



Illinois Latino Agenda



2015 Chicago Mayoral Candidate Questionnaire

About:

The Illinois Latino Agenda—the largest coalition of Latino-led nonprofits in the state—invited each candidate running for Mayor of Chicago to respond to a questionnaire focused on issues salient to Latino residents. The questionnaire contains 14 questions spanning the following topics: governance; education; workforce and economic development; community safety; immigration; housing and health care.

With nearly 50 member organizations across the Chicago metropolitan region, the Illinois Latino Agenda reaches more than 250,000 people each year in a wide range of areas including health care, family services, education and small business development.

As a coalition of 501(c)(3) organizations, the Illinois Latino Agenda, is not permitted to make endorsements. Rather, its goal is to foster greater civic participation in the upcoming election by equipping voters with information about each candidate vying to serve as Mayor of Chicago. Latino voters, a growing share of the city's electorate, will play a major role in determining this election.

Mission:

The Illinois Latino Agenda is committed to securing equitable resources and investment for Latinos while building their power, influence and leadership.

Members:

Alivio Medical Center; Arden Shore Child & Family Services; Aspira of Illinois; Association House of Chicago; Association of Latinos(nas) Motivating Action; Casa Central; Centro de Informacion; Chicago Commons; Chicago Hispanic Health Coalition; Chicago Run; Corazon Community Services; El Hogar del Niño; El Valor; Enlace Chicago; Erie Neighborhood House; Family Focus; Gads Hill Center; Healthcare Alternative Systems; Hispanic Alliance for Career Enhancement; Hispanic American Community Education and Services; Hispanic Housing Development Corporation; Illinois Association of Hispanic State Employees; Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; Illinois Latino Council on Higher Education; Illinois Latino Resource Center; Instituto del Progreso Latino; Interfaith Leadership Project; La Casa Norte; La Voz Latina; Latino Organization of the Southwest; Latino Resources; Latinos Progresando; LUCHA; LULAC – Illinois; Mujeres Latinas en Accion; National Latino Education Institute; National Museum of Mexican Art; Onward Neighborhood House; Puerto Rican Agenda; Salud Latina; San Jose Obrero Mission; Spanish Coalition for Housing; Spanish Community Center; The Resurrection Project and Youth Service Project.

The coalition is co-convened by the Latino Policy Forum, MALDEF and the Illinois Latino Family Commission.

Illinois Latino Agenda

2015 Chicago Mayoral Candidate Questionnaire

Issue: Governance | As Mayor, what is the most important thing you can do to improve the lives of Latinos living in Chicago and how will that be reflected in your budget priorities?



Rahm Emanuel

The most important thing we can do to improve the lives of all residents in Chicago is to ensure that every child has access to a high-quality public school, every family feels safe in their community, and we continue creating jobs across the city. In the last four years we have added more than 200 hours to the school day and year, ending decades of Chicago having the least educational time of any large school district in the country. We implemented full-day kindergarten for every Chicago child, and are expanding pre-k to all four year olds who qualify for free or reduced lunch. My comprehensive public safety strategy is focused on expanded prevention programs for at-risk youth, smarter community policing strategies, and empowering parents to reduce violence in their neighborhoods. I have attracted numerous companies to Chicago and reduced taxes and red tape for neighborhood small businesses, while investing in the infrastructure, public transportation, open space and cultural attractions that make Chicago a great place to live, work, and play. I will continue to make substantial investments in children and neighborhoods, so that we can continue to move forward together - leaving no neighborhood, no family, and no child behind.



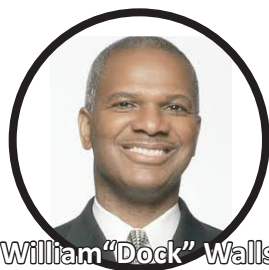
Bob Fioretti

Latinos, and a large majority of Chicagoans, suffer from economic disparities, unsafe neighborhoods, and poor school policies. I believe the most important thing I can do to improve the lives of Latinos is to focus on bringing good-paying jobs, world-class schools and safe neighborhoods to all of Chicago.



Jesus "Chuy" Garcia

My main focus will be reducing gang and gun violence by staffing the police force adequately, training them to implement true community policing, ensuring that they do not compromise their ability to serve by assuming immigration enforcement duties and that they assist victims of domestic violence by referring them to the appropriate community organizations. I will strengthen our local public schools and make them the center of neighborhood life and activity. I will work equally hard to create new jobs and opportunities for our fellow Chicagoans who want to work, and ensure that Latinos have meaningful access to training and job opportunities. Finally, my administration will back fair and equitable pension reform and reduce the city's massive deficit. This is the kind of leadership the people of Chicago deserve.



William "Dock" Walls

As mayor, I will make certain all service provided by the city of Chicago are readily available to all residents. We will especially focus on proactively ensuring access beyond language barriers. Our 311 and 911 call centers will be staffed by multi-lingual persons who are able to immediately route calls to an agent who can translate or otherwise handle the call. We will decentralize city government and open service offices in local communities. These offices will be staffed by people who are aware of and sensitive to the needs of residents of that particular community. We will ensure that all persons have an equal opportunity to work or contract with the city. My budget will adequately reflect those priorities.



Willie Wilson

Unemployment for minorities is a major concern for me and the citizens of Chicago. Latinos living in Chicago have an employment rate of about 12%. Bringing new jobs to the city and promoting the hiring of minorities is one the best ways I can improve the lives of Latinos living in Chicago.

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Issue: Governance | What tangible steps would you take to ensure that Latino residents are equitably represented in executive, leadership and decision-making positions in City Hall and departments of city government?



Rahm Emanuel

I believe City Hall should reflect Chicago's diversity, which is why my administration's leadership comes from all parts and all communities of the city. My senior staff and Cabinet includes Latinos from neighborhoods across the city – including my Director for Legislative Counsel and Governmental Affairs, Fire Department Commissioner, Commissioner of the Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection, Commissioner of the Department of Family and Support Services, and Chief Small Business Officer, and this trend will continue in my second term. I also created the City's first Office of New Americans, which is housed in the Mayor's Office to ensure issues affecting new Americans are integrated into every decision we make.



