

IVI-IPO 2004 CONGRESSIONAL QUESTIONNAIRE Section 1

DATE: 1/17/04 DISTRICT: Tenth PARTY: Democrat

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NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED: 725 NUMBER REQUIRED: 682

Please use an additional sheet to complete the following background information:

A) Elective or appointive public or party offices previously held including dates.
I have previously held no elective or appointive public or party offices.

B) Other elective offices for which you have been a candidate.
I have previously been a candidate for no other elective offices.

C) Principal business, education, professional and civic activities of the past ten years.
My principal business, education, professional and civic activities of the past ten years are: I have been a real estate attorney for over ten years. I was a board member for Illinois Common Cause for several years in the early to mid-nineties. I mentored at Lawrence Youth Hall in Chicago for two years in the mid-nineties.

D) What subjects have you studied and what experience have you had which will be most helpful to you in the office you seek?
The subjects I have studied and experiences I have had which will be most helpful to me in the office I seek are: I was a political science major (international relations emphasis) and history minor at Northern Illinois University (graduated 1984). I have kept myself informed not only in those areas but have diverse interests, including physics, astronomy, music and foreign languages. I am a small businessman, husband and father and am not a professional politician. Therefore, I feel more attuned to most average people in society than many of the Beltway insiders purporting to represent the people.

E) Activities for other candidates. Please be specific.
My activities for other candidates have been limited due to both the demands of my professional practice and raising a family, as well as some cynicism regarding the "system". I did some work for Democratic candidates generally in the late eighties, including poll watching, door-to-door campaigning and such.

F) Please list all endorsements you have received so far.
I have received no endorsements so far, nor have I sought any.

G) As concisely as possible, please state why you feel you should be endorsed over the other candidate(s). What goals for the office you seek are most important to you personally?
I do not generally compare myself to the other Democratic primary candidate, so I will not seek to convince you directly to endorse me over him. I will positively "present my case" for endorsement as will he. If and when the time comes that I am in the general election, I will compare myself to the incumbent at that time. My main goal, in addition to getting elected, is to increase peoples' involvement in "the system", both in traditional civic ways (voting, community involvement, etc.) but also in their personal life. It's time we stopped pretending that our words

and deeds don't affect others. 2004 promises to be a historic election because our democratic institutions and way of life are under serious attack. Peoples' cynicism and apathy are allowing this great country to be taken away from us. So a main focus of my campaign is to convince people to get involved because "the system" is worth saving.

H) Please outline the place of patronage, personnel codes, race, gender, and sexual orientation in establishing criteria for hiring and promoting public employees.

"Patronage" has a place only at the highest levels of executive assistants, for instance cabinet secretaries that must be loyal to a president. Otherwise, Shakman-type policies must prevent political litmus tests and race, gender, and sexual orientation in establishing criteria for hiring and promoting public employees has no place in American society.

I) What is your campaign budget? How much have you raised to date?

Because I have been fending off a legal challenge to my signatures, I have not yet begun raising or spending any significant amounts of money and thus have no campaign budget per se.

J) How many people are on your campaign staff? How many volunteers are on your list?

I have two people on my campaign staff: a Campaign Manager and a Treasurer. I have had offers of help but as of yet have not accepted help because my legal status as a candidate is still in limbo.

IVI-IPO 2004 CONGRESSIONAL QUESTIONNAIRE Section 2

Foreign and Military

1. a. What should be the US role in multi-national alliances such as the UN, NATO and the International Criminal Court?

