

**IVI-IPO 2004 CONGRESSIONAL QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 1**

DATE: January 14, 2004

DISTRICT: 7

PARTY: Democratic

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NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED: 6000

NUMBER REQUIRED: 999

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

A) Elective or appointive public or party offices previously held including dates.

<i>Alderman, 29th Ward</i>	<i>1979-1990</i>
<i>Cook County Commissioner, 1st District</i>	<i>1990-1996</i>
<i>Ward Committeeman 29th Ward</i>	<i>1984-2000</i>
<i>Democratic State Central Committeeman, 7th District, IL</i>	<i>1998-present</i>
<i>Board Member, National Corporation for Housing Partnerships</i>	<i>1994-1996</i>
<i>U.S. Congressman, 7<sup>th</sup> District</i>	<i>1997-present</i>

B) Other elective offices for which you have been a candidate.

*Mayor, City of Chicago*

C) Principal business, education, professional and civic activities of the past ten years.

*Since 1979 I have devoted my full time to public service. I have been active in supporting causes, issues and constituencies which I feel deeply about including such issues as peace and an end to the arms race, justice and equality for every member of our society, jobs with living wages for everyone who can work, quality, accessible health care for all, a quality education for every child, an end to discrimination because of race, gender, religion, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or indigence, protection of a woman's right to choose, preservation of our environment, a fair taxation system, open, honest and participatory government and full involvement of the people in our democratic system. I believe in empowering people including active support for organizing people on their jobs into labor unions, in their neighborhoods into community organizations, and regionally into political*

*and issue groups.*

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 hold a Ph.D. in public administration. I have had productive careers in education, health planning and community organizing which have exposed me to a broad array of concerns and individuals which enabled me to grow and develop. In my time as an elected official I have had the opportunity to study many of the issues which face us locally, nationally and internationally up close and in depth. I have been able to travel and learn from the experiences of others across the country and abroad. I have been fortunate in having the support and counsel of activists and leaders from many organizations which share parts of my philosophy, outlook and commitment.*

E) Activities for other candidates. Please be specific.

*Over the years I have supported dozens of candidates who I felt shared my views and commitment on the issues of the day. I was active in supporting Harold Washington for Mayor. I was co-chair of the Clinton-Gore Illinois campaign and the Carol Moseley-Braun campaign. It is a matter of principle for me, and a matter that I take great pride in, that I have always chosen candidates to support based their views and record, and the best interests of the people.*

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

*List in formation.*

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 respectfully request the IVI-IPO endorsement based on 1) the confluence of my views and those held to be central to the meaning and mission of IVI-IPO 2) my voting record in the Congress 3) My record as an elected official which has been recognized by IVI-IPO numerous times including as winner of the coveted Leon Despres Award 4) my activism and leadership on the many issues which IVI-IPO holds dear 5) the need for active, committed, honest and experienced leadership to build the peace, extend equality and justice, end poverty, racism, sexism, anti-Semitism, homophobia, meet our nation's needs for health care, education, civil, labor and human rights, honest and open government, protect the environment and stand up in the face of the attacks on the people by the ultra-right.*

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

*I am opposed to the patronage system and have worked all of my public life to eliminate it from government. I believe we should hire and let contracts based on qualifications of individuals, and competitive bidding of contracts. I believe that personnel policies should be set out in written personnel codes which should be elaborated with participation, through the collective bargaining process, by employees and which can, and should be, examined and debated by the public. I am opposed to discrimination based on race, gender or sexual orientation and support affirmative action programs to remedy past discrimination. I believe that public employment should reflect, in composition, the public it serves.*

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

*Campaign budget not yet finalized. Davis for Congress currently has more than \$350,000 on hand.*

*My campaign finances may be inspected on the Federal Election Commission website: [www.fec.gov](http://www.fec.gov)*

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

*I have no paid campaign staff. I have hundreds of volunteers on my lists.*

## 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?

*I think we must look at each alliance in its context. I believe that the UN has the potential to play an important role in international relations in accordance with its charter: “to maintain international peace and security”; “to develop friendly relations among nations”; and “to achieve international cooperation in solving ... economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian [problems]” and in “encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms.” Its various agencies such as UNHCR (High Commissioner for Refugees), UNESCO (Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization), UNICEF (Children), FAO (Food and Agriculture), UNCTAD (Trade and Development) play an extremely valuable role in world affairs.*

*The United Nations Security Council, while in need of modernization, plays an important role in World Diplomacy and maintenance of the peace. Our failure to utilize the potential of the United Nations for building consensus and coalitions essential to world peace and stability has been tragically highlighted in the Bush administration policy toward Iraq and our new, highly dangerous policy of “pre-emptive” military action.*

*The future of NATO is more difficult to discern since its mission as a military bloc dedicated to containing communism seems irrelevant today. With the end of the cold war new possibilities for peaceful, productive relations between the nations of Europe have emerged along with new dangers of trade blocs and potential trade wars. We must carefully consider what kinds of organizations will facilitate exploration of the new possibilities and assuagement of the potential dangers.*