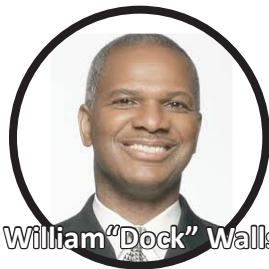
Bob Fioretti

The City of Chicago is supposed to be an equal opportunity employer, and yet we see a lack of Latino employment across the board. As Mayor, I would make sure that all Chicagoans have equal access to all city jobs including those in executive, leadership and decision-making positions by making employment announcements readily available in English and Spanish. We can increase awareness of job opportunities by collaborating with community organizations to expand our outreach to qualified candidates. It's especially important that we set this precedent for Latino success for our children and future generations by providing job fairs and workshops to further prepare Latinos to apply. We must invest in programs that specifically target the community to develop leadership pipelines into executive positions. It is critical especially for Latino youth, that they see their representation in positions of influence not just in government, but also in business, the arts, and the non-profit sector. Therefore, supporting existing leadership development programs and creating new ones geared toward attracting and retaining Latino talent, must be a priority.



Jesus "Chuy" Garcia

The face of all of Chicago must be represented in City Hall. I will reach out to all communities; but especially our marginalized and under-represented communities to let them know that my administration welcomes their participation and input. I would restore the ethnic advisory councils to the Chicago Commission on Human Relations, including the Latino Advisory Council. I saw how these Councils were meaningful forms of communication between Chicago's ethnic communities and city government under Mayors like Harold Washington. Their power and influence over time has been reduced, and under this administration they were disbanded. Under my administration, a Latino advisory council would be considered an integral part of creating and implementing city policies that reflect the needs of Latinos, and a direct line of communication between Latinos and government. This body would also be key to ensuring that qualified and talented individuals from the Latino community are considered for leadership positions in the city and are represented when it comes to decision-making.



William "Dock" Walls

My administration will include Latinos at the highest levels in city government. I will appoint a fair number of Latino men and women to serve as city department heads. Additionally, I will appoint Latinos to Boards and Commissions and ensure their roles are significant and Latino influence is expansive.



Willie Wilson

As mayor of Chicago I will be committed to having a diverse staff. I want the decisions makers to reflect the diverse population of our city. I would begin by making sure that my personal staff is reflective of all minorities. I would then make sure agency leadership is also diverse.

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Issue: Education | Latino children have inadequate access to preschool in Chicago, despite increased slot capacity Citywide. The City's centralized enrollment system for school-based preschool has made it more difficult for low-income Latinos to enroll their children. How will your administration ensure that high-need Latino children have adequate access to preschool?



Rahm Emanuel

I have made it a priority to ensure every Chicago child has access to high-quality pre school – no matter who they are or where they live. Early childhood education is key for the future success of our children, and it is why I have made the investments needed to provide free pre-K for all 25,000 four-year-olds from low-income families. Over the next four years, I will double down on this commitment to early education by tripling the number of full-day CPS pre-k programs, providing opportunities to an additional 4,000 children. Evelyn Diaz, my commissioner overseeing this effort, has been working actively with community groups to ensure every child has access to these programs.

Ensuring a child's success will also require keeping parents engaged in their child's work, which is why I will double CPS's Parent Engagement Centers. These Centers have been a critical tool to improving student learning by helping parents become computer-savvy and offering GED, ESL, and other courses. In addition, the City is also investing \$125,000 by the end of the year to identify a partner to implement a program that will include parent engagement efforts and support for immigrant families in navigating early education opportunities.



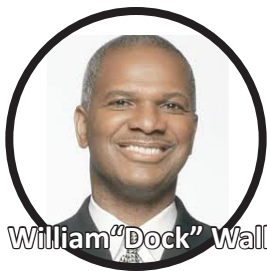
Bob Fioretti

All centralized city systems should be inclusive of all Chicagoans. As Mayor, I would ensure that all children of Latino communities have access to adequate preschool by exploring merging of sections of Chicago's Department of Children and Family Services under the CPS umbrella. This transition will also help expand the community schools model and make our neighborhood anchors a viable hub of youth education, family development, adult education, and essential health services. All of Chicago's children must have access to high quality education and it starts with preschool.



Jesus "Chuy" Garcia

I support quality universal pre-school, a long overdue policy to prepare our children for the future. Universal pre-school will require more funding and changes at the state and federal levels and I will use my Mayoral office to fight for these changes. In the meantime the City must reform its enrollment system for school-based preschool so that it reflects the needs of all Chicago's communities, including Latino families. Specifically, I would de-centralize the enrollment system and put teachers, parents, and local schools at the center of education. Parents should be able to visit their neighborhood schools and enroll in the program. The teachers who best know our communities should be at the front lines as ambassadors for early education. In addition, I would implement intentional, linguistically, and culturally appropriate outreach that informs families about their eligibility, the enrollment process, and opportunities for parent's involvement in their children's education. This outreach would take place in partnership community institutions, such as advocacy organizations, churches, and community centers that already have roots in the neighborhoods. Lastly, I would make hiring multi-lingual staff a priority, including Spanish-speaking staff, and implement professional training for staff development.



William "Dock" Walls

As Mayor, I will ensure that an adequate number of pre-school slots are maintained for Latino children. We will decentralize the enrollment process and assign authority to the regional and local CPS offices.



Willie Wilson

One of the reasons the centralized enrollment system has impacted Latino children is because the enrollment process has been removed from their local school system. Instead, now parents must bring the application to one of 24 designated sites. The process also requires proof of income and government assistance. Removing the community/local aspect of the application process has created barriers. I would work to improve the enrollment system and make it more user friendly; if this means removing the designated application sites and allowing the parents to apply for preschool at their local schools, I would make the required changes to the system.

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Issue: Education | How would you ensure that the City Colleges of Chicago increase access, completion-rates and successful transitions to four-year universities among Latino students while continuing to support and sustain community satellite sites?



