

IVI-IPO 2004 US SENATE QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 1

DATE 1/5/04 PARTY: Democratic

NAME: Blair Hull

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NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED: 10,000 (45,507 collected) NUMBER REQUIRED: 5,000

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?

A lifetime Democrat, Blair Hull has long championed the causes of equality, compassion, and tolerance. Born to Jean and Marson Hull in 1942, Blair was raised with the Midwestern values of hard work, community, and discipline. Blair understands working families because he came from a working family. His parents struggled during the Depression and lived paycheck to paycheck, and after completing high school, he went to work on the assembly line of a cannery factory, ultimately joining Union Local 912 and earning himself a union card by age 19.

During the Vietnam buildup, Blair answered his nation's call and served four years in the United States Army. After completing his military service, Blair turned to the classroom, teaching high school level math and physics while becoming a student again himself and going on to higher education with the GI Bill, as his father had done before him.

While working full-time at a manufacturing company, Blair took his mathematic and analytical skills to the blackjack tables in Las Vegas, where he proved to be a skilled and disciplined player. Blair took his initial stake of \$500 and turned it into accumulated winnings of \$25,000 with which he was able to start a business on the Chicago financial exchanges that he then sold in 1999. Blair established himself as a pioneer in the trading industry, revolutionizing the financial markets through the innovative use of state-of-the-art technology.

As founder of Hull Trading Company, Blair built a business from scratch here in Illinois, creating hundreds of jobs, putting people to work, and growing his company into one of the most successful trading firms in the country. Blair believes that in government, as in business, leaders must lay out long term visions for the future, must be innovative in their approach to new and challenging problems, and must never be afraid to challenge the status quo.

Because of his working class roots, Blair has always believed that the role of government is to serve the people, not the corporate special interests. His background bears out his commitment to working families and real people, and Blair brings to this race decades of advocacy in the name of equal opportunity and women's rights.

Blair is an outspoken supporter of a woman's right to choose, is currently on leave from the national board of NARAL Pro-Choice America, and is actively involved with Planned Parenthood, Emily's List, and Voters for Choice. In Illinois, Blair has been recognized by the Illinois General Assembly for his lifelong advocacy and dedication to protecting the rights of all women, and has been honored as a Lifetime Activist by Personal PAC, Illinois' largest and most influential pro-choice organization. Blair serves on the board of the Women's Sports Foundation, and endowed the first chair in Women's Studies at his alma mater.

As of September 30, the Hull for Senate campaign has spent \$6.4 million. In order to maintain an independent voice for Illinois in the U.S. Senate, Blair has refused to take PAC and other special interest money, and will only accept personal donations of \$100 or less. By doing so, Blair can promise that the only group to which he will feel responsible will be the Illinois voters.

Illinois needs a strong voice that will be a positive force for change in Washington. One that can offer creative solutions and systemic changes. One who is independent of special interests and will not be influenced by powerful lobbyists in Washington. Blair Hull will be this catalyst for change, working to move Illinois and America forward.

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?
Active participation in multinational institutions such as the UN and NATO directly advances American economic and security interests. Much of the difficulties we are encountering in Iraq could have been mitigated with a more deft approach to diplomacy than that found in the Bush Administration.

