

IVI-IPO 2004 CONGRESSIONAL QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 1

DATE 01/10/200404 **DISTRICT:** 06 **PARTY:** Democrat

NAME: Christine Cegelis

VOTING ADDRESS: 3228 Brookmeade Dr. Rolling Meadows, IL 60008

HOME PHONE: 847-577-8267 **BUSINESS PHONE:** 847-797-8317

CAMPAIGN ADDRESS: P. O. Box 8192 Rolling Meadows, IL 60008

CAMPAIGN PHONE: 847-340-6610 **FAX:** 847-797-8318

EMAIL: Christine@cegelisforcongress.org **WEBSITE:** www.cegelisforcongress.org

CAMPAIGN MANAGER: Patrick Mogge

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED: 760 **NUMBER REQUIRED:** __519

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

- A) Elective or appointive public or party offices previously held including dates. None.
- B) Other elective offices for which you have been a candidate. None.
- C) Principal business, education, professional and civic activities of the past ten years.

For the past ten years I have been involved in the data processing area in Sales and Marketing as an account manager for many Fortune 1000 firms. I have also been very active in my church in areas of bereavement ministry, divorce ministry, social justice outreach and as the vocation councilor for the Mother Cabrini Region of the Secular Franciscans.

- D) What subjects have you studied and what experience have you had which will be most helpful to you in the office you seek?

I have a degree in International Relations and Public Administration from Florida State University. In addition, my professional life has afforded me the opportunity to work with many large companies and to understand their core business needs as well as glimpse into their corporate culture as I work closely with their employees.

For a time I worked for a firm based in England and was the marketing contact for the United States, which enabled me to travel extensively both here and abroad. The Information Technology field has been greatly impacted by the outsourcing of jobs and I have seen first hand the devastation on workers as the jobs disappear from the area.

I am the single parent of two sons, now grown. I know first hand what it is like to raise a family, have an aging parent, and try to make it in an economy that is repeatedly shrinking jobs. It is my desire to run for Congress because I believe that many current officeholders have lost touch with the reality of the American economy and the social structure that has changed in last 20 years.

E) Activities for other candidates. Please be specific.

I began my political activity while attending Florida State University and became a member of the Communications Workers of America. I am the typical "frontline" volunteer and have done everything from stuffing envelopes to writing letters to going door-to-door. The first campaign I worked on was the McGovern presidential campaign. Because of the misdirection of the Bush administration, I became heavily involved in the Kucinich campaign, which accelerated my interest in taking back the House of Representatives for the people. I believe that all people need to be involved in political action and have the right to participate in our democratic system.

F) Please list all endorsements you have received so far.

I have the support of Milton and Addison Democratic Townships and am working to secure the Winfield, Bloomingdale, Schaumburg, Hanover, York, and other DuPage and Cook County Democratic organizations. Gayl Ferraro, the Chair of the DuPage Democratic Party, has given me her personal endorsement.. I am seeking the endorsements from IVI-IPO, AFL-CIO, SEIU, IFT, IEA, Citizen Action, Sierra Club, NOW, National Women's Political Caucus, EMILY's List, and Illinois Planned Parenthood among others.

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 can beat Henry Hyde. In the primary, my challenger previously ran against Henry Hyde and never filed a report with the FEC nor created a committee for accepting contributions. He has also not done so for this election cycle. He has been in clear violation of election laws. I do not believe he is a serious candidate for Congress and I was told by the FEC that had he won last time he probably would have been censured by the House and not allowed to serve.

Henry Hyde has a long history of voting against the principles this organization as seen in the Medicare bill recently passed. His record against civil liberties and social justice issues are well known.

I am most interested in working towards a sensible trade policy that lifts up all people instead of the race to the bottom we are currently experiencing, developing a universal single health care system for this country similar to our Canadian neighbors, and creating a sensible a foreign policy that is inclusive of world views and events.

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

I believe that hiring and promoting public employees be done on qualification of the person to do the job.

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

We are budgeting between \$500,000 to \$1 million. We have raised approximately \$4,000 to date, but it is early in our campaign.