Rahm Emanuel

Through sweeping changes at the City Colleges of Chicago (CCC), including linking course work to jobs in fast-growing industries, the graduation rate has doubled from 7 percent and is on track to triple by the end of 2018. I am focused on helping more Chicago students get to college and ensure that we are also preparing them for good-paying jobs and careers. To make sure that CPS students can take advantage of this progress, we have started the Chicago STAR Scholarship – offering free college tuition to any public school student who graduates with a B average or better, including undocumented students. We are also building upon our growing dual credit/dual enrollment program, which provides students with opportunities to earn City Colleges credit while still in high school, by increasing the number of high school seniors from roughly 300 students in 2011 to more than 6000 in 2016. We will also continue to seek out new opportunities with four-year universities, such as the recently announced partnership between Von Steuben High School and the Illinois Institute of Technology.

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Bob Fioretti

Students are more likely to do well in school and transfer to four-year universities if they have a strong support system inside the institution. Students must have knowledgeable and encouraging academic advisors, knowledgeable professors and thoughtful mentors to succeed. Advisors need to build relationships with students to better formulate academic plans, counsel major selection, and prepare students for transitioning to four-year universities. Encouraging students to participate in school organizations will increase their leadership, communication and interpersonal relationship skills. Holding professors and advisors accountable by conducting anonymous and constructive surveys is key to long-term improvement. City College must also have efficient, bilingual tutors, writing and math centers, and proper mental help assistance for students.

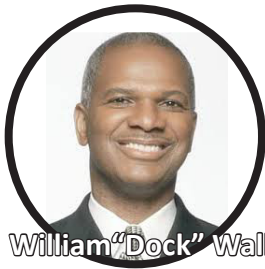
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Jesus "Chuy" Garcia

I am committed to improving the graduation rates of youth from pre-school to graduate school. However, the City Colleges present a unique set of challenges. I am concerned with the lack of Latino(a) representation in the administration in Colleges. Even in the identified "Hispanic Serving Institutions," the personnel are not representative of the student body, and that should be changed. In addition, we need to provide student support services for academic deficiencies that affect the student population. If the students are predominantly Latino, support services that are specific to that population should be provided. All students are in need of special academic components that lead them to successful outcomes (i.e., tutoring, counseling, specialized programs) but the job market has specific, identified shortages such as lack of bilingual personnel in healthcare. We should develop programming to prepare students to meet this need. Communities with the lowest graduation rates must receive special attention and resources to correct this inequity. Education experts have a wealth of evidence about programs that work, including those that work specifically with immigrant and undocumented students. I would also work to remove artificial barriers that hamper the success of students without documents.

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William "Dock" Walls

We will enhance the City Colleges ESL programs. Additionally, we will include classes which focus on Latino history, culture and heritage. We will make certain that there are Latinos on the City Colleges Board of Trustees. All members of the Board will be directed to exhibit sensitivity to the special needs of Latino student. We will liaison with four colleges and universities to advocate for the admission of Latino graduates and associate degree earners.

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Willie Wilson

Partnerships with four-year universities is key to successful transfers for all students. It is imperative that graduation and transitions to other universities be promoted and marketed to Latino students. I would encourage City Colleges to focus their marketing and promotion events in a targeted fashion so that Latino students are properly informed and motivated.

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Issue: Workforce and Economic Development | The City of Chicago has consolidated and transferred several job training programs to the City Colleges of Chicago and Cook County Government. How will your administration improve access to job training programs among Latino residents?



Rahm Emanuel

By working with Cook County, we merged three separate workforce boards to form the Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership. The merger produced \$2 million in annual savings that were reinvested in strengthening the Partnership's outreach to private employers. Since July 2012, more than 15,000 people have been placed in employment and nearly 19,000 are currently enrolled in training programs. In the second term, I will continue to support the efforts of the Partnership to place residents from across the city in quality jobs, including residents of predominantly Latino neighborhoods.

Last year, we partnered with World Business Chicago to launch the 1000 Manufacturing Jobs initiative, which connects residents to well-paid open manufacturing jobs in the metropolitan area. By partnering with Instituto Del Progreso Latino, we will conduct extensive outreach in Latino communities to ensure that more are able to take advantage of manufacturing jobs opportunities.

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Bob Fioretti

I will collaborate with community organizations, CPS schools and City Colleges so Latinos and all those in need can have access to frequent, quality job training programs. There is a noticeable lack of bilingual literature advertising these public services. Through work with Spanish-speaking natives, I hope to create a broader awareness and interest across the city.

Access to jobs and contracts continues to be a major issue that affects many of our neighborhoods. That's why I want to make sure that local companies have access to contract opportunities on public works projects in the city. I will work to ensure that bids for public works projects are unbundled, thus making it easier for smaller business to take advantage of contract opportunities. In addition, we have a responsibility to make sure the local Chicago companies get top priority in bidding for local projects. We know that this is one way to help businesses grow to the next level.

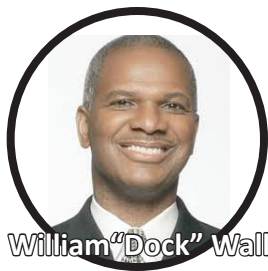
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Jesus "Chuy" Garcia

As Mayor I would create strategic partnerships with businesses, private foundations, and community-based organizations to create ladders of opportunity for quality jobs and successful careers and offer training based in our neighborhoods, not just downtown. In addition, I would increase public funding and work to get greater commitments from private funders to promote adult education programs that help Latinos earn their high school diploma, learn English, and become familiar with new technology. These job trainings and educational opportunities must be accessible to non-English speakers, particularly in communities with large immigrant populations. I will also designate specific funding for training initiatives of those new to the workforce, specifically youth, new immigrants, and those newly eligible for the President's deferred action initiatives. Lastly, I would support Latino entrepreneurs who will provide more jobs and opportunities for all Chicagoans by connecting them with financial assistance and providing financial education to assure their success.

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William "Dock" Walls

We will make certain various jobs training programs are easily accessible for Latino students. We will increase the number of bi-lingual instructors to fully improve the educational experience of Latino students. Additionally, we will make certain the Latino community has input into the development of the jobs training curriculum.

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Willie Wilson

My administration will examine the existing job training programs offered by the City and determine which programs are working the best. We will eliminate programs that are underperforming and allocate those resources to the best performing. Minorities suffer from higher unemployment rates and therefore our job training dollars should be aimed at assisting the most in need.

