

The Thirty-Niner

News from the Committee To Elect Joe Laiacona

Issue Number 1

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Spring Has Sprung

Record snows and record colds have made their mark this Winter so it's no surprise that even as Jack Frost wears out his welcome it is a big relief that the crocuses and daffodiles are blooming.



Believe it or not, storm warnings or not, Spring is here and with it comes the hope of better weather, milder temperatures and the coming of Summer, when "livin' is easy."

Even as we anticipate the November, 2014 election, some of us have begun to set our sights on the one coming next year, on Feb 24, 2015, to be exact.

As Democrats and pragmatic politicians, it's obvious to us that even if ten months separate us from next year's municipal elections, there is little time to lose in creating an organization to bring about Spring-like changes to City Hall. What that means in practical terms is that we have a less than a year to inform Albany Park voters that there will be an alternative to our political *status quo*, that Joe Laiacona is a credible and viable candidate and that the February 2015 election will offer a clear choice between "business as usual" and the business of "reform, renewal and re-energizing the politics" of our grand city.

The numbers speak for themselves. In the last municipal election (Feb. 2011) 10,189 votes were cast for Ward 39 Alderman. Using those figures as our starting point, that means we need to identify more than 5,095 voters who will vote for change.

Currently there are some 24,000 registered voters in the ward. That said, the political calendar looks something like this:

Mar 27, '14	Campaign Kick-Off Party.
Mar 29, '14	Begin first canvass of ward.
Aug 26, '14	Begin circulating petitions to put Joe Laiacona on the ballot.
Nov 17, '14	First day to submit petitions.
Feb 9, '15	First day of early voting.
Feb 24, '15	Municipal election and victory party.

For more details, read the items that follow.

Join Joe's Campaign & Meet Your Neighbors



There's no argument about the value of going door-to-door in Ward 39 in order to listen to its residents and introduce them to Joe's Campaign.

Armed with a list of voters, a well-tested script and (hopefully) good weather in which to go walking, the simple act of **canvassing** is both the meat and potatoes of campaigning and a proven pathway to winning and election. Whether you have some time to canvass the voters on your block or in your precinct, whatever time and energy you can give our campaign will be enjoyable and time well-spent.

Our state of the art "MiniVan" uses a cell phone or tablet to speed the process and eliminate both messy papers and manual data input.

Please volunteer. No experience necessary. For further information, please call us at 312-206-8793 or send an email to Joseph@Laiacona.org.



Why Am I Running & What Do I Hope to Accomplish?

By Joe Laiacona

The headline on this essay reflects the two most popular questions that voters ask me, often with more than a tint of amazement that I would do something that outlandish. After all, between father and daughter, Laurinos have held the position of Ward 39 Alderman since 1964. Rather than run against a legacy incumbent, perhaps it would be more productive to just say “Happy Fiftieth Anniversary.”

Although one might not know it by just looking, maintaining the *status quo* is not really a good way to govern a city, any city. As times change, institutions

must change as well, affording room for new ideas, fresh enthusiasm and alternative opinions.

I didn't decide to enter the race on a lark, a bet, or a pipe dream that winning would be easy. I spent most of last Summer and a good part of last Fall sizing up the possibility for success and my competence to do the job.

So first off let me say that “Running was in my heart.” This isn't the first time I've run for office. The two most recent examples were my run for State Rep in 2010, where I garnered a respectable 34% of the vote in a two-way race.

Two years ago I successfully ran for community member of the **Roosevelt High School Local School Council**, a seat I still hold. So when I say that being a candidate is something that's “in my heart,” I have a history that proves that politics is in my blood.

“But,” you'll say, “there's got to be more than that one reason,” and you'd be right.

The more compelling reasons are my complete dissatisfaction with 1. The lack of representation that I feel my opponent gives us; 2. The over-riding attention that City Hall gives to corporate “citizens” rather than those of us who are actually citizens; and 3. The obvious “rubber stamping” characteristic of most of our Aldermen.

And how will I be different?

First off, I pledge that **I will be present**. Ward 39 residents will actually see me in the Ward, at the Farmers' Market, at the regular Town Hall Meetings I will host in different parts of the Ward, in my office whenever you want to make an appointment or during regularly scheduled office hours, and at as many community association meetings, social gatherings and public forums as is possible.

And, yes, if I can't make it, I will be certain that one of my staff attends and takes good notes.

That naturally leads to difference number two. **I will listen**. An alderman is an elected representative, which means he or she “stands for” the citizen's of his or her ward. If I am going to represent you, the voters who elected me, it is imperative that I know what you want and why you want it. The only way to accomplish that part of the job is to listen.

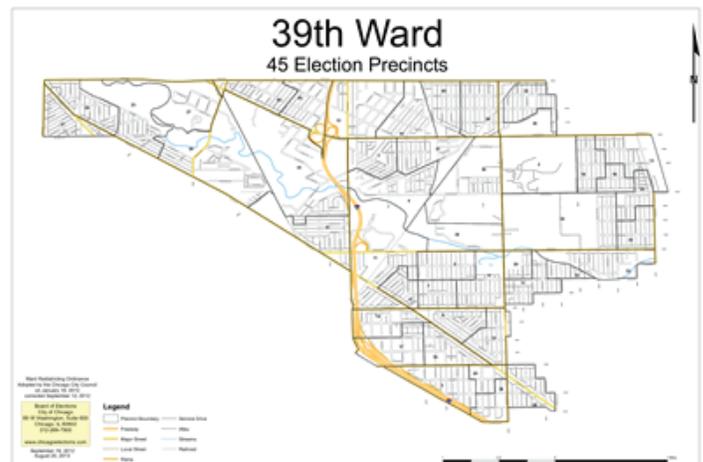
So I intend to organize town hall type meetings in the various neighborhoods that make up Albany Park, with ample time for questions and answers, adequate transla-

tions for those who need them and copious note taking so we can remember who said what.

As a few of the more progressive aldermen do, I will do my best to include your voices in the various decision-making processes the City Council undertakes. Each of you will get your chance to speak up on topics such as taxation, TIFs, budgets, safety, zoning and city-spending.

In a ward as diverse as ours, there are many opinions, many differences and many possible solutions. I pledge to be present, to listen and to **act justly**.

Government, after all, should be responsible, equitable, democratic and fair. Each and every one of us, from the wealthiest to the poorest, is equal under the law with equal rights to speak, to be heard, and to be listened too. From Devon to Irving Park, from California to Cicero, I will do my best to represent each of you.



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