While the United States' unique position in the world brings with it special responsibilities, it also makes it a target for politically motivated attacks by states or individuals unable to compete with us in other channels. We should not have unilaterally withdrawn from the Rome Treaty and must restart negotiations regarding our participation in the court. The ICC will be an important part of the establishment of the international rule of law. However, I will not support the ratification of a treaty that would put our soldiers conducting operations such as Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan in danger of being prosecuted as war criminals.
- b. What should be the policy of the IMF and World Bank toward countries that are essentially bankrupt?
I support the establishment of a Chapter 11 type bankruptcy protection for such states, along with provisions preventing states from defaulting on debt except in the direst of circumstances. I would also be open to debt forgiveness for the neediest countries.
2. What should be Congress' role in formulating foreign policy?
As Senator, I will uphold the Senate's constitutional responsibility to play an essential role in the support and supervision of the President's foreign policy. I intend to take an active role in examining how a globally-connected Illinois is impacted by the special-interest dominated foreign policy of the Bush Administration, with a particular emphasis on the need for fair trade.
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?
I support funding for the research and development of technologies with dual defense and civilian uses.
- 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 propose a comprehensive reexamination of the role of and the benefits for the National Guard and Reserves in light of the crucial role they are playing in the overreaching foreign policy of the Bush Administration. I also support shifting funds from the over-funded and poorly-managed Missile Defense Agency, which seeks to intercept a currently non-existent rogue ICBM threat, to such pressing homeland security needs as port security, intelligence collection, and first responders.
5. Do you support
a. continued funding for WHISC (the re-named Army School of the Americas)?
The Army School of the Americas failed to promote human rights in South and Central America. However, engagement between the militaries of other democracies and our own can positively impact the spread of human rights, democratic values and security abroad, provided such programs are closely supervised by the Congress.

b. fast-track authority?

No. I will not vote to ratify any free trade agreement that does not require and enforce fair trade practices, labor standards, human rights, and environmental protections.

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 no clear enemy or clear objective. We must reevaluate how we are spending our money and focus anew on drug treatment and education programs.

7. Do you support

a. normalization of relations with Cuba? Yes, provided there is continuing movement towards democracy.

b. the Helms-Burton Act? No.

Environment

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

I do not support the environmental policies of the current administration. The so-called "Clean Skies Act" and changes to the New Source Review provisions have seriously undermined key sections of the Clean Air Act. Programs such as the "Healthy Forest Initiative" have hampered wildfire prevention by removing old growth forests and leaving in place the smaller trees that cause the fires while fattening the pockets of corporate supporters of the Administration through increased logging of our National Forests and Parks.

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.

The Bush Administration has failed miserably to balance environmental protection and economic development. As your Senator, I will fight to improve economic development but not at the expense of our environment. Protection of our air, water, and food supply are not just good public policy and economically beneficial, they are cornerstones of our public health and must not be taken for granted.

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

I do not support drilling for oil in Alaska or in other protected wilderness areas.

11. Do you support pollution credit schemes?

I support cap and trade systems as an effective and innovative way of reducing pollution. However, I will only support them if they require continual reduction of overall emissions and discharges.

Transportation

12. What transportation policy do you favor regarding

a. infrastructure improvements?

Roads, highways, rail lines, bridges, mass transit, and airports are the life-blood that connects people with jobs, services and manufactured goods. It is essential that we continually invest wisely in our transportation network focusing on safety, environmental protection, and alternative modes of transportation. As your Senator I will fight for infrastructure improvements that benefit Illinois.

b. highways?

According to U.S. Department of Transportation, each \$1 billion of federal spending on highway construction nationwide generates 47,500 jobs annually and every dollar invested in highways yields \$5.70 in economic benefits from reduced delays, improved safety and reduced vehicle-operating costs.

We should balance highway spending and spending on mass transit with a goal of reducing congestion, improving travel times and maximizing community participation as well as improving mileage standards.

c. mass transit?

I am a strong supporter of mass transit. As your Senator, I will continue to fight for the expansion and improvement of our mass transit systems. They are an essential conduit through which people reach their jobs and ease our overburdened highway transit system.

d. high-speed rail?

Our nation needs to upgrade our rail system. Every \$1 billion invested in public transit capital projects generates about thirty thousand jobs and every \$1 billion invested in transit operations generates sixty thousand jobs. As a major metropolitan center in the heart of the Midwest, Chicago is a prime location to study, plan and build America's next generation rail system.

e. Amtrak?

We must continue to support Amtrak and hold it accountable as it moves it towards becoming an economically self-sufficient entity. It must also be incorporated into a national high-speed rail plan.

f. Air transportation, particularly the proposed O'Hare expansion and third airport?