The US role in multi-national alliances such as the UN, NATO and the International Criminal Court should be as it has been in every administration until the present one: world leader and guardian of international law and institutions. Declaring the UN irrelevant, hastening the destruction of NATO and refusing to participate in the ICC makes us less safe because the law of the jungle is not in the US interest. There is a reason we have labored so hard since WWII to build these institutions: the US has the most to lose from abandoning the status quo. The current administration has no understanding or regard for the concepts underlying these institutions and has made historic mistakes, particularly the aggression against Iraq.

b. What should be the policy of the IMF and World Bank toward countries that are essentially bankrupt? Regarding policies of the IMF and World Bank toward countries that are essentially bankrupt, both institutions have been too aggressive in implementing austerity measures in third world countries and have been insensitive to the social and political unrest they have helped to create. Further, privatization has too often been a giveaway to the Enrons of the world, where corrupt and connected mega-corporations buy third world utilities for pennies on the dollar.

2. What should be Congress' role in formulating foreign policy?

Congress, being the most democratic institution, should exercise a stronger role in foreign policy. Although institutionally inefficient in that capacity, its oversight function cannot be overemphasized. The executive branch has been consolidating power for about a century. Although I don't believe it's time to return to a weak chief executive, I do think too much power has been usurped from the legislative by the executive branch. Particularly in the recent Congress, the legislature has become a rubber stamp and it must stop.

3. Should the US wage war without a declaration from Congress?

The US cannot constitutionally wage war without a declaration from Congress. As we've seen recently however, the Constitution is only as good as the people to whose care it has been entrusted. The courts should not perceive every dispute between the executive and legislative branches as "political". Under that logic, Marbury v. Madison, establishing judicial review, would never have been decided.

4. a. Do you support funding to assist conversion of the defense industry to civilian applications?
I support funding to assist conversion of the defense industry to civilian applications.

b. Do you agree with the current proposed level of funding for the military? If you agree, explain. If you disagree, how would you distribute the funds?

I disagree with the current proposed level of funding for the military, because it reflects an increase borne of post-9/11 fear. In fact, most terrorism-related fighting will be done not by full-scale military invasion, but by limited groups of armed forces. The military budget today reflects more of the neo-conservatives' wish lists than it does necessary defense. In fact, national security is also about homeland defense, national health care, education and international legal and intelligence cooperation, not just military strength.

5. Do you support

a. continued funding for WHISC (the re-named Army School of the Americas)?

I do not support continued funding for WHISC (the re-named Army School of the Americas) because it violates our ideals as Americans.

b. fast-track authority?

I have mixed feelings about fast-track authority, but lean towards opposing it.

6. Do you support the way the drug war is being carried on, both abroad and at home? What would you change?

I strongly oppose the way the drug war is being carried on, both abroad and at home. The warehousing of millions of people in prison for non-violent drug offenses has been immoral, expensive and ineffective. Decriminalization for some drugs (marijuana notably) and treatment of addiction for harder drugs makes much more sense. Seizures and asset forfeitures, while providing a windfall to the coffers of law enforcement, force people to prove their innocence (as opposed to the government proving their guilt). Mandatory minimum sentencing, largely a relic of the war on drugs, has also been a disaster for the justice system. We need to roll back these draconian penalties.

Abroad, we have no business forcing our point of view on other countries. This is akin to Muslim nations insisting we rid ourselves of alcohol because they disagree with it. Our addiction problems do not justify the use of force in a misguided attempt to eradicate the source.

7. Do you support

a. normalization of relations with Cuba?

I support the normalization of relations with Cuba. Our failure to do so has more to do with the politics of the uncompromising Cuban-American lobby than it does with any semblance of logic. Our foreign policy decisions regarding which tyrants to coddle and which tyrants to eliminate have been less than stellar in general. The Cuban people are much poorer than they should be because of our policies. Besides, it's likely that normalization of relations will lead to a faster downfall of tyranny in Cuba anyway.

b. the Helms-Burton Act?

I do not support the Helms-Burton Act (see above).

Environment

8. Do you support the environmental policies of the current administration?

I am strongly opposed to the environmental policies of the current administration. It's hard to know where to start to describe everything they have done wrong, but here goes: arsenic in water; coal-fired plant upgrades; mercury levels; clear-cutting; oil drilling in environmentally sensitive areas; overgrazing; and general degradation.

