David Earl Williams III's 2027 Chicago Election Analysis: The 49th Ward Aldermanic Race, Its Candidates & Community Accountability

An Independent Assessment of the 49th Ward Incumbent and Challengers: Their Records, Experience, and Community Involvement.

DAVID EARL WILLIAMS III | NOVEMBER 11, 2026



Happy Veterans Day to all! Before we begin, in my previous election analysis, I mentioned the November 5th birthday celebration for Nassir Faulkner. For the sake of transparency and accuracy, I was informed that the celebration was actually for Rebecca Kling, another candidate for the 20th Police District Council. Happy belated birthday to her! Now I know something new about her, too!

With Chicago's 2027 municipal election approaching, the 49th Ward alderperson race is shaping up to be another interesting contest! Four candidates are seeking to represent Rogers Park, each bringing different backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives to the table. But as always, the question remains: Who has demonstrated the commitment, qualifications, and accomplishments necessary to serve the PEOPLE of the 49th Ward?

Although I do not currently reside in the 49th Ward, I briefly lived in Rogers Park during my youth, and I remain grateful to the residents who supported and voted for me during my 2023 campaign for the 24th Police District Council. My personal connection to the community, combined with my experience as a former candidate and political commentator, gives me a continued interest in the ward's future and the

individuals seeking to represent its residents.

This election presents voters with an opportunity to evaluate incumbent Alderwoman Maria Hadden's record alongside challengers William "Bill" Morton, Dongbo Mark Su, and Peter J. Normand. From legislative accomplishments and neighborhood advocacy to political controversies, community involvement, and unanswered questions, there's plenty worth examining before voters head to the polls.

As with my previous assessments, I'll be giving credit where it's due while raising legitimate questions about accountability, transparency, constituent services, and demonstrated results. Whether I personally know a candidate or have never met them, I believe everyone seeking public office should be held to the same standards of dedication, competence, and genuine commitment to the PEOPLE.

Now, let's take a closer look at the candidates seeking to represent Chicago's 49th Ward in February 2027!

William "Bill" Morton: A Record of Community Service and Commitment to Rogers Park



The 49th Ward alderperson race presents voters with an opportunity to examine the record of incumbent Maria Hadden and the extensive community involvement of challenger William "Bill" Morton, whom I personally know. Morton has been a Rogers Park resident since 2006 and founded the Rogers Park Chamber of Commerce in 2009, serving as its volunteer president for more than 17 years.

His contributions include organizing job fairs, supporting school-supply drives, assisting small businesses, developing community resource guides, and building partnerships among residents, nonprofits, and neighborhood institutions. He has also served in leadership positions on Chicago Park District advisory councils, supported organized labor and educators, participated in community media, and advocated for affordable housing, public safety, and more responsive constituent services.

Additionally, Morton has worked alongside the organization I co-founded, the Chicago Missing Persons Guild, assisting in our efforts to locate missing individuals and reunite them with their loved ones. Our organization was also successful in getting the Chicago Police Department (CPD) to update its missing persons section, which had been outdated from 2016 to 2021. Since then, the public has had access to

daily and weekly notices of missing persons throughout the city of Chicago.

Maria Hadden: Legislative Accomplishments, Public Controversies, and Questions of Accountability



Meanwhile, Hadden, who has served since 2019, has contributed to affordable housing initiatives, school improvements, environmental legislation, and participatory budgeting. However, her administration has also faced significant controversy.

In 2022, the Touhy Park homeless encampment generated considerable neighborhood frustration, particularly after the park's fieldhouse closed and recreational programming was relocated, prompting complaints about safety and communication. Following mounting neighborhood concerns, city officials eventually secured housing for 84 people associated with the encampment by February 2023, according to Hadden, bringing some resolution to a situation that had disrupted the surrounding community for months.

In March 2026, Hadden faced intense public backlash following her remarks about the murder of 18-year-old Loyola University student Sheridan Gorman near the Rogers Park lakefront. Authorities arrested and charged Jose Medina-Medina, a Venezuelan national whom the U.S. Department of Homeland Security identified as having entered the United States unlawfully in May 2023. Medina-Medina has pleaded not guilty and has not been convicted of Gorman's murder.

Hadden drew criticism after suggesting that Gorman may have been in the wrong place at the wrong time and might have unintentionally startled her attacker. Although Hadden subsequently apologized and denied blaming the victim, her remarks generated considerable controversy.

Her City Council attendance record also stands at 94.7%, below the reported Council median of 100%. Additionally, my organization, the Chicago Missing Persons Guild, previously attempted to reach out to Hadden's office regarding our efforts to locate missing individuals and reunite them with their loved ones. Unfortunately, despite our outreach, we never received a response. This was particularly disappointing given the importance of cooperation between elected officials and community organizations in addressing missing persons cases throughout Chicago. Questions surrounding constituent responsiveness, neighborhood maintenance, public safety, and communication remain relevant areas for scrutiny as voters

evaluate her administration.

Dongbo Mark Su: From Congressional Candidate to 49th Ward Challenger



Dongbo Mark Su, 62, is an IT consultant and longtime Chicago resident who previously ran as a Republican for Illinois's 9th Congressional District in March 2026. He received approximately 1,245 votes, or 8.1% of the Republican primary vote, before pursuing a campaign for Chicago mayor and subsequently filing to run for 49th Ward alderperson in 2027.

Su has advocated reducing property taxes, sales taxes, and rental costs, although questions remain about how he intends to finance or implement these proposals. His previous statements concerning Trump's immigration enforcement policies and China policy also provide insight into his political positions.

While Chicago's aldermanic elections are nonpartisan, Su's recent Republican congressional candidacy is relevant to understanding his political background. More importantly, what has he accomplished for Rogers Park residents, and what specific initiatives does he intend to pursue as alderperson? His transition between three different political races within a relatively short period also warrants explanation.

Ultimately, Su should be evaluated on his qualifications, community involvement, policy proposals, and demonstrated understanding of the 49th Ward's needs rather than just his political affiliation alone.

Peter J. Normand: A New Candidacy with Community Experience



The fourth candidate, Peter J. Normand, filed a significant number of nominating petition signatures in October 2026, having previously established his campaign committee in September 2022. However, his campaign reported no fundraising activity during the third quarter of 2026 and no cash on hand as of September 30.

Normand reportedly has a background in architecture and previously served on the Pottawattomie Park Advisory Council, demonstrating some involvement in the Rogers Park community. Although these are worthwhile details to acknowledge, I was unable to find sufficient publicly available information about his broader accomplishments, policy positions, or campaign priorities to provide a more comprehensive assessment of his candidacy. I hope he will share more about his experience and vision for the 49th Ward as the election approaches.

With four candidates seeking the office in 2027, residents have an opportunity to examine not only the incumbent's legislative accomplishments and controversies but also the community experience, proposals, and qualifications of those seeking to represent Rogers Park.