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2015 Chicago Mayoral Candidate Questionnaire

Issue: Workforce and Economic Development | How would

your administration encourage job creation in Latino communities, particularly among new high-tech employers establishing or expanding their presence in Chicago?



Rahm Emanuel

I am committed to bringing economic growth and vitality to every corner of Chicago, and I have taken measures to increase opportunities and resources to help entrepreneurs to start their small businesses and support existing small business owners to grow their businesses. For example, we launched the Neighborhood Small Business Growth Strategy, the City's first strategy designed for neighborhood small business growth, and I started the New Americans Small Business Series, quarterly events in neighborhoods across the city, such as the annual small business Expo for the Latino community, that provide technical advice on how to start a small business, navigate the licensing process, comply with tax laws, interact with chambers of commerce, and access capital.

In addition, I have worked with companies like Gogo, Ford Motor Company, and Meade Electric to create quality jobs in the city, and I have created the conditions for technology start-ups and advanced manufacturing to grow and thrive. I will build upon these successes by connecting workers to available manufacturing jobs through the 1000 Manufacturing Jobs Initiative, and by growing Chicago's current base of more than 60 incubators and co-working spaces by adding incubators in the neighborhoods.

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Bob Fioretti

As Alderman of one of the most diverse wards, I have experience integrating new businesses into the community. As Mayor, I will sit down with new businesses coming into the city and ensure they hire workers representative of the communities they serve. In addition to making sure Chicago has a robust workforce development system that trains residents for jobs of the future, it is imperative that the city maximizes the impact of development projects in our various neighborhoods. Community Benefits Agreements (CBAs) are a vital tool to ensure projects are of maximum value-add to our local neighborhoods. Bob would like to mandate Community Benefits Agreements for all projects above a certain dollar amount. This ensures that community development is community driven and benefits not just developers, but the communities their projects inhabit.

Latinos need access to programs that will enhance their abilities and allow them to acquire cutting edge skills, especially in the technology sector. BLUE1647 is an entrepreneurship and technology innovation center focused on professional development through classes and workshops, workforce development in technology and other high-value skills, which can serve as a model for use in other areas.

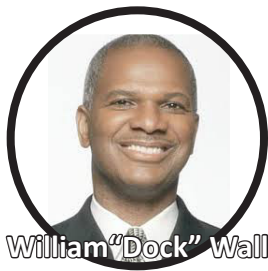
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Jesus "Chuy" Garcia

We have invested heavily in developing the downtown area and making it more attractive for the last 20 years. The prosperity of downtown is great, but we have left behind our neighborhoods, including Latino communities. Vibrant neighborhoods attract investment. That is why we need to ensure that all communities have safe streets, good schools and local retail options for shopping, as well as affordable housing opportunities. As Mayor, I will implement strategies to help small businesses operate more effectively and efficiently so they their workers can have a livable wage and their businesses can hire new workers. I will also work collaboratively with surrounding communities to fund our airports and other transportation modes, secure stable power sources, and strengthen communication lines. These are the necessary ingredients to continued economic growth and the job creation. Additionally, I would limit city incentives to businesses, including high-tech employers that are willing to hire local, and provide quality jobs with basic benefits.

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William "Dock" Walls

My administration will expand STEM programs in all CPS schools. We will develop methods to grater interest girls in the pursuit of STEM anchored careers. We will make certain to involve an adequate percentage of Latino instructors and counsellors.

We will work to develop the capacity and market strength those local businesses which are focused upon technology. This will ensure jobs of all Chicago youth.

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Willie Wilson

Job creation and economic development is my key issue. I believe in economic empowerment and stimulating the growth of communities through strong, new business opportunities. I want to ensure that city contracts benefit Chicago businesses and Chicagoans. The City of Chicago hands out contracts with a value of over \$2 billion dollars of goods and services each and every year. I would like to see more minority-owned businesses awarded business. In addition, I would work to attract new businesses to the City of Chicago and place them in key areas of the city where economic growth is most needed.

Illinois Latino Agenda

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Issue: Community Safety | Improving the well-being and stability of youth is critical to promoting community safety. What is your plan to invest in the leadership, training and development of Latino youth in Chicago?



Rahm Emanuel

There has been no greater priority than the safety and education of all of Chicago's children, which is why I convened the Mayor's Commission for a Safer Chicago, which is comprised of over 130 City staff, community and faith leaders, practitioners, subject matter experts, parents, and youth, to update the City's plan to address the cycle of violence by addressing its root causes. Building on the success of the One Summer Chicago Program, the Commission made several recommendations focused on the training and development of youth, including: developing a pilot a common curriculum focused on workforce readiness and career planning during the summer, designing a "training bridge" to continue workforce skills training after the completion of summer jobs, cultivating richer employer partnerships to increase the availability of job opportunities for youth and prepare youth to be successful in those jobs, and surveying 1000 One Summer Chicago Plus participants to assess their skills, interests and educational needs, and use the survey results to connect them to existing year-round education and employment opportunities.

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After working for an elected school board, I will work to bring vocational and trade studies back into CPS and also establish leadership training and development courses in high schools throughout the city. I also want to expand on the innovation technology and business incubator BLUE1647 located in Pilsen. This model trains young people from the community in high value-add sectors like information technology, advanced manufacturing, and other high-paying skills. It provides tools to help build entrepreneurs which can empower youth to build wealth in their community.

Latino youth need access to better resources and support. I previously suggested using TIFs to fund a summer jobs program for city youth. This program would help teach valuable life skills and put money directly into the economy of neighborhoods that need it.

After the unprecedented CPS closings, the overwhelming majority of which affected children of color, we should reevaluate its priorities. Public schools have to be accessible to all of Chicago's children and must be a way to give opportunity to all. With the help and input of business leaders and employers, I will overhaul the vocational program at CPS to determine what will adequately prepare students for the future.

