

Independent Voters of Illinois- Independent Precinct Organization 2004 CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT CANDIDATE INSTRUCTIONS

In order to be favorably considered for an IVI-IPO endorsement, you should follow these instructions carefully.

IVI-IPO is widely recognized as having one of the most comprehensive issue questionnaires. We often receive requests from reporters who use candidate responses as background material for their stories. All or part of your questionnaire also may be posted to our web page. We hope you will consider this in completing your questionnaire and provide us with thoughtful, thorough responses.

Please be sure to complete the contact information and the 10 background questions in Section 1, as well as the numbered questions specific to the office you seek in Section 2.

MOST QUESTIONS CAN BE ANSWERED SIMPLY YES OR NO. Feel free to explain your answers in greater detail if you wish. **Your responses should include both the questions and the answers; otherwise, the reader will be confused.**

Your completed questionnaire, in Word format, must be submitted to our office by email by Friday, January 16, 2004. Please call our office if you did not receive the questionnaire electronically and we will email it to you.

You also will be asked to bring 20 copies of your completed questionnaire to the interviewing session. **You must provide hard copies of your questionnaire.** IVI-IPO will not make copies of your questionnaire for you.

Prior to the final endorsement, completed questionnaires will be available for review only by IVI-IPO members. Candidates, even if they are members, will not be able to view their opponents' responses until after the interviewing session. After an endorsement has been made, completed questionnaires will be available for review by members, candidates, the press or the public.

THE INTERVIEW

Candidates for each office are interviewed separately and consecutively by IVI-IPO members residing in the affected electoral district. Each candidate will make a brief presentation, followed by questions from our members. The allowed time in your race will be determined by the chair of your endorsement session.

Although every effort will be made to accommodate your personal schedule, the dates for the sessions are fixed, and it is not always possible to give each candidate the time slot of his or her choice. If you are unable to attend, you may send a surrogate to make a presentation and answer questions on your behalf.

Candidates may not be present for their opponents' interview, nor for the deliberations of members. With those exceptions, the entire interviewing process is open to the public and the press.

After candidates for an office have been heard, the members will evaluate each candidate on the basis of agreement with IVI-IPO positions, past record (for incumbents), political independence, and campaign viability. A vote will be taken to endorse one or more candidates or to make no endorsement. A 3/5 vote of a quorum of eligible members present is required to make a final endorsement of a candidate. If either the quorum or the 3/5 majority requirement is not met, the vote is a recommendation to the IVI-IPO Board.

REVIEW BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The IVI-IPO Board will meet January 28 to consider recommendations from the interview sessions. Candidates do not make additional presentations at this time. Board members will receive reports from the interview sessions, review the questionnaires, and vote to accept or reject the membership recommendation.

AFTER THE ENDORSEMENT

All candidates who appeared for an interview will be notified by mail or email of the endorsement decision. IVI-IPO will arrange a press conference to announce our endorsements. The Independent Campaign Committee (ICC) will work with IVI-IPO supported candidates to distribute literature, get press coverage and mobilize volunteers.

If you have any further questions, please contact our office at 312-939-5105. We wish you good luck in your endorsement application and in your campaign.

IVI-IPO 2004 CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 1

DATE _____ **PARTY:** _____

NAME: _____

VOTING ADDRESS: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ **BUSINESS PHONE:** _____

CAMPAIGN ADDRESS: _____

CAMPAIGN PHONE: _____ **FAX:** _____

EMAIL: _____ **WEBSITE:** _____

CAMPAIGN MANAGER: _____

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED: _____ **NUMBER REQUIRED:** _____

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

- A)** Elective or appointive public or party offices previously held including dates.
- B)** Other elective offices for which you have been a candidate.
- C)** Principal business, education, professional and civic activities of the past ten years.
- D)** What subjects have you studied and what experience have you had which will be most helpful to you in the office you seek?
- E)** Activities for other candidates. Please be specific.
- F)** Please list all endorsements you have received so far.
- 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?
- H)** Please outline the place of patronage, personnel codes, race, gender, and sexual orientation in establishing criteria for hiring and promoting public employees.
- I)** What is your campaign budget? How much have you raised to date?
- J)** How many people are on your campaign staff? How many volunteers are on your list?

IVI-IPO 2004 CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 2

Clerk of the Circuit Court Candidate Questionnaire - 3/21/00 Primary

1. In what ways should the administration of the Clerk's office be improved?
2. What questions of public policy arise in the administration of this office, and what guidelines do you suggest for seeking answers to such questions?
3. What positions, if any, in the Clerk's office should be included under Civil Service?
4. In what ways should the Clerk's office contribute to the upgrading of the court's public image?
5. In your opinion, are there administrative duties that should be added to this office in the interest of efficiency and effective functioning of the courts? Are there duties presently performed that might be more reasonably performed by another agency?
6. Should court clerks, assigned to courtrooms, be required to take direction from the presiding judge of that courtroom?
7. How would you work with other agencies to decrease the backlog of court cases?
8. What reforms will you implement to prevent the theft, misfiling and disappearance of court case files from the Clerk's office?
9. How would you improve public access to information?
10. What measures would you use to collect NSF checks given to the clerk's office as filing fees?
11. Should this office be elected or appointed? If appointed, by whom?