creating a high level, policy position in your office that specifically focuses on domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking?

Yes.

Please answer the following questions in 300 words or less.

1. Violence against women and girls is an epidemic in our community and requires a comprehensive public health and safety response. Please describe your staffing priorities as it relates to violence against women and girls, including level of response in the Office on Public Safety, Department of Family and Support Services and any other departments you believe are important.

A specialized response to violence against women and girls is required in many city departments as it impacts so many citizens in our city. I believe it is important to have experienced people in key positions to advise me in this area. And a prioritized response would begin at the highest levels of my administration, including a specialized violence against women policy advisor on my administrative team. Not only will there be a policy

person of this nature in my administration, but persons with experienced and specialized knowledge in my Department of Public Safety and within the Chicago Police Department.

2. The Mayor's office has been in the position to both defeat and support critical legislative efforts in the past. What would be your legislative efforts to address gender-based violence?

Illinois is already fortunate to have a large amount of excellent legislation in this area starting with the Illinois Domestic Violence Act. More recent advances in reporting of sexual assault, comprehensive legislative changes to address human trafficking and other laws have left us in a solid position to address these issues. I would work with this community to advance appropriate legislation.

However, a big priority that I recognize is the connection between gun violence and domestic violence – an area that we have not done enough work on. I think we need to find ways to better implement the many effective laws we have.

Despite recent legislative efforts, rape kits are still not being processed quickly enough which is an extreme injustice to victims. I would utilize my key staff and my own personal commitment to this issue to spearhead these efforts.

3. Historically survivors of domestic and sexual violence hesitate to report the violence to law enforcement because of distrust on how they will be treated. How will you work to restore trust between Chicago communities, specifically survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, and human trafficking and CPD, taking into consideration the findings and recommendations from the Department of Justice Investigation on police accountability and mishandling of these investigations? Are there any recent Aldermanic proposals that you support?

I would need to know more about what practices are in place to support any aldermanic proposal and would need to begin the job by learning what the current efforts are. I think one way to restore trust is to better address the crimes that are reported to CPD. For those victims who have bravely come forward to call the police and make a report, we owe it to them to do better.

Increasing the number of detectives currently addressing sexual assault and domestic violence will go a long way to promote trust with victims. This will require additional training and increased oversight by Sergeants. I am aware that there are pilot projects underway to address these crimes that involve the detective division and I would look at those efforts closely to determine their efficiency.

In regards to the community, I will work to better develop relationships with service providers to help guide and improve responses, particularly to those who may be unwilling

or untrusting of engaging with the police. I believe that there are aspects to community policing that, when done effectively, can help improve these community relations.

Finally, one area of the consent decree that was particularly concerning was the crime of domestic violence among ranks. In this area, I believe accountability begins at the top and I will work to better understand the prevalence and current response to this crime.

4. Chicago Public Schools has failed student-survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, and sexual harm. Recent media coverage has brought these failures to light and spurred some movement to address this failure. How will you ensure that CPS takes the necessary steps so that student-survivors are able to stay in school, stay safe, and succeed academically, regardless of who the perpetrator is, where or when the violence occurred, and whether or not criminal remedies are pursued?

I agree that CPS has failed miserably when it comes to the protection of students and I support steps that have been taken with respect to the creation of the Office of Student Protections. But we need to bring additional protections and social services directly to our students and I will work with CPS to increase the ranks of counselors and social service specialists who can help children feel safe and are equipped to deal with crisis response in children.

There also needs to be additional training for teachers and staff on child abuse and sexual assault to help CPS personnel better recognize children in crisis and to help prevent victimization.

I would also support legislation to increase criminal penalties for individuals in a position of trust and/or authority convicted of the abuse of a child / student.

5. A top priority for survivors of domestic and sexual violence and human trafficking is stable and affordable housing. Housing stability is an important component of strong neighborhoods. Excluding the rent control ban, what ideas do you have to improve the affordable housing stock in Chicago, including transitional and long-term housing options?

Long-term housing is critical to help survivors with safety and stability issues and it is also important to help stabilize and develop our neighborhoods. I would be willing to support programs that help educate and support landlords to rent to this population, which has historically been perceived to be problematic renters. We also need to work to establish programming that pairs service providers with housing providers to ensure landlords are educated on issues specific to this community.

6. Chicago has large number of underserved neighborhoods which lack housing stability, access to supportive services and economic investment from the city.

What are your specific plans to invest in these neighborhoods to balance these inequalities?

Addressing Chicago's spiraling crime rate will go a long way to improve the quality of life for citizens and also promote economic development and stability in underserved neighborhoods.

I have also introduced a proposal to repurpose five shuttered and vacant Chicago Public Schools buildings as new community-based training academies for the city's fire and police departments, a proposal that could save the city up to \$100 million and provide a catalyst for investment in economically-depressed neighborhoods on the city's south and west sides.

I believe that the current plan for a \$100 million training academy completely ignores the fiscal health of the city at a time when our finances are broken. We certainly need to invest in improved police training, but we also must be smarter with our resources and more transparent with the process. My plan ensures that public safety, economic development and fiscal responsibility go hand-in-hand.

The proposed school sites were selected because they are located in newly-created Federal Opportunity Zones, which offer tax incentives to spur investment. Repurposing the vacant buildings in these zones also will help attract additional economic investment and greater stability.

The five shuttered Chicago Public Schools buildings could either be refurbished by the city at a much lower cost or be publicly auctioned, whereby the purchaser could refurbish the property and lease it back to the city. In either scenario, the move would benefit public safety and spark revitalization efforts. Additionally, the city would save an estimated \$400,000 annually in costs associated with the five buildings.

7. Since 1982, the state of Illinois began funding for sexual assault services. In more recent years, Cook County also began to provide funding for these services. The City of Chicago has never provided funding for sexual assault services. Do you support allocating funding to sexual assault service providers? If so, how would you generate that funding?

Yes, I support funding that can be distributed and managed through the Department of Family and Support Services. I would review the existing budget to identify any potential revenue for services to survivors of sexual assault and human trafficking. I would explore alternative revenues including settlements from civil matters that the city is involved in and seeking additional state and federal dollars through grants.

8. Between January 1, 2018 and November 30, 2018 Chicago has experienced 34 homicides related to domestic violence. Analysis of past data show that domestic violence homicides generally account for ten percent of the overall homicide rate. In 2018, a large number of domestic violence related homicides were committed with a firearm. What steps will your office take, if any, to address domestic violence related gun violence? How will you address the removal of FOID cards from domestic violence offenders?

As I stated previously, the overlap between domestic and gun violence is an area where I believe we have a lot of work to do. Gun violence is a serious problem in our community and we cannot ignore the relationship between gun offenders and domestic violence. The existing domestic violence related gun prohibitions and use of the FOID law to remove weapons are underutilized and I would use my policy experts, the Chicago Police Department and other departments in my administration to identify plans to do better.

I will commit CPD resources to partner with service agencies to develop and conduct training to all members of CPD and will increase the number of detectives to ensure that domestic violence crimes are being effectively responded to.