

Mayoral Debate Questions

- Foreign Policy magazine ranked Chicago sixth in its 2010 Global Cities Index, up two spots from 2008. Yet, the Brookings Institution has documented how far we have to go to meet President Obama's challenge of doubling our exports – currently 13% of GDP – in five years. With Chicago's economic competition being increasingly global, what do you see as our growth sectors? What will you do as mayor to promote them?
- Chicago spent more than three years and nearly \$50 million preparing its bid for the 2016 Olympics. In light of the down market, how will you make use of that work, as it relates to neighborhood redevelopment such as reuse of the Michael Reese Hospital site, and transit investment such as Bus Rapid Transit?
- In October 2010, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning released its *GO TO 2040* comprehensive regional plan. What role do you see for Chicago, and yourself as mayor, in facilitating the regional cooperation and coordinated investment that is at the core of that plan? How will you continue to work closely with other regional mayors?
- A 2010 study by the Metropolitan Planning Council identified portions of the Stevenson (I-55) and Kennedy (I-90/94) expressways as suitable for congestion pricing lanes – where drivers would pay a fee at certain times of day to avoid traffic gridlock. Would you support congestion pricing on Chicago expressways? After paying for construction and maintenance, would you support using a portion of the proceeds to fund transit expansion?
- Prescription and illicit drugs and unregulated substance like chromium-6, linked to stomach cancer, are just some of the contaminants that end up in Chicago's water supply. What is your plan for ensuring Chicago has the safest, cleanest water possible? Do you think the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District should disinfect wastewater before it enters the Chicago River?
- Employer-Assisted Housing is a proven strategy for generating private sector investment in workforce housing. More than 30 Chicago employers offer such a benefit, including Harris Bank, Loyola University and Rush University. What role do you see for the city, private sector and others in ensuring an adequate range of housing options available to Chicagoans at all income levels?

For additional information or clarification, contact Kim Grimshaw Bolton, MPC communications director, at kbolton@metroplanning.org or 312-863-6020.

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