



2026 SEIU Illinois State Council CBOE Candidate Questionnaire

Thank you for completing the SEIU Illinois State Council candidate questionnaire. SEIU has thousands of members who live in Chicago and are CPS families. SEIU Locals 73 and 1 represent more than 16,500 Chicago Public Schools employees across a wide range of professions who work every day to support students, families, and school communities throughout Chicago. SEIU Healthcare Illinois represents and is organizing hundreds of early childhood workers at community-based centers funded through CPS.

Our members are committed to ensuring that every student, regardless of race, income, neighborhood, or ZIP code, has access to a fully resourced, equitable, safe, clean, and supportive learning environment. This questionnaire is intended to help our members and leadership better understand your vision, values, and commitment to Chicago's students, families, and working people.

This questionnaire is due by 5:00 p.m. on June 14 and must be submitted in its entirety. Please be concise and limit each response to 150 words or fewer. Submit completed questionnaires and any inquiries to general_email@seiuilcouncil.org and copy adriver@seiuilcouncil.org.

Name of Candidate: _____

Office Sought: _____

Name of Candidate Committee: _____

Name of Candidate Committee Chair: _____

Name of Candidate Committee Treasurer: _____

Candidate Committee Address: _____

Candidate Committee Phone: _____

Candidate Committee Email Address: _____

Campaign Manager: _____

Campaign Manager Phone: _____

Campaign Manager Email: _____

Background

- Briefly describe your background, including personal, educational, and professional information. If you currently hold or previously held elected office, please specify the office and dates of service.

Please explain:

- Please list all employers you have worked for over the past five years and describe the nature of your work for each employer, including any lobbying, consulting, or contractual work. If applicable, please list all clients you have lobbied for and the government entities involved.

Please explain:

- What experience do you have with public education? Specifically with CPS?

Please explain:

Values

- Have you ever been a member of a labor union or community organization, or worked with a labor or community organization to advance its goals? If yes, please explain.

Please explain:

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- What have you done to improve the lives of working-class families?

Please explain:

- Why are you running for office, and what issues or systems are you seeking to change?

Please explain:

- Are you running as part of a slate or coalition with other candidates in this election? If yes, please list the candidates you are aligned with and describe the nature of your partnership?

Please explain:

- Are you supporting or endorsing a candidate for President of the Chicago Board of Education? If yes, please identify the candidate and explain why (Leave Blank if you are running for Board President).

Please explain:

Viability / Path to Victory

- Describe your strategy for winning this race, including how you will recruit volunteers, raise funds, and build an effective campaign operation.

Please explain:

- What is your campaign budget, and how much have you raised to date? Please note whether your campaign will reject certain donations and explain why.

Please explain:

- Please list any endorsements you have received.

Please explain:

Cleanliness of Schools

- Will you commit to moving the District away from BOMA cleaning standards and toward standards more appropriate for schools, such as those recommended by the National Center for Education Statistics?

Yes No

Please explain:

School Safety

- Do you support the Chicago Board of Education's Whole School Safety Plan?

Yes No

Please explain:

- Will you support measures to ensure all schools follow the safety protocols established by CPS Safety and Security?

Yes No

Please explain:

Support for Students

- Will you work to ensure students with IEPs and 504 Plans receive full support and dedicated instructional minutes?

Yes No

Please explain:

- Will you advocate for additional resources and education for parents seeking assessments for IEPs or 504 Plans?

Yes No

Please explain:

- Will you support holding the Office of Specialized Services accountable for completing annual audits of IEP and 504 Plans to ensure they remain updated as students develop?

Yes No

Please explain:

- Will you ensure that 'Student Choice' for SPED students and parents is enforced equally to that of general education students and parents?

Yes No

Please explain:

- Will you commit to a 1:7 ratio of SECAs to IEP/504 students in cluster classrooms to improve educational quality and safety?

Yes No

Please explain:

Community Needs

- Will you support the effort of workers, parents and community working together to use contract negotiations to improve schools through bargaining beyond mandatory subjects, also known as "Bargaining for the Common Good?" ?

Yes No

Please explain:

- Will you commit to ensuring CPS provides transportation options for all students?

Yes No

Please explain:

- Will you work to ensure Chicago Public Schools is the educational provider of choice rather than a last option for students and families?

Yes No

Please explain:

- Will you ensure CPS includes contingency provisions in contracts with bus companies requiring reimbursement if buses lack functioning air conditioning or heat?

Yes No

Please explain:

- Will you support bus aides being paid for the full amount of time they spend on bus routes?

Yes No

Please explain:

- The best predictor of students' educational outcomes is their parents' income. Will you support efforts to bring families out of poverty by increasing the minimum wage in Chicago and Illinois including policies like the One Fair Wage ordinance?

Yes No

Please explain:

- The Trump administration is dismantling the Department of Education and aggressively pursuing school privatization. Will you stand up to these attacks by resisting Federal efforts to privatize education and defend traditional public schools and our communities?"

Yes No

Please explain:

Governance and Representation

- Will you commit to annual reviews of Chicago Public Schools policies through a racial and social justice lens, with updates made when necessary?

Yes No

Please explain:

- Will you commit to establishing clear actions to amplify the voices of parents and students in decision-making processes?

Yes No

Please explain:

- Will you commit to creating a plan that empowers Local School Councils (LSCs) to function as informed decision-making bodies?

Yes No

Please explain:

- When faced with difficult budget decisions, will you be a leader and champion to demand and fight for progressive revenue from the wealthiest to prevent cuts to students and CPS staff? Will you only resort to cuts to front-facing CPS staff as a last resort?

Yes No

Please explain:

Staff Support and Diversity

- Will you advocate publicly and privately to ensure all CPS personnel are treated with dignity and respect without fear of retaliation?

Yes No

Please explain:

- What steps would you take to create a workplace culture free from bullying and retaliation for CPS staff?

Yes No

Please explain:

- Will you commit to supporting the unionization of all school staff and ending privatization?

Yes No

Please explain:

Early Childhood

- Do you support universal access to free child care and early childhood education for all families, and unions for all early childhood workers?

Yes No

Please explain:

- Chicago Public Schools administers its share of Illinois' Early Childhood Block Grant through partnerships between the district, the city of Chicago, and other five Head Start grantees that make up the basis of the Chicago Early Learning system, a network of more than 100 agencies and multiple Pre-K classrooms throughout the district offering low-income, at-risk children 0-5 years old with early care and education as well as other support services. Do you support using CPS role in funding/contracting of early childhood to: Make all early childhood education jobs good union jobs, no matter the setting.

Yes No

Please explain:

- Support expansion of PreK in a way that supports the broader early childhood system in the city, including integrating home child care providers into the preschool/prevention initiative landscape

Yes No

Please explain:

- Parents and communities have led the way to establish the community school model to invest in wraparound services and supports. Will you champion growing community schools and support the inclusion of childcare and early education in the community school model?

Yes No

Please explain:

Additional Questions

- Do you support the requirement that CPS subcontractors be neutral regarding employees efforts to unionize and prohibited from using public dollars to union-bust?
- What is your position on school board members actively campaigning for full funding from the state? •

What is your position on school closings?

- What is your position on the expansion of charter schools in Chicago?