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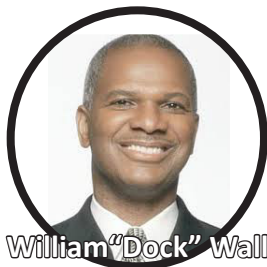
Job creation and economic development strategies for our neighborhoods are critical to improving safety. But there aren't enough decent jobs with living wages and many Latino youth don't have the education or training to secure other work. As Mayor I would prioritize the creation of programs that support families by building and protecting spaces where residents can thrive from a young age. I would invest in quality local schools, libraries, parks and community justice hubs that will work hand in hand with community residents to create opportunities for youth and decrease violence. Those who have committed acts of violence need to be held accountable, but in most cases they also deserve to learn from their errors, make restitution and forge productive and meaningful lives. My wife and I raised three children in Little Village; I know the anxiety of parents when gunshots ring out in our neighborhoods. As Mayor, I would establish a clear protocol for helping residents heal after traumatic events and be held accountable for their actions. Finally, mental illness plays a crucial role in the cycle of violence. We must implement new ways to fund and coordinate mental health services for high-risk and high-need Latino youth.

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We will invest more into the development of families in all communities, including the Latino community. My administration will spend more on education, rehabilitation, and skill development and less on incarceration. Latino youth will have access to after school and summer jobs. We will offer incentive for youth to encourage their participation in community and civic events.

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All current youth programs will be examined and the best performing programs will be revitalized and enhanced to provide the best services to the greatest number of children. We need to make sure that we operate the city within our budget. Unfortunately, for years we have operated with more than we have had to spend and that has resulted in a fiscal crisis. We need to make sure the services provided are being used appropriately and generating results.



William "Dock" Walls



Willie Wilson

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Issue: Community Safety | Schools contribute to the school-to-prison pipeline by utilizing punitive approaches to discipline, including suspension, expulsion, or arrest, rather than a restorative approaches to conflict resolution. As Mayor, how would you promote restorative justice practices that focus on resolving youth issues and restoring justice to the offended, while not criminalizing youth?



Rahm Emanuel

Youth who are engaged in school and learning are at lower risk of violence. CPS has worked with stakeholders and partners to develop strategies that get students to school; keep them on track by overcoming academic hurdles; and replace the zero tolerance discipline policies with “restorative practices” that prevent and de-escalate conflict by addressing the underlying causes of personal conflicts and misconduct. In fact, we’ve seen a 30% decline in out-of-school suspensions, referrals for expulsions and arrests of students.

The Mayor’s Commission for a Safer Chicago made recommendations designed to further engage schools, parents, community members in the use of these restorative practices, including to: develop a plan and seek funding to establish three new community-based justice hubs available to schools and community members, which employ restorative practices; train and bring parents into at least four new schools to help lead and participate in restorative practices; launch a challenge grant program for principals to develop and implement proposals to employ Restorative Practices in their schools; and create a Restorative Practices ‘Toolkit’ that can be used to assist schools in adopting Restorative Practices.



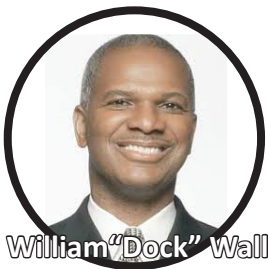
Bob Fioretti

Restorative justice practice must be part and parcel of the city’s public safety and education strategies. I have always been a staunch advocate for the expansion of restorative justice practice in schools because I believe it builds accountability to the community and allows spaces for healing and conflict resolution. Restorative Justice is a critical diversionary tactic that prevents young people from ever having contact with the criminal justice system, thus thwarting the school to prison pipeline. Punitive approaches to discipline and an administration that has consistently refused to fully fund public neighborhood schools with resources have only contributed to the school to prison pipeline. I believe expanding restorative justice practice in schools will equip youth and adults with conflict resolution skills, strengthen the fabric of community and inter-school relationships, and build trust. Restorative Justice practice treats youth like human beings. By humanizing our youth, we can better understand how best to address their needs.



Jesus “Chuy” Garcia

I have supported restorative justice practices throughout my career as legislator and a community organizer. Last November under the leadership of County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, we announced a significant investment for community-based restorative justice programs. As Mayor, I will work to continue to support community-based interventions, including restorative justice programs that channel youth toward non-violent conflict resolution counseling, mentoring and job training. I am also committed to working to eliminate the school to prison pipeline. Too many young people, especially youth of color from low-income communities, are pushed out of school and into the juvenile justice system, and then the criminal system. In addition to the human cost, the \$78,000 it takes a year to keep a young person in prison in Illinois could be better spent on public grade school and high school education, counseling, and strategies to set our young people onto a path to college and productive work. Lastly, I would ensure that officers are trained to serve and protect all residents, regardless of race, sexual orientation, gender-identity or immigration status. When police take on immigrations enforcement responsibilities, or break the trust with the communities they serve, they compromise their ability to protect and serve Chicagoans.



William “Dock” Walls

We will enact an holistic Restorative Justice program for Chicago Public School students. This program will make certain both the offender and victim receive equal attention. We will utilize circles, peer conferences, and restorative discussions, non-judgmental spaces for students who violate administrative rules, those affected, and members of the school community to discuss violations and thereby ensure fair accountability, and collectively all stakeholders shall agree upon solutions designed to repair the damage.



Willie Wilson

Applying restorative justice into our schools will promote the learning environment and provide effective ways to address behavior issues at school. I would create task force to analyze restorative justice policies already in place and determine what changes, if any, need to be made. Addressing behavior issues in a restorative justice manner rather than punitive can lead to long term benefits like controlling impulses and teaching proper social skills. We need to provide a safe, positive environment for children to learn and restorative justice policies is a terrific tool.

Illinois Latino Agenda

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Issue: Immigration | What immigrant integration policies would your administration pursue in order to spur economic development and enhance the quality of life for immigrants in Chicago?



