



# Chicago Mayor 2019 Election Guide

## Candidate: Toni Preckwinkle

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 (formerly Rape Victim Advocates), 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.**

The Office on Public Safety and the Department of Family and Support Services are critically important to protecting women and girls from violence, and thus, must be adequately staffed to facilitate comprehensive, timely responses. As Mayor, I will ensure

both of these departments are appropriately staffed and have access to as many resources as possible to give victims of violence the support they need.

I have also proposed the creation of the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, modeled after an office of the same name in New York, which has been effective in reducing violent crime, while also addressing racial disparities in the criminal justice system. The OCJ would also oversee various taskforces of city, state, and federal law enforcement, subject experts and community leaders. There will be taskforces on domestic violence and witness and victim services, both of which assist in the comprehensive approach to female victims of violence to ensure the highest level of support.

**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?**

As Mayor, I will champion legislative efforts to reduce and eliminate gender-based violence. At the state level, this definitely means supporting the allocation of the necessary resources to support victim services, including, relocation, counseling and other health services for victims of gender-based violence. I will work with gender-based violence advocates to support and lobby for other prevention-focused legislation that comes before the state legislature.

**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 have talked about the need for CPD training and service that includes interaction with the communities that an officer serves. Trainings should also facilitate interaction with community youth, leaders and organizations so officers are not only equipped procedurally and skill-wise, but also from the standpoint of cultural competency. This most certainly includes survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, and human trafficking. When considering the other communities many victims intersect with, it's important for officers to understand the history, culture, opportunities and challenges presented to communities to give officer a better chance of developing trusting, respectful relationships. Through this training approach, hopefully more victims can be encouraged to come forward and work with police.

I have also called for the hiring of more trained mental health and crisis professionals,

who can assist, and in some cases, lead, the response to mental health crisis cases. CPD should not always be the city's primary first responders to mental illness, and how it overlaps with domestica and sexual violence cases.

**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 was outraged at the reports of Chicago Public Schools failed student-survivors of domestic violence and sexual harm. An important part of my education platform is investing in critical support staff like nurses, social workers and counselors that can provide support for students in these unfortunate situations. More counselors are especially needed to serve the significant number of students who experience violence outside of school, and school administration must do a better job of protecting students from any type of physical or sexual abuse at school. No child should be afraid to go to school.

I have called for a tax increment financing (TIF) reform program that would dedicate yearly surpluses to public schools. A portion of this money could go to expanding the Sustainable Community Schools program, which gives communities an opportunity to collaborate on programs to meet specific challenges and create safe spaces within schools. It's not enough just to fund more staff, we need to ensure consistency of support and care and create quality wraparound services.

Lastly, I support an elected school board so families can elect, and hold accountable, members that they believe can best combat issues of violence and abuse at schools.

**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?**

While I do support lifting the ban on rent control in Chicago, there are a number of other affordable housing initiatives that can improve housing options in Chicago for low and moderate income residents. We need an Affordable Requirements Ordinance that can provide rents that are affordable and sustainable to minimum wage workers, seniors, people with disabilities and families of color. I support the Development for All ordinance, introduced by a group of City Council members, that would prevent opt-outs for developers to pay "in lieu of" fees instead of providing affordable units on site in their

buildings, require developers seeking upzoning approval from the City for 10+ units to include 30% affordable housing in their developments and mandating the creation of 4-bedroom, 3-bedroom, & 2-bedroom apartments when upzoning is given.

To address the homeless population, I support a real estate transfer tax on properties sold for over \$1 million, which would reduce the homeless population by 10,000 in the first year.

**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?**

In my campaign for Mayor, community investment has been a key priority. This means identifying the neighborhoods that are most underserved and investing in resources that will balance the inequities between underserved neighborhoods and more affluent areas of the city.

Through a meaning affordable requirements ordinance, we can work towards greater housing stability so low and moderate income residents have affordable, permanent housing options.

There must be more City funds appropriated for social and support services, especially to be directed to underserved neighborhoods. This means access to necessary physical and mental health resources, safe spaces to protect individuals from violence and abuse, and assistance and modifications for individuals with disabilities.

I have called for plans to increase the minimum wage to \$15/hour and triple the City's investment in small business microloans for minority-owned business, both of which will create economic development and opportunity in underserved neighborhoods.

**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 do support allocating funding through the City to support sexual assault service providers. I have called for a hold on plans for the proposed \$95 million construction of a new police academy until we can ensure that our first responders and police officers are operating effectively. Perhaps this money could better allocated, including towards sexual assault service providers.

I am exploring several alternative sources of revenue, including legalizing recreational marijuana, a graduated state income tax and a Chicago casino, all of which could generate additional funds to direct to needed sexual assault services.

**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?**

Gun violence, which includes domestic violence incidents that lead to homicide, are one of the most urgent problems the city of Chicago faces. As Mayor, I will advocate to strengthen gun laws at the state and federal level to give law enforcement the needed tools to put an end to this senseless violence. Recently, Governor Pritzker signed a law requiring individuals wishing to obtain a gun license to receive a certification through Illinois State Police, which also requires gun dealers to make copies of FOID cards, or other forms of identification, and attach them to documentation on all gun sales. These stricter guidelines will make it easier to identify gun purchasers, and if needed, revoke FOID cards from domestic violence offenders.

There is currently an Illinois law that allows police officers, family members or others to petition a court to remove weapons from individuals be shown to pose a threat of violence, which can result in a court order for removal of the weapons for as long as six months. It's important that the public, and especially those at risk for domestic violence, understand these laws and know how to seek support.

As previously mentioned, there will be a taskforce on gun violence, domestic violence, victim services and other related public safety issues under the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, which can help to specialize in reducing and preventing domestic violence related homicides.