9. How do we balance the need to protect the environment with our need for economic development? Your comments should include water resources, air quality, wetlands, coastline development, deforestation, use of public lands, and pesticides and herbicides.

We will be able to balance the need to protect the environment with our need for economic development because these are not mutually exclusive goals. Development of alternative energy sources will create jobs. Eco-tourism

employs people. Improving air, soil and water quality will save billions of dollars annually as people use less sick time. All new technologies require people to service and develop them. General quality of life improvements add to productivity. The bottom line is we must find a way to do it; we owe it to our progeny.

10. Do you support oil drilling in Alaska and other protected wilderness?
I do not support oil drilling in Alaska and other protected wilderness areas.

11. So you support pollution credit schemes?
Pollution credit schemes ought to at least be given a chance to succeed as an innovative way to use the free market to reduce emissions.

Transportation

12. What transportation policy do you favor regarding
- infrastructure improvements?
 - highways?
 - mass transit?
 - high-speed rail?
 - Amtrak?
 - Air transportation, particularly the proposed O'Hare expansion and third airport?

Regarding transportation policy, we must continue to further fund ISTEA and related initiatives which develop and connect alternate modes of transportation, such as bike paths with public transportation. Highways obviously must be maintained and new roads and highways will always be necessary, but we must do so in the spirit of "smart growth". At the same time, people should be encouraged to go "off the grid" in the interests of maximizing conservation and minimizing pollution and outages. We must also pursue the expansion of mass transit. High-speed rail, perhaps as a part of Amtrak service, is a very exciting prospect in that it vastly reduces plane trips of less than 300 miles and is "eco-friendly". Current budget deficits will almost certainly reduce funding for and delay any ambitious projects in that area. Having said that, I believe O'Hare expansion will ultimately be necessary, but not so a "third" airport.

Taxes and Economic Policy

13. Do you favor
- a more progressive income tax?
 - a flat tax?
 - a national sales tax?
 - reduction of the capital gains tax?
 - reduction or elimination of the estate tax?
 - elimination of the corporate alternative tax?
 - tax cuts on stock dividends?
 - any other changes in our tax structure? Please explain.

A flat tax seems appealing when its backers claim you could "fill out your taxes on a post card." The truth however is that we need to encourage certain behaviors with the tax code, such as home ownership and charitable donation (especially if the government insists that the private sector do everything). Perhaps just as important, progressive income taxes seem fairer to most people than charging all income groups the same rate. Similarly, the idea of taxing consumption as opposed to the production of income seems appealing. Unfortunately, a national sales tax would also hit the less fortunate the hardest. Repeated tax cuts on stock dividends, estate taxes and capital gains taxes have disproportionately benefited the wealthy, to say the least. We need to immediately repeal all or part of the Bush tax cuts and begin dismantling the corporate welfare state we have constructed. Any further erosion of the corporate tax base, including elimination of the corporate alternative tax is out of the question.

14. Do you favor a roll-back of the Bush tax cuts?
(See above)

15. Do you support total or partial privatization of the Social Security fund? Please explain.

I am adamantly opposed to any privatization of Social Security or Medicare. These programs were meant to be part of a retirement income and retirement health care package, respectively. In the case of Social Security for instance, there was thought to exist a “triad” of private pensions, personal assets and Social Security. The security lies in not putting all your eggs in one basket. Sure the government plan may not have had the return of the private pension. But it was secure (see Enron).

16. What is your position on federal deficit spending vs. balanced budget?

At the present time when legislators are, in the words of John McCain, “spending like drunken sailors,” fiscal discipline is sorely needed. Most people don’t realize that in addition to an annual deficit, we are also feeding a voracious creature called the national debt. Contrary to assertions by apologists for the current administration, deficits and debts *do* matter. Anyone who has ever managed a household budget knows there are reasons one goes into debt and reasons one pays off bills. We have incurred debt recklessly and the interest on it is eating productivity out of the economy. Somehow we can afford to build Iraq’s electricity grid but not our own.