Rahm Emanuel

I am committed to making Chicago the most immigrant-friendly city in the country, which is why shortly after taking office I established the Office of New Americans, the first City office dedicated to immigrant integration, and I convened an advisory committee comprised of 50 community leaders and stakeholders from various sectors across the city to help develop the Chicago New Americans Plan, the first of its kind for any major city in the country. Though this comprehensive plan, I have undertaken a series of actions to welcome and protect Chicago's diverse immigrant communities, improve access to city services, support immigrant children and parents in our schools, and expand new and existing immigrant businesses. Some of these initiative include opening up nearly 23,000 internship and job opportunities for DREAMers, launching the 'Cities for Citizenship' campaign to expand Citizenship Corners at our libraries and increase naturalization rates, and starting the New Americans Small Business Series of quarterly events, creating temporary one-stop-shops that foster small business growth in immigrant communities throughout Chicago.

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Bob Fioretti

Our primary responsibility to immigrants is ensuring that we remove barriers that prevent them from being able to fully integrate into our city. Integration requires access to critical documents such as drivers' licenses and information that can help immigrants get acclimated to building a life in the city of Chicago. In addition, many immigrants seek to become small business owners. As mayor, I will work to ensure that we streamline the business licensing process as well as pay special attention to our independent entrepreneurs. I will work to make sure that the Latino community has extensive access to town halls and other opportunities to hear first-hand about resources made available to the community that will assist in helping to make life easier. Part of this includes expanding technical assistance to small business owners, ensuring that all city documentation is available in Spanish, and bringing city resources to the community by hosting meetings, informational sessions and seminars in the neighborhoods at locations familiar to residents, instead of having residents come to City Hall.

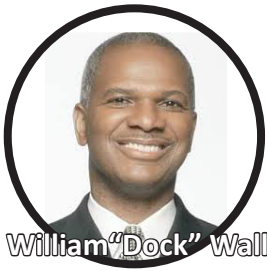
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Jesus "Chuy" Garcia

My history of being on the side of integration and immigrant rights has been consistent in the community and in government. As Mayor, I envision a city that works hard so everyone who chooses to make this city their home has access to the same benefits and protections as every other Chicago resident, regardless of immigration status. To start, I would restore the ethnic advisory councils to the Chicago Commission on Human Relations that were disbanded under the current administration, and restore their function as integral to representation and influence of minorities on government. Other priorities of my administration when it comes to enhancing the life of immigrants in Chicago include supporting immigrants applying for immigration benefits; working closely with social service and advocacy agencies so that they have the information and resources necessary to respond to the needs of immigrant communities—expanding protections for immigrants so that they enjoy at a minimum the protections afforded under similar Cook County policies concerning the separation between police and immigration enforcement; creating a municipal identification card for all Chicago residents accessible regardless of immigration status; and improving language-access. Integration strategies should include support for economic development for Latinos and immigrant communities.

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William "Dock" Walls

As mayor, I will ensure Balanced Economic Development throughout the entire city of Chicago. Consequently, I will guarantee good jobs which pay a living wage. Our department of Planning and Department of Economic Development will be ever vigilant in their efforts to ensure the economic development needs of minority and immigrant communities are fully addressed.

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Willie Wilson

The creation of a Hispanic/Latino Liaison to improve customer access to City programs would a possible way to provide better improve the lives of immigrants. Providing a contact for the Hispanic community will encourage Latinos to participate in city programs including job training.

Illinois Latino Agenda

2015 Chicago Mayoral Candidate Questionnaire

Issue: Immigration | As Mayor, how will you use your influence with Members of Congress to advance immigration reform at the federal level? What specific tactics will you employ?



Rahm Emanuel

I have worked closely with Congressman Luis Gutierrez to ensure that our city becomes the national gold standard in helping as many people as possible in taking advantage of the President's executive actions on immigration. While we support the President's Administrative Relief, only Congress can finish the job. We will continue to join the overwhelming majority of the American people in pushing Congress on comprehensive immigration reform because it is consistent with our values as a city that has always welcomed and benefited from the contributions of immigrants. Since taking office, I have strengthened our Welcoming City Ordinance, and I have also worked to bring important immigration reforms at the State level by advocating for the IL DREAM Act and for legislation that now allows undocumented immigrants to get a driver's license in Illinois. I have also implemented the CPS IL DREAM Act Counselor Training and personally raised over \$275,000 in private donations for the IL DREAM Fund, so as to ease the path to higher education for undocumented youth. I will continue to push Congress for bipartisan action on immigration reform while we develop and implement immigrant integration initiatives and policies that benefit all Chicagoans, regardless of immigration status.



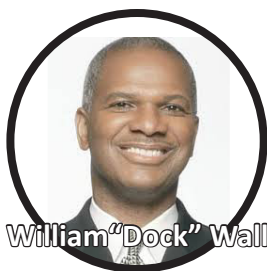
Bob Fioretti

Chicago is a world-class city. As mayor, I am able to use that platform to speak strongly in favor of any and all federal level reforms that advance the agenda for integration into society. As a city, I have touted my support for measures that help immigrants obtain information and resources necessary to thrive in the city. I also believe in the preservation of families and support legislation that is aligned with this belief. I will stand with the immigrants rights community to advance both a city-wide and national immigration agenda.



Jesus "Chuy" Garcia

Immigration is an issue that local elected officials must lead on. I support a national immigration reform that guarantees immigrants the basic rights they need on the job, and in schools; and creates a path to citizenship. That's why as County Commissioner I led the passage of a bill that protected the County from liability while preventing the unconstitutional detention of immigrants. I was proud to be a part of Harold Washington's legacy in making Chicago one of the original sanctuary cities. Local governments may be an unlikely place for taking on national issues, but international cities like Chicago are up for it. As Mayor, I would support the advancement of comprehensive immigration reform by making Chicago a real example of immigrant protection, integration, and support. I would also continue to work closely with immigrant advocacy organizations, elected officials, and community members to defend the recent gains, and continue to work to secure the human and civil rights of all immigrants.



William "Dock" Walls

I support President Obama's Executive Action which makes it easier and faster for high-skilled immigrants, graduates, and entrepreneurs to remain in the U.S. and contribute to our economy. I would direct the Chicago Superintendent of Police to further train all officers to ensure that no one violates the rule or concept, but instead operates in a manner consistent with the spirit of the Executive Action. Chicago police will be instructed that no Chicago resident, or person within our jurisdiction, shall be subject to any scrutiny of the type reserved for Immigrations Customs Enforcement Agents. Under my administration, all persons will be afforded equal service and equal protection under the law.



