

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**COOK COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY CANDIDATE FORUM**

**Opening Statements Order (TBD by Draw Prior to Forum)**

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- 5.

#	Seconds	Discussion Topics
1.	Conway Fioretti More O'Brien Pfannkuche	<b>Public Safety — 90 seconds</b> Residents in Lincoln Park and the Gold Coast are concerned about rising crime, especially violent crime, and many believe criminal justice reform has come at the expense of public safety. Our residents understand that the accused have rights, but they also believe they have the right to be kept safe. How would you strike the right balance between public safety and the rights of those accused and assure our residents that their public safety will be your top priority if elected? <b>90 second answers please</b>
2.	O'Brien Pfannkuche Fioretti More Conway	<b>Armed, Daytime Street Crime — 60 seconds</b> Bold criminal activity is a growing concern in our neighborhoods, including armed robberies committed in broad daylight on busy streets and a rash of car jackings. Why do you believe that criminal activity appears to be bolder in recent years, and what would you do as State's Attorney to help solve this issue?
3.	Fioretti More Conway O'Brien Pfannkuche	<b>Jussie Smollett 30 seconds</b> The incumbent's handling of the Jussie Smollett case has garnered far more attention than any other issue in this campaign, and Ms. Foxx has acknowledged that she should have handled the matter differently. Do you believe the Smollett case is her biggest mistake as Cook County State's Attorney or are there other decisions on her part that are more problematic?
4.	Pfannkuche O'Brien Conway Fioretti More	<b>Gun Violence — 60 seconds</b> Gun violence continues to reach crisis levels in Chicago. There is a perception that some gun violations are not being aggressively pursued due to prosecutorial discretion, and that repeat offenders are not being treated as such. What specifically would you do differently than the incumbent to help prevent gun violence?
5.	More Conway Fioretti O'Brien Pfannkuche	<b>Criminal Justice Reform — 60 seconds</b> The incumbent has made criminal justice reform and restorative justice a top priority in her administration. How would your approach on this matter be different from the incumbent's, and how would it be similar?

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6.	O'Brien Pfannkuche Conway Fioretti More	<p><b>Retail Theft — 90 seconds</b></p> <p>Our neighborhoods have seen a rise in retail theft and brazen “smash and grab” burglaries, including on Clark Street, Lincoln Avenue, and several other of our valued retail corridors. State law requires retail theft to be over \$300 to be prosecuted as a felony, but the current State’s Attorney office has increased that threshold to \$1000. What dollar threshold would you apply to prosecute retail theft cases as felonies, and what would you do, if anything, to more forcefully prosecute retail theft and deter it in the future?</p>	
		Rapid Fire — 15 seconds	
7.	15 Conway Fioretti More Pfannkuche O'Brien	<p>What would your first priority be as State’s Attorney on Day 1?</p> <p><b>15 second answers please</b></p>	
8.	15 Pfannkuche O'Brien Fioretti More Conway	<p>What do you see as the most important law enforcement challenge facing Cook County today?</p> <p><b>15 second answers please</b></p>	
9.	Fioretti More Conway Pfannkuche O'Brien	<p><b>Perspective — 90 (or 60) seconds</b></p> <p>What life experiences have informed your perspective of the criminal justice system? Do you have any friends or family members who have been charged with a felony or been the victim of a felony, and if not, how do you get in the shoes of someone being charged and prosecuted, or who has been a victim?</p>	
10.	More Conway Fioretti O'Brien Pfannkuche	<p><b>Juvenile Crime — 60 seconds</b></p> <p>The media has reported rising instances of youth criminal activity on Michigan Avenue, along our Lakefront, and on and around public transportation. What penalties do you think are appropriate to discourage juveniles from participating in these activities? How do you balance public safety with light juvenile sentencing practices?</p>	
11.	Conway Fioretti More O'Brien Pfannkuche	<p><b>Party-Specific Questions — 30 seconds</b></p> <p><b>Democrats:</b> At one time or the other, and in one way or the other, each of you has stated, that Kim Foxx should not be reelected. With that in mind, if one week before the March 17th primary, whatever polling your campaign believes is most reliable were to indicate that you had no chance of winning this primary, would you drop out of the race and endorse either of the other candidates? If not, why? If so, who?</p> <p><b>Republicans:</b> What is an issue that is important to you that you think isn’t being discussed enough by the Democratic candidates?</p>	

