



Candidate Name: Nick Ward

Office Sought: Alderperson

Ward: 48

Campaign Committee Name: Neighbors for Nick Ward

Campaign Website: www.nickward48.com

Campaign Finance

- 1. Running a political campaign is expensive, and candidates without deep pockets or wealthy connections often can't afford to compete. Would you support a public campaign financing program for Chicago city elections, such as a small donor matching or voucher "Democracy Dollars" program? Would you include the new elected school board and Police District Council in a public financing program?**

Yes and Yes

- 2. Currently, entities doing (or seeking to do) business with the City are limited to contributing \$1,500 to City officials' campaigns. But the limitation [does not extend to officers](#) or other high-level employees of those entities, who can still contribute thousands to officials making decisions about contracts with their companies. Would you support eliminating this loophole, as [cities like New York](#) have?**

Yes

- 3. Would you support reducing the City's campaign contribution limit from lobbyists and city vendors from \$1500 to \$750 or another number? Feel free to explain.**

I support prohibiting lobbyists and city vendors from making campaign contributions.



- 4. Do you support any other campaign finance or other reforms that could make the system more transparent and ethical, and make it easier for people of diverse backgrounds to run for office?**

I support reforms that take special interest and corporate money out of politics. Adopting ranked-choice voting for Chicago municipal elections would also remove the need for a runoff and require less spending.

Elections

- 1. Ranked-choice voting (RCV) has been adopted around the country as a way of eliminating low-turnout primaries and making elections more democratic. Do you support the adoption of ranked choice voting (RCV) for Chicago's mayoral elections?**

[Click here for more information about ranked-choice voting.](#)

Yes

- 2. Do you support the adoption of ranked choice voting (RCV) for aldermanic and other city offices?**

[Click here for more information about ranked-choice voting.](#)

Yes

- 3. The petition gathering and challenge process can make it hard for some good candidates to make it onto the ballot. Would you support state-level efforts to reform the system and, if so, what would you propose?**

Yes, I would support state-level efforts to reform the ballot access system. I would support reforms that prohibit opponents from weaponizing frivolous petition challenges.



4. **Proposals to reform the petition process include allowing digital on-site signatures (e.g. HB 4966), online signatures, or instituting a maximum number of signatures per office. What are your thoughts on these ideas?**

I support all these reforms. These reforms would make our ballot access system more accessible, transparent, and efficient.

General

1. **Have you had any past experience with good governance and reform efforts? If so, we're eager to hear about it.**

Examples of good governance and reform efforts: government transparency and accessibility, ethics, voting and elections, campaign finance.

No.

2. **Would you support an effort to reduce the size of the Chicago City Council? If so, what is your ideal number of wards/alderpeople? If not, please explain.**

Maybe. Without public financing or ranked choice voting, reducing the number of alderpeople on City Council will lead to a further concentration of corporate-backed, political insiders and stifle efforts to upend the status quo that has harmed working class Chicagoans for decades.

3. **Recent news reports assert that some Chicago City Council committees rarely meet and may function more as remnants of a patronage system than as effective governing bodies. In your opinion, should the number of committees be reduced from nineteen? Are there any other reforms to the committee system you would propose?**

The committee system exists to serve Chicagoans across a variety of industries and issues. I would support reforms to the committee system that allow committee chairs to be chosen by the City Council, agendas set by those committee chairs, and introduce legislation that calls for a minimum number of committee meetings.



- 4. Do you believe that Chicago’s mayor and city council must do more to limit “aldermanic prerogative”? Why or why not? If so, what steps do you think should be taken to limit it?**

I believe aldermanic prerogative should be reformed to be more transparent, uniform, and democratic. I believe that the people of the 48th Ward should have the final say in what gets built, licensed, or permitted in the ward.

Ethics

- 1. How will you work to ensure city leaders elevate the needs of the public over personal or special interests?**

I would support legislation prohibiting elected officials from having additional jobs or business and financial interests.

- 2. Should candidates for mayor have to disclose their tax returns for the past two years?**

Yes

- 3. Do you believe the Chicago City Council should become more independent of the mayor? If so, please explain the specific changes you’d like to see.**

Yes. I support the City Council democratically electing their own committee chairs. I will work with my colleagues on the City Council to make ordinances introduced in committee publicly available 48 hours in advance.