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

We have four members on staff – Campaign Manager, Fund Raiser, Scheduler-Office Manger and Treasurer. We are meeting with a candidate to fill our Director of Media Relations position on Tuesday, January 13, 2004.

Our list of volunteers has about 60 and we have had about 30 people actively working on the campaign at various times. We also have a committed steering committee to guide the campaign.

In addition, many of the townships in DuPage including York, Bloomingdale, Winfield, Addison and Milton have a volunteered to help with leafleting and getting the word out as we get closer to the election. All of the mentioned townships had at least one or more people help me collect signatures by walking their precincts.

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?

We should be leaders in the UN, NATO and the International Criminal Court but with the understanding that we also need to be partners with others in the world. We need to be involved and put the best of time, treasure and resources in helping these organizations realize their goals of creating a peaceful and just world.

- b. What should be the policy of the IMF and World Bank toward countries that are essentially bankrupt?

There should be debt forgiveness program to allow these countries to rebuild their economies.

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

Congress should be advised and allowed consent on various foreign policy issues particularly as they relate to trade and war.

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

No. The experience of both Vietnam and Iraq tells us the wisdom the Founding Fathers had in putting the power to wage war in the hands of Congress and not the Executive Branch.

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

We certainly have a number of civilian applications, such as rebuilding our own country's infrastructure especially our power grid, schools, highways and other public buildings. I would certainly support funding for companies that would create jobs here in the US as well as promote a better standard of living.

- 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?

No. I think the military budget is out of control and I am concerned about the use of funding to create the "Star Wars" missile system and the new smaller nuclear bombs.

5. Do you support

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

No. I would actively work to close WHISC.

- b. fast-track authority?

No.

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

No. I think we can all agree the war on drugs has failed. I would first decriminalize possession and make the possession and use of drugs a misdemeanor that would require treatment and follow up. I also support legalization of Marijuana for medical purposes.

7. Do you support

- a. normalization of relations with Cuba?

Yes.

b. the Helms-Burton Act?

No.

I am from Miami originally and lived both through the Cuban Missile Crisis and the large scale immigration of Cuban refugees into the Miami area. Many of my friends were refugees from Cuba. I do not see that the embargo on Cuba has brought about any of the desired effects. The Cuban economy has continued to suffer but is aided through black market goods smuggled into Cuba by Cuban-Americans that do not wish to deprive their families of consumer goods but still do not wish to acknowledge the Cuban government. In addition it has created a wedge in our foreign policy with many of our South American neighbors. It is time to normalize relations with Cuba and perhaps an open trading policy will bring about greater liberty for the Cuban people as well as friendlier relations with South American countries.

Environment

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

No, I think the recent resignations of key staffers are a sign that this is the worst environmental administration in history.

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 need to balance economic development, but not at the expense of water and air quality. I believe that there are solutions that would provide both economic development as well as protect wetlands and coastal lines. Again, my experience from Miami is that having large buildings built on the Coastline does not really make economic sense when faced with the possibility of hurricanes that can damage or destroy the buildings. It also has ruined the habitat for number of species that have become endangered. A sensible development plan would take into account quality of life issues for both people and wildlife.

10. Do you support oil drilling in Alaska and other protected wilderness?

No.

11. So you support pollution credit schemes?

No.

Transportation

12. What transportation policy do you favor regarding

- a. infrastructure improvements?
- b. highways?
- c. mass transit?
- d. high-speed rail?
- e. Amtrak?
- f. Air transportation, particularly the proposed O'Hare expansion and third airport?

At a time when much of America is out of work, we have an infrastructure that is crumbling. Our highways are in need of repair and mass transit systems for the suburban cities need to be created. Mass transit, high-speed rail and Amtrak are all initiatives that need to be better funded. In the Chicago area, we have large concentrations of jobs on Corporate Campuses such as Sears, Allstate and SBC that would be ideal places to provide a light rail system to alleviate the high amount of automobile traffic.