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

*I support a policy of debt forgiveness for the Highly Indebted Nations and an end to the use of the IMF to enforce policies which cause massive reduction in quality of life on the respective populations in exchange for financial assistance.*

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

*I believe that Congress must play the role assigned by the Constitution:*

*Congress shall have Power To ... provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States ... To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations ... To define and punish Piracies and Felonies committed on the high Seas, and Offences against the Law of Nations ... To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water [and] ... To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers.*

*In other words, Congress has a major responsibility for the development of foreign policy and must be an active participant in promulgating such policy.*

3. Should the US wage war without a declaration from Congress? *No.*

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

*Yes. Under the current economic conditions of a "jobless recovery" and corporate attempts to move jobs abroad in search of the lowest wages and working conditions this notion is more relevant and urgent than ever.*

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?

*There are many very expensive programs in the defense budget which have no justifiable purpose or which may even be counter-productive. These weapons systems, hold-overs from the cold war play no role in protecting the U.S. homeland but consume billions of dollars badly needed for health care, education, infrastructure and other urgent needs.*

5. Do you support

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

*No. I am a co-sponsor of legislation to close this facility.*

b. fast-track authority?

*No. This is an abrogation of the Constitutional responsibility of the Congress. I believe that Congress should not relinquish its responsibilities to participate in formulating trade policy. Key to that policy is the issue of protecting the rights of workers, consumers and the environment everywhere if we are to protect those rights here in America. We have not done a good job on those issues in the recent period (e.g. NAFTA, FTAA, WTO.) Fast track sharply reduces the possibility of ensuring that those rights are protected.*

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

*No. The war on drugs has been a disaster. It has resulted in mass incarceration, especially among African Americans. It has become a cover for support for right wing dictatorship abroad (Columbia for example). It has not reduced addiction. I support drug treatment on demand and I am currently working on placing a referendum on this question on the November ballot here in Illinois. I support reform of our laws on drug sentencing and expungement. I support expanded research on the causes and treatment of addiction. I support regulating nicotine by the food and drug administration.*

7. Do you support

a. normalization of relations with Cuba?

b. the Helms-Burton Act?

*Yes, I support the lifting of the trade embargo against Cuba and the beginning of a process which will restore normalcy to relations with one of our closest neighbors. The current policy is a relic of the Cold War. It is time for us to move beyond those policies. We need to extract the United States from the role of "World Police Officer" and seek to achieve our goals through the development of fair trade and cooperation on matters of education, health, industrial development, science and culture. I support repeal of the Helms-Burton Act.*

## **Environment**

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

*No. The Bush administration has been the most blatantly anti-environment President in our time. Energy policy, clean water, protection of natural areas, toxic waste clean up, particulates in the air, CAFÉ standards - in every area we have seen unprecedented administrative actions rolling back environmental policy. I have consistently voted against such policies and will continue to work for restoration of these protections and for the expansion of pro-environment policies.*

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.

*Of course there are costs involved in protecting the environment. But these are easily balanced when measured against the costs flowing from the destruction of the environment in terms of damage to human health, lost of bio-diversity, erosion and other factors. It is now clear that global warming is a real and imminent threat and that we need to map out a global solution which begins with our own responsibilities here in the United States. In addition, we have found that protecting the environment is a major source of economic development, a creator of jobs and new technologies which are widely applicable in many fields.*

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

*No. I have voted against these efforts on every occasion.*

11. So you support pollution credit schemes?

*While I do not rule out such schemes entirely, there is little evidence at this time that such schemes offer any meaningful, long term solutions.*

## **Transportation**

12. What transportation policy do you favor regarding

- infrastructure improvements?
- highways?
- mass transit?

- d. high-speed rail?
- e. Amtrak?
- f. Air transportation, particularly the proposed O'Hare expansion and third airport?

*I favor the development of mass transit and high speed rail and have consistently supported expanded federal assistance in infrastructure improvements for them. I believe that mass transit, Amtrak, and high speed rail offer cheap, clean, safe, convenient alternatives to automobile travel if properly developed and operated and I support efforts to make Chicago a major hub for high speed rail. I have supported the most recent, limited proposal for a third airport put forth by Representative Jackson, Jr.*

## **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.

*The past few years have seen an unprecedented perversion of our tax system, shifting the burden of taxes from those most able to pay to poor and working people. Corporate welfare has continued to expand. The result has been recession, hardship, deficits, reductions in critical public services and new burdens for generations to follow us. I support an fundamental restructuring to make our tax system fair and progressive, end structural deficits, ensure the viability of Social Security, Medicare and the full array of public services and end corporate welfare. Such a restructuring would enable us to launch universal single-payer health care which would have a great impact, sharply reducing the long term deficit, and resolving some of the most thorny problems in labor relations facing workers today.*

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. Such a plan would be highly risky and would offer no real security to most workers.*