As Senator, I will support funding to modernize and expand O'Hare Airport. As the number of flights increases and the airport handles more and more passengers, it is essential that we provide the needed improvements to ensure passenger safety and the long-term economic prosperity of Illinois. O'Hare is one of the keys to the economic growth not only of the Chicago metro area but also of the entire state. It is important that during this improvement process the environmental impacts of expansion are considered. I am also aggressively pursuing the development of economic engines for Southern Illinois and Chicago's South Side. I would consider an airport in Peotone as well as other options in order to help revitalize the economy of these areas.

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? I support a reasonable exemption from the estate tax to protect small family businesses and farmers. I believe we should treat the remaining estate as ordinary income.

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.

My Jobs America plan proposes the Simple Family Credit. It is an innovative simplification of the tax code. It would replace 200 pages of the tax code with a single 12-line form *and* provide tax relief to working families by enacting the Simplified Family Credit (SFC). The SFC would replace four active tax programs: the Earned Income Tax Credit, the Child Tax Credit, the Additional Child Credit, and the dependent exemption for children. Families would receive \$1 in a refundable credit for every \$2 earned – up to the maximum credit amount, which increases with the number of children. The SFC would simplify and expand benefits for taxpaying families with children.

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.
16. What is your position on federal deficit spending vs. balanced budget?
While some deficit spending may be required for economic stimulation, I believe the Bush tax cuts were harmful to the long term financial security of the country. I would have voted against those tax cuts. I believe that borrowing from our children is unconscionable as well as bad for the economy.
17. Do you support unfunded mandates to local government? No.

Consumer Rights

18. Do you support
- granting consumers the right to an annual free copy of their consolidated credit report, including credit score? Yes.
 - banning the use of Social Security numbers as identification in consumer transactions? Yes.
 - federal legislation to cap interest rates on consumer loans? Yes.
 - federal legislation to regulate ATM fees and service charges on credit cards and other consumer loans? Yes.
 - federal legislation to give banks and finance companies priority over other unsecured lenders in bankruptcy proceedings? No.
 - 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.
Yes, I have been a supporter of term limits in the past and I still believe that term limits might help eliminate the influence of corporate special interests in our political process.
20. Do you support
- public financing of Congressional campaigns? Yes.
 - spending limits? Yes, if there is public financing.
 - abolition of PACs? Yes.

21. Would you support increased Congressional oversight of federal contracting? Why or why not?
Yes. It is the constitutional responsibility of Congress to oversee the use of funds it has appropriated.

Health & Human Services

22. Do you support comprehensive, universal, single-payer health care? If not, how would you address the need for health care for the uninsured and underinsured?
My plan, Health America, will provide all Americans with access to affordable, quality health care by expanding existing programs and creating a federal purchasing pool that will allow individuals to purchase health insurance at rates not exceeding 7.5% of their annual income. As Senator, providing affordable health care for all Americans is my top priority.
23. Do you favor funding changes for the following:
- supplemental food programs for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)?
I would support an increase in funding for WIC.

b. food stamp allowances?

I would support an increase in food stamp allowances.

c. Head Start?

I would support an increase in funding to allow all eligible children to be enrolled in this highly successful program.

d. school lunch programs?

I would support funding for a school lunch program that provides filling nutritionally balanced meals to all low-income children.

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 would support a temporary extension of welfare benefits beyond the five-year deadline during this time of economic uncertainty, while at the same time developing a long-term safety net for the most vulnerable. Under the Bush Administration we have seen more than 3 million jobs disappear. While I support the concept of welfare to work, I also understand that we need to make sure an adequate safety net is in place that includes affordable health care and child care—issues the Bush Administration has failed to address.

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. While I support accountability and improvement in our nation's schools, the unfunded mandate of NCLB in its current form will probably do more harm than good. As Senator, I will fight for higher quality education for all children, an education that will prepare them for rigors of college and the working world, not an education that will simply prepare them to take tests.