17. Do you support unfunded mandates to local government?

I do not support unfunded mandates to local government.

Consumer Rights

18. Do you support

- a. granting consumers the right to an annual free copy of their consolidated credit report, including credit score?
- b. banning the use of Social Security numbers as identification in consumer transactions?
- c. federal legislation to cap interest rates on consumer loans?
- d. federal legislation to regulate ATM fees and service charges on credit cards and other consumer loans?
- e. federal legislation to give banks and finance companies priority over other unsecured lenders in bankruptcy proceedings?
- f. allowing states to enact consumer laws which go beyond the protection of federal legislation?

I support granting consumers the right to an annual free copy of their consolidated credit report, including credit score. I support allowing states to enact consumer laws which go beyond the protection of federal legislation. I am strongly opposed to federal legislation giving banks and finance companies priority over other unsecured lenders in bankruptcy proceedings. I have not yet formed an opinion as to banning the use of Social Security numbers as identification in consumer transactions, federal legislation to cap interest rates on consumer loans and federal legislation to regulate ATM fees and service charges on credit cards and other consumer loans, but all sound reasonable.

Government and Ethics

19. Do you support term limits? Describe briefly.

I tend to believe term limits are undemocratic and limit institutional memory, leading to further erosion in the power of the legislative branch versus the executive branch. Voters “kicking the bums out” is the ultimate term limit. But we must continue to reform the way campaigns are funded.

20. Do you support

- a. public financing of Congressional campaigns?
- b. spending limits?
- c. abolition of PACs?

I strongly support public financing of Congressional campaigns. It seems only logical that elected representatives would be more responsive to the people than beholden to special interests if the people increased their proportion of campaign financing. There is obviously nothing wrong with interest groups; I call them “interested” groups. The problem lies in the disproportionate influence certain groups seem to wield in matters affecting the public good (e.g. the NRA).

21. Would you support increased Congressional oversight of federal contracting? Why or why not?

Increased Congressional oversight of federal contracting seems like a good idea but I would need more information in this area.

Health & Human Services

22. Do you support comprehensive, universal, single-payer health care? If not, how would you address the need for healthcare for the uninsured and underinsured?

I'm not sure single payer health care is the answer. Tucked away in the horrific Medicare "reform" is a new type of medical savings account that is also pre-tax but doesn't have to be used every year and is portable. Perhaps development and expansion of these will be one answer to spiraling medical costs. The number of uninsured is a national affront and must be addressed.

23. Do you favor funding changes for the following:
- supplemental food programs for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)?
 - food stamp allowances?
 - Head Start?
 - school lunch programs?

I don't have enough expertise to determine whether funding for supplemental food programs for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and food stamp allowances need to be modified. However, Head Start must be fully funded and we should otherwise expand our efforts to reach disadvantaged young children as early as possible, including prenatal care. School lunch programs likely also need to be increased.

24. Do you support
- increased funding to develop affordable housing?
 - restrictions to ensure development of low-income rather than market rate housing?
 - a National Affordable Housing Trust Fund to build, rehabilitate and preserve at least 1.5 million units of primarily rental, primarily deeply targeted housing?
 - Protection against housing discrimination based on source of income?

Developing affordable housing is an important goal, but I am uncommitted as to how to achieve it. A National Affordable Housing Trust Fund to build, rehabilitate and preserve at least 1.5 million units of primarily rental, primarily deeply targeted housing sounds like a good start. As for protection against housing discrimination based on source of income, I am unfamiliar with the concept but it seems ill-advised.

25. What services, if any, should be offered to those whose time on Welfare has run out and do not have adequate income to support themselves and their families?

I am unsure what services, if any, should be offered to those whose time on Welfare has run out and do not have adequate income to support themselves and their families.