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12.	O'Brien Pfannkuche More Conway Fioretti	<p><b>Candidate-Specific Questions   60 second answers please</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pat O'Brien:</b> You've stated that in the 2016 State's Attorney election, you voted for democrat Kim Foxx over fellow republican Chris Pfannkuche. How can you reconcile your vote with your proposed policies, and if Mr. Pfannkuche wins the republican primary, do you intend to stand behind him this time in the general election?</li> <li>• <b>Christopher Pfannkuche:</b> In the 2016 State's Attorney election, Kim Foxx outgained you by over 40% of the vote. Can you tell our audience why you believe you can fare better this time against a democratic candidate in the general election?</li> <li>• <b>Donna More:</b> Your legal practice is largely built around regulated industries, such as cannabis, liquor, and gaming, etc. What would you do to ensure the public that you will avoid even the appearance of a conflict of interest when a matter involving one of these industries is presented to the Cook County State's Attorney office?</li> <li>• <b>Bill Conway:</b> You practiced as a junior prosecutor in the State's Attorney office for 6 years upon graduating from law school, but since then have largely worked in finance, real estate, and as a military intelligence officer. Given your limited legal experience, can you tell our audience why you believe you are qualified to serve as the Cook County State's Attorney?</li> <li>• <b>Bob Fioretti:</b> You were elected 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward Alderman in 2007 and re-elected in 2011, but you have since had unsuccessful campaigns for Mayor in both 2015 and 2019 and also an unsuccessful campaign for Cook County Board President in 2018. Donna More recently said in a radio interview that you are a perennial candidate that no one takes seriously. Can you tell our audience why you should be taken seriously?</li> </ul>
13.	Pfannkuche O'Brien Conway Fioretti More	<p><b>Bail Reform — 60 seconds</b></p> <p>Do you believe that bail reform efforts in Cook County have been appropriate? What specifically would you do differently in terms of bail reform?</p>
<b>Supplementary Questions if Time Permits</b>		
14.	O'Brien Pfannkuche More Conway Fioretti	<p><b>Partnering With Law Enforcement — 30 seconds</b></p> <p>There have been instances in the past year where the State's Attorney office has clashed with law enforcement, sometimes publicly, as in the Jussie Smollett case. What would be your strategy to more effectively partner with law enforcement to bring justice to our community?</p>
15.	Fioretti More Conway Pfannkuche O'Brien	<p><b>Drug Offenses — 60 seconds</b></p> <p>Far and away, the largest volume of cases in the Cook County Criminal Division are drug-related offenses. What would be your approach to addressing drug-related offenses, particularly if they are not associated with any violence?</p>
16.	Pfannkuche O'Brien Conway Fioretti More	<p><b>Racial Inequities — 60 seconds</b></p> <p>In Cook County, our approach to law enforcement, including how we have prosecuted cases, has a terribly difficult history with racial bias. How would you use the State's Attorney's office to change this difficult historical narrative and reality?</p>

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17.	More Conway Fioretti O'Brien Pfannkuche	<b>Corruption — 30 seconds</b>  Federal prosecutors have taken aim at corrupt political activity within Cook County. What role should the State's Attorney Office play in rooting out political corruption in Cook County?
		<b>SUPPLEMENTARY RAPID FIRE — 15 seconds</b>
18.	O'Brien Pfannkuche Fioretti More Conway	Cannabis is now legal in the state of Illinois, but public consumption and the sale of cannabis by individuals remains illegal. Do you plan to prosecute illegal cannabis-related activities?
19.	Conway Fioretti More Pfannkuche O'Brien	What is the most important legal matter you've handled in the last 5 years?
20.	Pfannkuche O'Brien Fioretti More Conway	What, if any, structural changes would you make to the office of the State's Attorney?

**CLOSING STATEMENTS (Order TBD. Will be reverse of opening statements.)**

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