



Candidate Name: Brandon Johnson

Office Sought: Mayor

Ward: N/A

Campaign Committee Name: Friends of Brandon Johnson

Campaign Website: <http://www.brandonforchicago.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

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.**

Yes



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?

Yes

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?

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. The number of petition challenges this year hit a 40-year low. That process could use more scrutiny.

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?

New and more accessible methods of signature gathering, such as digital and online, should be allowed and encouraged.



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.

I have current experience, as a clout-heavy political action committee created by close allies of Lori Lightfoot — and flush with cash from firms doing business with the City — has begun attacking our people-powered campaign for mayor. Read more:

<https://www.wbez.org/stories/how-chicago-mayor-gets-around-campaign-finance-rules/b6239f60-6d9f-45ac-a1ab-120c4c2291e1>.

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.**

I have seen analysis that suggests a smaller City Council would reduce the City budget by more than \$1 million. That is one reason a reduction could be considered.

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?**

I don't think the specific number is the problem. We need vacancies filled in a timely manner, and committee members who take their responsibilities seriously, and who understand the critical role that these committees play in making sure City Council functions efficiently.



- 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?**

A better consideration would be for Council members to commit to a more open, transparent, and non-transactional government, and then provide leadership focused on working cooperatively and serving the common good of their constituents.

Ethics

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

The campaign finance and other transparency reforms discussed throughout this questionnaire will help to achieve this end, and if it's good for the people of the city of Chicago, I will support.

- 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, such as Council committee chairs selecting committee members.