In addition, the creation of a high-speed rail system and the enhancement of Amtrak would take a burden off our air traffic system. There is a great amount of business travel between core Midwest cities like Detroit, Chicago, Minneapolis, and Indianapolis. On some of these routes, more than one airline will offer hourly flights to the same destination city out of more than one airport. Especially in the Chicago area, being able to take a relatively more comfortable train that in essence would not take any longer than going to the airport and would be more reliable. It would be less impacted by weather systems and would be a boon to the business traveler and free up highway congestion.

I am opposed to a third airport because I believe it just adds to the problem of creating more congestion and an airport that will require business travelers to drive even further to catch flights, especially to the smaller cities. In addition I feel it will take jobs out of District Six at time when we have already lost too many jobs. I would favor a light rail system being built in the district that connects O'Hare with several of the Corporate Campuses in the area.

In his February 2001 testimony, Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan supported a transaction that would fund this endeavor. The Federal Open Market Committee conducts repurchase agreements in mortgage-backed securities guaranteed by the agencies. Greenspan stated: "The FOMC asked the staff to explore the possible mechanisms for backing our usual repurchase operations with the collateral of certain debt obligations of U.S. States and foreign governments." We could create a plan that would provide the tool for the FOMC to integrate the mortgage loans of the states.

This amount would be varied so the funds could be used as a tool to foster stable economic growth. During times of economic slowdown, the FBIM would make more loans available to spur investment. During times of economic boom, the FBIM would make fewer loans available.

Taxes and Economic Policy

13. Do you favor

- a. a more progressive income tax? Yes.
- b. a flat tax? No.
- c. a national sales tax? No.
- d. reduction of the capital gains tax? No.
- e. reduction or elimination of the estate tax? No.
- f. elimination of the corporate alternative tax? No.
- g. tax cuts on stock dividends? No.
- h. any other changes in our tax structure? Please explain.

I believe that we really need to get back to a sensible tax structure that does rely more heavily on corporations paying their fair share of taxes. There should be sizable penalties for companies that incorporate off-shore or use dubious tax loops to avoid paying taxes. Firms that advise companies of these policies and proceed to set up accounting practices with the only purpose to avoid the payment of taxes should be charged with criminal intent.

14. Do you favor a roll-back of the Bush tax cuts?

Yes.

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

No. Social Security is a safety net for millions and we can not sacrifice it to the inconsistencies of the market. We have seen that in the market where large amounts of money is at stake, even with regulation, individuals have manipulated the investments to their advantage and to the detriment of the smaller investor.

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

We need to shrink this budget deficit if we are going to grow the economy. As part of this we need to raise certain taxes and cut spending where it makes sense. The current spending in the defense industry does not add enough jobs or any lasting benefit to the economy. We need to shift our spending to rebuilding our schools, our highways, our power grids and transportation systems. These improvements in our domestic structure will then foster more economic growth that will add to the tax base.

17. Do you support unfunded mandates to local government?

No.

Consumer Rights

18. Do you support

- a. granting consumers the right to an annual free copy of their consolidated credit report, including credit score? Yes.
- b. banning the use of Social Security numbers as identification in consumer transactions? Yes.

- c. federal legislation to cap interest rates on consumer loans? Yes.
- d. federal legislation to regulate ATM fees and service charges on credit cards and other consumer loans? Yes.
- e. federal legislation to give banks and finance companies priority over other unsecured lenders in bankruptcy proceedings? Yes.
- f. allowing states to enact consumer laws which go beyond the protection of federal legislation? Yes.

Government and Ethics

19. Do you support term limits? Describe briefly.

No, I do not support term limits. Though I am up against an incumbent that has served too long, I think it is up to the individual communities to determine if they desire a change in representation. I would support a campaign finance change that would make it easier for a challenger to run against an incumbent. I believe that really is at the core of the problem that the way our election financing is structured the incumbent always has the advantage and so unless a seat becomes open it is hard to change leadership. Term limits would force an open seat on occasion but really does not give the community the control to change or keep its representation based on fair an open elections, which was the intent of Constitution.

20. Do you support

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

No though I think the regulation of PACs to the amount of money they contribute to any one campaign is necessary.