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 research, treatment, and support services. Additionally, I am a strong advocate for evidence-based prevention policy and the use of clinically-based management strategies. Studies have shown that by investing in preventive measures we can save lives and financial resources. My Health America

plan also focuses on expanding those eligible to buy into Medicaid and creating federal high-risk pools, improving the quality and access to care for all.

I believe the most crucial part in the fight against the global AIDS pandemic is ensuring that poor countries have access to affordable, life-saving drugs. This is not only the humane course of action, but one that advances United States interests in global stability and the elimination of new strains of HIV. Thus, I will strive to address this issue in two main ways. First, I will support increased U.S. funding for prevention counseling and medication in poor countries through *appropriated funds* as opposed to hollow promises from the Bush Administration. Secondly, I will oppose free trade agreements which seek to curtail the ability of poor nations to produce generics to fight epidemics. I also support examining pharmaceutical pre-commitments, an innovative way for the federal government to work with pharmaceutical companies to encourage the pursuit of AIDS treatment research, while enabling life-saving drugs to get to the poorest both in our country and in the developing world. I believe that it is imperative that the world's rich nations and pharmaceutical companies work together and each do their share to overcome this worldwide health crisis.

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? Only under strict supervision of the courts after showing just cause.
 - c. roving wiretaps? No.
 - d. capital punishment? No. Based on the Illinois experience which highlights racial and prosecutorial biases in the administration of the death penalty, I support the current moratorium while attempts are made to fix the system and ensure that innocent people are not executed.
 - e. criminal prosecution of juveniles as adults? On a case by case basis, but never for capital crimes.
 - 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.

As a veteran, I support the Uniform Code of Military Justice. These military tribunals *may* be required for some cases, but they must be under the supervision of the federal courts system, they must allow access to counsel, and they must be specifically authorized by Congress. Congress needs to set legislative limits on the President's treatment of prisoners including time periods for detainment without counsel and appropriate interrogation.

35. Do you support legislation to ban the manufacture, sale and possession of
- a. handguns? No, but I do support increased regulation of their use and safety.
 - b. assault weapons? Yes.
 - c. ammunition for handguns and assault weapons? Only for assault weapons.

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.

Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

38. a. Do you favor repeal of the Patriot Act or any of its provisions?
Yes. While some of the Act's provisions are needed to improve communication between law enforcement agencies and to close loopholes in our money laundering laws, many provisions are troubling. I support legislation like the SAFE Act, which includes important checks on law enforcement abuse including requiring judicial oversight of surveillance efforts and restoring the privacy of public library patrons.

b. Would you vote for Patriot Act II? No, based on the draft legislation I have seen.

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, I believe there are many constitutional problems with the Defense of Marriage Act.
 - 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?
A veteran myself, I do not believe sexual orientation should disqualify anyone from serving their country.

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? While Congress appropriates the total budget of the NEA, project funding decisions should continue to be made by independent, nonpartisan panels.
d. Should funding for the NEA be increased, decreased or stay the same? I do not think funding should be decreased, but an increase may not be possible right now given the Bush Administration's massive deficit spending.

42. Do you support
- a. prayer in public schools? No.
 - b. moment of silence? Yes, provided adequate constitutional protections are in place.

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

I support drug testing for positions of public safety and security only.

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?
The Act must be amended to reflect the changes since its passage in 1947. It must take into consideration the globalization of business and new technological innovations. It must also be amended to further clarify the “imperil national health” clause.
48. Do you support a prohibition on permanent replacement of strikers? Yes.
49. Do you favor giving federal employees the right to strike?
Yes, although there may need to be limits during national emergencies.
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 the position of the University of Michigan as recently upheld by the Supreme Court. I believe that the work of Affirmative Action is far from over, and support its continuation.
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?
Agencies should be required to review comparable worth data as part of their oversight of industries and business.
52. Do you support a federal living wage law? Please explain why or why not.
I support the raising of the minimum wage, especially given the proliferation of part-time service industry jobs in our current economy. I will also propose that any Congressional pay increase automatically triggers an equal percentage raise in the minimum wage.