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

*I generally favor balancing our federal budget except in times of war or recession when public spending is required to meet the needs of the people and the nation.*

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? *No.*

f. allowing states to enact consumer laws which go beyond the protection of federal legislation? *Yes.*

*I am co-sponsor of a number of bills which address the above issues.*

### **Government and Ethics**

19. Do you support term limits? Describe briefly.

*I am opposed to term limits and believe that the ultimate and best term limiter is the ballot box.*

20. Do you support

a. public financing of Congressional campaigns? *Yes.*

b. spending limits? *Given existing Supreme Court decisions I am unsure what form this would take.*

c. abolition of PACs? *Yes, as part of public financing.*

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

*Yes. The experience we have seen in contracting in Iraq indicate an urgent need for more oversight.*

## 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 am a co-sponsor of the single-payer bill in the Congress.*

23. Do you favor funding changes for the following:

- a. supplemental food programs for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)? *Yes, expanded funding.*
- b. food stamp allowances? *Yes, expanded funding.*
- c. Head Start? *Yes, expanded funding.*
- d. school lunch programs? *Yes, expanded funding.*

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.*
- 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? *I favor ending time limits.*

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?

*The "No Child Left Behind" program is a slogan, not a program. It is a deeply flawed and highly politicized initiative. I support the notion of accountability in our educational system, but accountability without resources adds nothing to our children's education. "No Child Left Behind" reduces the ability of our educational system to meet the individual needs our children and attempts to stamp out children as if they were being created from molds. It ignores individual differences and cultural inequities. This "one size fits all" philosophy, setting one inflexible system of testing to somehow measure the education progress of every student, can be as unfair as pitting a professional athlete wearing sports shoes to a child wearing hip boots in a long distance foot race.*

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.

*I support increased funding for HIV/AIDS research, education, prevention and services. I was a co-sponsor of the Lee amendment. Now the concern revolves around the Bush administration actually fulfilling promises to provide the agreed level of funding. I support compulsory licensing of essential drugs where needed especially in the developing countries.*

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.*
  - 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.*

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

*I would support legislation prohibiting secret military tribunals which I view as inconsistent with our Constitution and with our basic notions of democracy and justice.*

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?

*I favor restoring the right of federally funded class action suits, and additional services for worker rights.*

### **Civil Liberties and Civil Rights**

38. a. Do you favor repeal of the Patriot Act or any of its provisions?

*Yes, I am a co-sponsor of such legislation.*

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 believe that our military should accept and promote members without regard for sexual orientation.*

41. a. Do you support prior government restraint of the press? *No.*

b. Do you support State censorship of the arts? *No.*

c. What should be the guidelines in determining government support for the arts?

*I support leaving guideline decisions to the National Endowment for the Arts. We should not be fooled. Attacks on the arts are not the result of "lack of morality" in the arts, but because art is often a sharp tool for attacking anti-people agendas. Funding for the arts has been cut in an attempt to suppress and/or intimidate artists. I believe that funding for the arts enriches our society, strengthens our democracy and stimulates economic development particularly here in Illinois where the arts are closely tied to tourism.*

d. Should funding for the NEA be increased, decreased or stay the same? *Increased.*

42. Do you support

a. prayer in public schools?

b. moment of silence?

*I am a strong believer in prayer, however I do not support organized prayer in the public schools. If one cannot find time to pray outside of school, then one is, perhaps, more desperately in need of prayer than one may think.*

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

*I oppose mandatory drug testing as an invasion of our fundamental right to privacy.*

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

*I oppose mandatory AIDS testing as an invasion of our fundamental right to privacy.*

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

*Yes. I have co-sponsored such legislation.*

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?

*The 1947 Taft-Hartley Act was a disaster for working people and trade unions. Among the changes brought by this law were the outlawing of mass picketing, secondary strikes and sit-down strikes. The National Labor Relations Board was given increased authority. Taft-Hartley made organizing workers more difficult and created a stifling bureaucracy to resolve conflicts. Given the fact that wages and living standards have been declining for more than 20 years now and that union membership has also been declining due to the difficulties in organizing workers and the vast power of modern corporations and trans-nationals I favor the repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act.*

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

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

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 as one of the few real tools we have to remedy past discrimination. Affirmative Action without specific goals and time tables does not work as experience has shown time and again. I support Affirmative Action for federal employment, grants and contracts and as a requirement for federal contractors and grantees.*

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?

*I believe that pay equity should be monitored and enforced by the Department of Labor to account for comparable worth and should be protected by statute so that women could also seek equity and recourse in the courts.*

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

*Yes. Current minimum wage is insufficient to sustain a family above the poverty level. Moreover the notion of a minimum wage which provides a family an existence on the edge of the poverty level is a moral and human tragedy in a wealthy and vigorous nation such as the United States. Poverty and near poverty are great drags on our economy and on taxpayers.*

*Implementation of a living wage capable of sustaining a family with dignity and basic human services would be a logical and long overdue completion of our notions of democracy and a significant advance in rationalizing our economy.*