26. Do you favor
- increased federal aid to public education?
 - vouchers, tuition tax-credits or other any direct public support for parochial or private schools?

I tend not to favor increased federal aid to public education or vouchers, tuition tax-credits or other any direct public support for parochial or private schools in that I believe they are anathema to American public education. Funding for schools needs to be equalized at the state and local levels.

27. Are the provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act the appropriate way to advance student achievement? The provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act are proving to be an inappropriate way to advance student achievement because they have decreased local control and encouraged schools to jettison slower learners.

28. Do you support
- the Human Life Amendment?
 - parental or spousal notification or consent to obtain an abortion?
 - restoration of Medicaid coverage of abortion?
 - a ban on so-called partial birth abortions?
 - insurance coverage for abortions for federal and military employees and their dependents?

Abortion is a moral minefield. I support the right to legal abortion while personally regretting the moral decision to

end pregnancy. Since we are unable to determine when life begins, we must of necessity draw arbitrary but rational lines as to the outlines of this right. Unfortunately, Roe v. Wade is on a collision course with itself as it used existing medical technology to draw time lines that have long since changed.

29. Do you support increased funding for HIV/AIDS research, education, prevention, and services? Please discuss compulsory licensing of essential drugs where needed, in the US, Africa, Asia and elsewhere.

I have taken no position regarding increased funding for HIV/AIDS research, education, prevention, and services. I believe the pharmaceutical companies need to exhibit, as do all corporations, responsible corporate citizenship. Part of this duty arguably involves compulsory licensing of essential drugs where needed, in the US, Africa, Asia and elsewhere. Care must be taken of course, to protect intellectual property as well.

30. Do you support

- a. federal funding for stem cell research?
- b. legislation prohibiting stem cell research?

I support federal funding for stem cell research and am therefore opposed to legislation prohibiting stem cell research.

Law, Justice, and Correctional System

31. Do you support:

- a. admissibility of illegally obtained evidence?
- b. electronic eavesdropping?
- c. roving wiretaps?
- d. capital punishment?
- e. criminal prosecution of juveniles as adults?
- f. mandatory sentencing?
- g. criminalization of hate crimes?

I support electronic eavesdropping and roving wiretaps as long as they are obtained by warrant through court; these are merely legal changes necessary to keep pace with technological changes. I am strongly opposed to the admissibility of illegally obtained evidence (“fruit of the poison tree”) as a bedrock of our recent constitutional law.

I am strongly opposed to capital punishment because we can't prove it's wrong to kill by killing. Its has no deterrent value. It also allows for no rehabilitation, which along with tough punishment should be a foundation of our criminal justice system. I oppose the criminal prosecution of juveniles as adults as not befitting a great society. I oppose mandatory minimum sentencing as destructive of judicial prerogative. If we insist on a predetermined formula, why do we need a judge at all?

32. Do you support legislation prohibiting racial profiling in law enforcement?

I support legislation prohibiting racial profiling in law enforcement.

33. Do you favor detention of suspects and material witnesses without charges and/or probable cause? Do you favor giving such detainees access to counsel?

I am completely opposed to the detention of suspects and material witnesses without charges and/or probable cause and denying such detainees access to counsel. Such behavior is the stuff of banana republics, not great nations.

34. Would you support legislation authorizing or prohibiting secret military tribunals? Please explain your position.

I am also unalterably opposed to legislation authorizing or prohibiting secret military tribunals. This is just another example of the erosion of the Bill of Rights.

35. Do you support legislation to ban the manufacture, sale and possession of

- a. handguns?
- b. assault weapons?
- c. ammunition for handguns and assault weapons?

I support legislation to ban the manufacture, sale and possession of assault weapons; the problem is in the definition. Perhaps they ought to be categorized and regulated administratively similar to the way drugs are now (Class A, etc).