Willie Wilson

I believe offering our support, and the City of Chicago's support, for appropriate immigration reform on the federal level is important. In light of President Obama's recent changes to immigration we should work to make Chicago a welcoming city.

Illinois Latino Agenda

2015 Chicago Mayoral Candidate Questionnaire

Issue: Housing | Latinos are severely underserved in Chicago Housing Authority programs, particularly the Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher Programs. What would you do to ensure that the Chicago Housing Authority is affirmatively serving Latino households?



Rahm Emanuel

We will continue to fund and support Latino outreach initiatives like Buen HOGAR, a partnership between the CHA and Erie Neighborhood House to provide Spanish language assistance to CHA residents. Whenever possible, CHA will work with partners like the Hispanic Housing Development Corporation to manage scattered sites and other housing types to ensure that Latino residents receive better services that meet their needs.

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Bob Fioretti

The bottom line is that every Chicagoan has a right to affordable, quality housing. My vision of One Chicago that works for everyone means that Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher Programs would be accessible to every citizen that needs such a program and meets the income guidelines for eligibility. I will fight for all families to have equal access to all city resources.

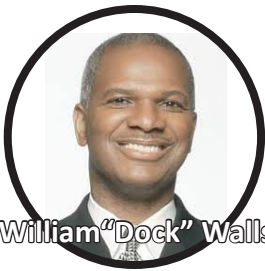
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Jesus "Chuy" Garcia

There are several reforms that I would make as Mayor to improve services of the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) for all Chicagoans, which would address some of the specific needs of the Latino community. For example, as Mayor I would make more housing resources available to families at the greatest risk. I would put to use current unused funding and resources from the CHA including unleased and unoccupied public housing units, and unissued vouchers to immediately help thousands of cost-burdened and at-risk low-income families across the city. In addition, I would make good use of the estimated \$58 million sitting in the city's Affordable Requirements Ordinance fund to create more affordable housing options for low-income families. As Mayor, I would increase participation of Latinos in CHA to an equitable rate, by implementing an intentional, culturally appropriate, and language-appropriate outreach plan. This would include opening additional Latino-friendly satellite offices in community areas, and areas where there is a large percentage of Latino households currently or there has been significant growth of the Latino population.

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William "Dock" Walls

As Mayor, I will make a Commitment to the establishment of Diversity, fight to ensure Inclusion and develop Mixed Income Communities. We will make certain Chicago has a diverse and stable housing stock affordable at all levels throughout the City; This includes Section *, Vouchers, Low income housing, affordable housing and public housing.

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Willie Wilson

I believe we should ensure that there is transparency in CHA programs and provide oversight to the agency. The dollars used to operate the city agencies and provide services are the taxpayers' dollars and should be used appropriately and be respectful of the diverse communities. Ensuring that fair housing is available to all citizens is important.

Illinois Latino Agenda

2015 Chicago Mayoral Candidate Questionnaire

Issue: Housing | Latinos sometimes dwell in overcrowded living conditions rather than allow family members or friends to live on the streets, masking the true prevalence of homelessness among Latinos. How would you address the specific challenges Latinos face with regards to accessing homeless services in Chicago?



Rahm Emanuel

Since taking office, my administration has made significant investments in reducing homelessness, from expanding services for youth to adding beds to serve homeless families. We also worked with housing advocates to pass the Keep Chicago Renting Ordinance and are working with the coalition to implement the ordinance and ensure that tenants are aware of their rights. In my second term, we will build upon these efforts and work to improve our outreach and services in Latino neighborhoods.



Bob Fioretti

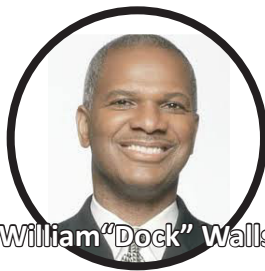
With increasing unemployment and foreclosures in certain communities, as well as the closing of mental health centers, homelessness is a real problem for all of Chicago – particularly women and children across all communities. As Mayor, I would work to create affordable programs to; rehabilitate instead of demolish abandoned properties. I would also work with communities to ensure that all communities have equal access to all Chicago’s resources. I would work with CHA to make sure public housing policies offer equal access to all citizens.

Latinos need access to housing programs and counseling. They need access to jobs and job programs. Students need quality neighborhood schools and access to after-school programs. The job market is tough but Latinos need free programs so they can enhance their leadership, communication and technical skills. I also strongly support the expansion of vocational education programs (specifically, bi-lingual programs) that will help the Latino community take advantage of jobs that are available in high value-add sectors in society. Bringing good high paying jobs means a better chance at permanent housing and stability. Additionally, partnering with non-profits and other agencies to make sure they are doing the appropriate outreach to the community is key.



Jesus "Chuy" Garcia

In this economy, fighting homelessness also includes addressing the needs of Latino families who have lost their homes to foreclosure or can't afford their rents and low-income families. As Mayor, I would fight to raise the minimum wage to \$15, insist on balanced development across the city to address the need for affordable housing, and ensure that the city's housing and development agenda is community driven, not just market driven. Balanced development across the city will have as emphasis closing the affordability gap for families earning less than \$50,000, 34% of which are Latino households according to U.S. census data. I would also put to use current unused funding and resources from the CHA including unleased and unoccupied public housing units and unissued vouchers to immediately help thousands of cost-burdened and at-risk low-income families. Regarding specific challenges to homeless services for Latinos, I would start with the implementation of a language access plan for the city of Chicago, which includes offering culturally-competent, language-appropriate services and multi-lingual staff at shelters and homeless prevention call centers.



William "Dock" Walls

We will hire CHA Spanish speaking caseworkers to assist potential residents in their efforts to find a job, improve their skills, take advantage of educational opportunities, secure decent housing, repair their credit, and expunge their records.



Willie Wilson

The extended family is quickly becoming the nuclear family these days. Especially in minority cultures, the extended family plays a key role. We should look at making changes to the CHA policies that prohibit extended families from residing together in subsidized housing. We should encourage the family bond and work to ensure services are provided to all in need.