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

Yes. The difference between the way defense spending was scrutinized in World War II and how it is handled today in the Iraq occupation is as good an example of the importance of Congressional oversight. The amount of waste and the more troubling "war profiteering" that is happening in the occupation of Iraq is shameful and that Congress is not insisting on more oversight given the deficit, the nature of the occupation, and the lives that are at stake seems to me the highest form of negligence of their duty to the American people.

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?

Yes, I believe it is time we join the rest of the world in providing health care for all of our citizens. We are paying the highest amount of GDP for health care and getting one of the lowest returns on our money with 43 million people with health care coverage. We are listed thirty-fourth in the world in infant mortality rates right behind Aruba because of the inadequate nature of health care system. It is criminal that in a society as rich as we are that we cannot take care of the basic need for good healthcare for our citizens.

23. Do you favor funding changes for the following:

- a. supplemental food programs for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)? Yes.
- b. food stamp allowances? Yes.
- c. Head Start?

Yes, and I would expand a public pre-school system that offered day care facilities for working families.

- d. school lunch programs? Yes.

24. Do you support

- a. increased funding to develop affordable housing? Yes.
- b. restrictions to ensure development of low-income rather than market rate housing?
Yes, and also encourage through federal funding building housing developments that create communities where people can access shopping, jobs and schools with without the need of private automobiles.
- c. a National Affordable Housing Trust Fund to build, rehabilitate and preserve at least 1.5 million units of primarily rental, primarily deeply targeted housing? Yes.
- d. Protection against housing discrimination based on source of income? Yes.

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?

The welfare to work program has failed due to not enough emphasis on education and the lack of childcare provisions. We need to create a program that helps educate people for the workforce as well as provides for the needs of their children during both the transition time as well as when they enter the workforce. In a slow economy such as we are experiencing, we may need to create a jobs program that would ensure that anyone looking for work has an opportunity to have some job that will provide experience needed to move to the private sector.

26. Do you favor

- a. increased federal aid to public education? Yes.
- b. vouchers, tuition tax-credits or other any direct public support for parochial or private schools? No.

27. Are the provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act the appropriate way to advance student achievement?

No. As we have seen, the No Child Left Behind Act was based on a fraudulent system in Houston that basically “cooked the books” to show improvement in school system that was failing its students. I feel that this is no less criminal than the cooking of the books at Enron. Instead of stealing peoples’ future retirement funds, the school system was stealing the future of millions of students. Education is too important to the welfare of our country and to the next generation to left up to bogus testing standards that do not raise the quality of education.

28. Do you support

- a. the Human Life Amendment? No.
- b. parental or spousal notification or consent to obtain an abortion? No.
- c. restoration of Medicaid coverage of abortion? Yes.
- d. a ban on so-called partial birth abortions? No.
- e. insurance coverage for abortions for federal and military employees and their dependents? Yes.

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.

Yes.

30. Do you support

- a. federal funding for stem cell research? Yes.
- b. legislation prohibiting stem cell research? No.

Law, Justice, and Correctional System

31. Do you support:

- a. admissibility of illegally obtained evidence? No.
- b. electronic eavesdropping? No.
- c. roving wiretaps? No.
- d. capital punishment? No.
- e. criminal prosecution of juveniles as adults? No.

This particularly disturbs me as a mother of two sons, I know when they were sixteen and seventeen they looked like men but in fact they still did not have the judgment and maturity of an adult. In fact even moving the “coming of age” to eighteen seems too young since our children are often at home much longer than previously. Most children, of at least our suburban middle class, are with somewhat dependant on their parents until their mid twenties. As our society becomes more complex and the choices are greater, I would argue that the amount of time needed to obtain the skills to successfully navigate the outside world require a longer time to assimilate.

- f. mandatory sentencing? No.
- g. criminalization of hate crimes? Yes.

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

Yes.

33. Do you favor detention of suspects and material witnesses without charges and/or probable cause?

No.

Do you favor giving such detainees access to counsel?

Yes. I believe no one should be held without counsel of due process of law and I am appalled at the current state of our legal system.

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

Yes. My belief is that we can only have a free society if we operate in an open manner.

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

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

36. Do you support legislation

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

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

None. The right to counsel is critical to preserving our civil liberties and should not be based on our economic standing.

Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

38. a. Do you favor repeal of the Patriot Act or any of its provisions? Yes.
b. Would you vote for Patriot Act II? No.

39. Do you support
a. federal legislation to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation in housing, employment and education? Yes.
b. repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act? Yes.
c. a Constitutional amendment prohibiting states from recognizing gay civil unions or same sex unions?
No.

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

I do not believe this should be an issue of information for service in the military. The “don’t ask don’t tell” policy has been a failure and has led to more discharges than prior to the policy.

41. a. Do you support prior government restraint of the press? No.
b. Do you support State censorship of the arts? No.
d. What should be the guidelines in determining government support for the arts?

One of the guidelines should be to ensure that we are creating jobs as well as art. Trying to legislate what is art or art that qualifies for federal funding based on its artistic value seems a bit beyond the ability of legislation. The NEA was initially started as a jobs program to insure that everyone has an opportunity to use their talent. In doing so it has provided us with some wonderful works of art and also some junk. Through it all though it has created jobs and I think we need to keep that in mind. I am sure that for every Michelangelo the Catholic Church sponsored they also sponsored hundreds of terrible artists that we will never know about. But it kept families fed and found the talented artists that would inspire us generations later among the mass of untalented.

e. Should funding for the NEA be increased, decreased or stay the same?

I would increase it.

42. Do you support
a. prayer in public schools? No.
b. moment of silence? No.

I am very religious person and I attended both parochial and public schools. I grew up in a very Jewish neighborhood and saw first hand the confusion and discrimination created when my Jewish classmates were forced to pray or sit out of prayer in a public school system we would start with Christian prayers.

I believe that children should be taught to pray in their homes according to the beliefs of their parents. If you are praying with your children at home then they have no need to be forced to pray in the school and if you are not praying with your children at home then praying in school will have no lasting effects on their spirituality. Our school system can do many wondrous things but it should not be a conduit of a particular spirituality.

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

I do support mandatory drug testing in occupations that are entrusted with public safety such as airline pilots, bus drivers, police and fire fighters. It is unfortunate but these are areas where the public need for safety outweighs the individual rights.

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

No.

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

Yes.

46. Would you support the acceptance of completed ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment?

Yes.

Labor

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

Changes that are acceptable to organized labor unions.

48. Would you support a prohibition on permanent replacement of strikers?

Yes.

49. Do you favor giving federal employees the right to strike?

Yes, with exceptions such as areas of public safety. However, in those cases I would give workers a greater access to outside arbitration.

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?

I support Affirmative Action but do not have a specific timetable or target as I believe that needs to be assessed individually as times and conditions change.

51. a. Do you support comparable worth legislation? Yes
b. What steps, if any, should the government take to monitor pay equity between men and women?

One of the problems has been that fields that are traditionally filled by women do tend to have a lower pay scale. On a federal level I am not sure there is really a practical solution to monitoring pay equity. Lifting up the pay scales

for occupations such as nursing, teaching, childcare providers and other service related occupations would go a long way to closing the gap. Many of these occupations should be federally funded, especially in rural or inner city areas that have trouble attracting qualified people. Women join the military in greater numbers because of the benefit of pay equity with their male counter parts and the provision of childcare, healthcare and schooling for their children. I would support programs that bring women in traditional occupations the same benefits that apply to women in the military.

With more and more women obtaining college degrees, I believe some of the pay equity problems will work their way out of our system.

52. Do you support a federal living wage law? Please explain why or why not.

Yes. The best example I can give is Wal-Mart. At Wal-Mart, the health insurance is beyond the economic reach of a third of its employees, many who qualify for food stamps and the Earned Income Tax credit. These are people working a 40-hour week, but are just living around the poverty level. What is irritating is that my tax dollars are being spent to subsidize their standard of living while Wal-Mart is making record profits. In essence, my tax dollars are contributing to the excess profits of the corporation and its shareholders and doing nothing to help lift the workers out of poverty. I think Wal-Mart should be unionized to help alleviate some of this situation but a federal living wage law would have the two-prong attack on this kind of Corporate welfare system that companies are using to increase their profits at the expense of the American taxpayer as well as their workers.