36. Do you support legislation

- a. mandating background checks of purchasers of weapons at gun shows, through the internet and through print advertisements?
- b. increasing penalties for illegal resale of weapons?

I strongly support legislation mandating background checks of purchasers of weapons at gun shows, through the internet and through print advertisements and increasing penalties for illegal resale of weapons.

37. a. Should funding for the Legal Services Corporation be increased?
 b. What restrictions, if any, should Congress enact or repeal regarding the scope of federally funded legal services for the poor?

Funding for the Legal Services Corporation could stand to be increased I have no doubt. However, I need more information regarding what restrictions, if any, Congress should enact or repeal regarding the scope of federally funded legal services for the poor.

Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

38. a. Do you favor repeal of the Patriot Act or any of its provisions?
 b. Would you vote for Patriot Act II?

I favor repeal of the Patriot Act and would not vote for Patriot Act II.

39. Do you support
- a. federal legislation to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation in housing, employment and education?
 - b. repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act?
 - c. a Constitutional amendment prohibiting states from recognizing gay civil unions or same sex unions?

I support federal legislation to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation in housing, employment and Education. Yet I believe the definition of marriage is, and has been for thousands of years, the union of a man and a woman. Therefore, although I believe same sex unions should not be discriminated against, I am unwilling under any circumstances to agree to change the definition of marriage.

40. What is your position on gays and lesbians in the military?

Gays and lesbians in the military should be allowed to serve their country without fear of being discharged because of their sexuality.

41. a. Do you support prior government restraint of the press?
 b. Do you support State censorship of the arts?
 c. What should be the guidelines in determining government support for the arts?
 d. Should funding for the NEA be increased, decreased or stay the same?

Of course I don't support prior government restraint of the press or State censorship of the arts. I also believe funding for the NEA should be increased, as this represents the soul and spiritual health of the nation. I think the public has the right to have at least some minimal oversight if the public is funding the arts.

42. Do you support
- a. prayer in public schools?
 - b. moment of silence?

I am strongly opposed to prayer in public schools because it doesn't belong there. A moment of silence may be acceptable although I think there are some using it to sneak prayer in through the back door.

43. Do you support mandatory drug testing in private and public employment? Briefly state the reasons for your answers.

Mandatory drug testing in private and public employment is unnecessary and is a violation of privacy except for those professions in which safety is an issue.

44. Do you support mandatory AIDS testing for insurance or employment?

It seems to me that AIDS testing makes more sense in the context of insurance than in employment, so I would be likely to support the former but not the latter.

45. Do you support legislation to redress inequities in pension benefits for women?
I support legislation to redress inequities in pension benefits for women.

46. Would you support the acceptance of completed ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment?
I am leaning toward supporting the acceptance of completed ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Labor

47. What changes, if any, in the Taft-Hartley Act would you work for?
I am uncertain what changes, if any, in the Taft-Hartley Act I would work for.

48. Do you support a prohibition on permanent replacement of strikers?
I don't have an opinion yet as to a prohibition on permanent replacement of strikers.

49. Do you favor giving federal employees the right to strike?
Most federal employees should probably not be allowed to strike.

50. What is your position on Affirmative Action with specific goals, targets and timetables for federal employment, grants and contracts and as a requirement for federal contractors and grantees?
Affirmative Action is still necessary in this country. But I foresee a day when we will have addressed the causes and be able to dispense with the symptoms. Having said that, we will never completely eliminate racism from man's heart and this is actually an argument for not continuing Affirmative Action forever. Perhaps a national apology for slavery could be part of the healing process.

51. a. Do you support comparable worth legislation?
b. What steps, if any, should the government take to monitor pay equity between men and women?
Comparable worth legislation seems laudable but I am unsure what steps, if any, the government should take to monitor pay equity between men and women.

52. Do you support a federal living wage law? Please explain why or why not?
I am unsure with regards to support of a federal living wage law. We do however, need to raise the minimum wage.