Illinois Latino Agenda

2015 Chicago Mayoral Candidate Questionnaire



Issue: Health | The shift of resources away from local or community health clinics has negatively impacted access to health care among undocumented Latino residents. As Mayor, how will your administration address health care issues for undocumented Latino residents who are not covered by the Affordable Care Act?



Rahm Emanuel

In the first six months of 2012 the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) implemented important health reforms that have since improved the quality of services provided to Chicago residents and have made partnerships with community providers across the city stronger. CDPH now partners with Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC's), which are non-profit, community-directed health care providers dedicated to serving low income and medically underserved communities. FQHC's are expected to see everyone, irrespective of their ability to pay and regardless of their immigration status. While we believe that these community health clinics are beneficial for the undocumented community, access to health insurance and the Affordable Care Act is needed. Thus, we will continue to join the overwhelming majority of the American people in pushing Congress to act on comprehensive immigration reform, so that undocumented immigrants have access to a pathway to citizenship and other benefits such as access to health care.



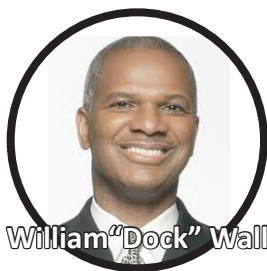
Bob Fioretti

I will meet with Cook County representatives to assure that the County facilities such as Stroger, Provident and Oak Lawn are accessible to all Chicago residents, including those not covered by the Affordable Care Act. I will declare a TIF surplus with the vast sum that is not committed to any specific projects or debt. That money could then be used to reopen our mental health clinics to begin meaningful neighborhood economic development programs. I also believe that ensuring that undocumented immigrants have a pathway to legal work in Chicago where they are able to earn the same healthcare and work benefits as citizens will go far to addressing the lack of health care in the Latino community.



Jesus "Chuy" Garcia

My approach to healthcare is guided by the belief that it is a human right and a matter of public health. As long as federal policy continues to exclude undocumented immigrants, local governments have a responsibility to ensure that all residents can access quality and affordable health services. As Mayor, I will work to ensure that every Chicagoan has access to equitable, high quality, culturally competent, and affordable healthcare, regardless of immigration status. I support community health centers in our neighborhoods that provide free, culturally competent, and language-appropriate services. We must expand preventative services at community clinics, schools and community-based organizations, including community education programs that increase health literacy, encourage healthy behavior and connect community members to health care services. I would actively explore the possible merger of City/County health services in order to provide more comprehensive services for our region and do so in a high quality and efficient manner.



William "Dock" Walls

Accessible Mental Health Clinics are key to stopping the violence in Chicago. Some people are psychotic, delusional, and / or depressed. Many people are walking the streets in a haze. They are in need of treatment or medication. We must make a commitment to treat Mental Illness just as we commit to the treatment of other illnesses and diseases.

Under my administration, the city of Chicago Department of Public Health will act responsibly and make health services programs available for full use by all residents. That includes undocumented residents.



Willie Wilson

Community health centers are critical resources for our most underserved population. My administration would review and analyze the current funding being provided to the community health centers and work to ensure that the dollars are being utilized in the most efficient manner.

Illinois Latino Agenda

2015 Chicago Mayoral Candidate Questionnaire

Issue: Health | How would your administration approach the need to both increase access to mental health services among Latino residents and address the shortage of linguistically and culturally competent mental health care professionals?



Rahm Emanuel

At the beginning of this administration we inherited a mental health system that had been losing funding and patients for years. By 2012, our mental health system was on a path to failure, having lost 90% of external funding and more than one-third of its patients. We worked with leaders in the field to expand services through targeted investments in new services for children and substance abusers and new partnerships with the federal government and nonprofit organizations. And for the first time, we started providing psychiatric care at multiple locations. Today, the city's mental health system – whether run by the City, State, federal government, or nonprofit organization – receives as many visits as it did prior to reform, while offering more diverse services at more locations, including locations in Latino neighborhoods. My administration will continue to look additional partners, particularly those who are best able to serve the diversity of residents in Chicago.



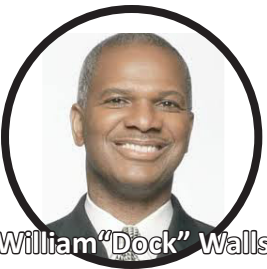
Bob Fioretti

The closing of Mental Health Clinics has affected many communities. I would immediately reopen the Mental Health Clinics and encourage the recruitment of linguistically and culturally competent mental health care professionals through colleges and universities throughout the nation. As mayor, I will work with the many universities in the city as well as the community college system to develop a pipeline of linguistically and culturally competent mental health care professionals. Developing such a pipeline requires intention. We cannot take a wait-and-see approach. I will make it a point to work with the administrators of these institutions of higher education to develop a specific program that will encourage linguistically and culturally competent individuals to enter the mental health profession and then match them up with mental health institutions (and traditional health institutions) where they can contribute to the competency and diversity of the staff, thus increasing the quality of care for the Latino population.



Jesus "Chuy" Garcia

Mental and behavioral health services are critically needed in our community. The stigma often associated with these important services must be combatted. I believe behavioral health services are best provided as part of comprehensive community health services. Behavioral health, oral health and other health services must be expanded within our safety net institutions.



William "Dock" Walls

I would support an open admissions policy at CDPH mental health facilities. Our primary responsibility is to provide all residents the mental health services necessary to ensure a stable quality of life. We can utilize funding from Federal and State sources to expand the level and amount of services to those in need of long-term care services and support in their home. The City of Chicago has an absolute responsibility to make residents, their family and members of their support structures aware of their options relating to mental health service. Thus, I would support an educational effort to increase public awareness concerning the importance of seeking mental health services. As mayor, I would agree to run Public Service Announcements (PSAs) targeting the communities surrounding the existing six clinics. However, such a campaign would not be limited to residents of those specific areas.

The PSAs would be produced in Spanish and English.



Willie Wilson

I would reopen the all of the city's mental health clinics! It is imperative we provide mental health care to those in need. We are doing a great injustice to our own residents by downplaying the significance of mental illness and the impact on our society. It should be required that clinics have technicians or staff that are bi-lingual and able to communicate with patients.