

IVI-IPO 2004 GENERAL ASSEMBLY QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 1

DATE: Jan 02, 2004

DISTRICT: 24

PARTY: Democratic

NAME: Ismael Vargas

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CAMPAIGN MANAGER: Cristina Saldana

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED: 467 **NUMBER REQUIRED:** 300

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

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

LOCAL SCHOOL COUNCIL, FINKL ACADEMY (Elementary School)
Council Chairperson, Parent Representative, 4 terms, 1996-2001
MEMBER OF CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOL (CPS) LSC ADVISORY BOARD
for two years 1999-2001
CAROLE ROBERTSON CENTER FOR LEARNING
Board Member/ Chair and Vice Chair, 1994-99

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

Morton Collage Board, 2003
Local School Council, 1996-2001

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

EXPERIENCE:

PARENTS UNITED FOR RESPONSIBLE EDUCATION (PURE)

Assistant Director, Parent Trainer Advocate, 1996 - Present.

ABUNDANT LIFE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Youth Pastor and Lider

HARVARD SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Public Health Field Interviewer, 1995 - 1996

APPLIED REAL ESTATE ANALYSIS, INC.

Field Surveyor, Winter 1994 - 1995 Part time

PROJECT ON HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IN CHICAGO NEIGHBORHOODS

Supervisor, 1993 - 94

A.C. NIELSEN

Interviewer, 1991 - 92

EDUCATION:

CHRIST CENTER, SCHOOL OF COUNSELING AND ADDICTION STUDIES

Major - Bachelors' In Counseling - Graduation 2004
NATIONAL OFFICE OF PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT, INC.
Mayor's Office of Employment and Training
Academic Skills Training Program, Computer Literacy. 1993 - 94
BENITO JUAREZ HIGH SCHOOL, CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
General Studies
Bilingual Club

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND AFFILIATIONS:
LOCAL SCHOOL COUNCIL, FINKL ACADEMY (Elementary School)
Council Chairperson, Parent Representative, 4 terms,
Parent Member Bilingual Committee
Parent Patrol
LOCAL SCHOOL COUNCIL ADVISORY BOARD CPS
Representing all the schools in region 4
CAROLE ROBERTSON CENTER FOR LEARNING
Board Member/ Chair and Vice Chair, 1994-99
Cicero Adopt a Block Program, 2004
Cicero Educational Forum, 2004
ILP. (Interfaith Leadership Project) 2004

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

Stated above

E) Activities for other candidates. Please be specific.

Helped organize campaign and rallies for Mario Moreno, democratic candidate to Town President, Cicero. Also for Ricardo Muñoz for Alderman, Dion Miller Perez for State Rep., Jesus Garcia for State Senator and Sonia Silva for State Rep.

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

Not yet

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?

For ten years now, my principal interest has been to maintain an intense and constant fight for the rights of students and their parents, and to impel a better education in Chicago and now in all of Cicero. I have fought for immigrant rights and for improvements to our communities through, among others, crime prevention programs and youth training, to reintegrate our youths into our society. That has been my obligation as a citizen, to fight for my community's youth to ensure they have a better education, because I am convinced that a youth well prepared in the class room will have the tools necessary to improve himself, for his family and for society in general.

I firmly believe that my 10 years of experience and my unflinching fight to achieve these goals that benefit all of us, validate me as the best candidate for the position, and guarantee the citizens that I will continue defending their rights.

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 there should not be any discrimination based on race, gender and or sexual orientation when hiring and promoting public employees.

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

My Campaign budget for the primaries is 50,000, and I just started fundraising, I have raised 2,500

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

I have 3 people in my staff and approximately 100 volunteers.

IVI-IPO 2004 GENERAL ASSEMBLY QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 2

Elections & Ethics

1. Do you support:
 - a. moving the primary election date? If so, to what month? No
 - b. keeping voters' political party preferences in the primary elections secret? Yes
 - c. reestablishing straight party voting in general elections? No
 - d. any other changes in Illinois' election laws? No
2.
 - a. Do you support restoration of cumulative voting for the Illinois House of Representatives? If so, please describe the plan you support. Yes, Choice Voting
 - b. Should Illinois institute instant run-off voting? No
3. Do you support changes in the way judges are selected? If so, please give a brief description of the system you support. No
4. Do you believe that appointments to judicial vacancies should be based on nominations from local review panels? If not, would you recommend any changes in the current system?
Yes
5. Do you favor legislation mandating uniform voting procedures and equipment throughout Illinois?
Yes
6. Do you support:
 - a. public financing of election campaigns? No
 - b. limits on campaign contributions and political committee transfers? Yes
 - c. restricting campaign fundraising during legislative sessions? Yes
 - d. limiting contributions to political campaigns by dollar amount or source? Yes
 - e. extending the same campaign disclosure requirements for ward and township committeemen throughout the state rather than just in Cook County? Yes
7. Do you support legislation to prohibit incumbency and political affiliation as criteria in the mapping process for Congressional, Legislative and local government electoral districts? Would you support the creation of a non-partisan Commission to draw maps instead of the General Assembly? Yes
8. Do you support permitting state employees to hold other public sector jobs concurrently?
No

Taxes and Economic Policy

9. Do you support:
 - a. instituting a graduated income tax? Yes
 - b. maintaining the current corporate/individual ratio? I want to study the numbers a little more.
 - c. increasing income taxes to relieve or replace local property taxes? No
10. Do you support amending the Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act to
 - a. prohibit confession of judgment clauses in consumer contracts? Yes

- b. allow expanded private rights of action? Yes
- c. allow expanded rights of litigation? Yes
- d. mandate attorney fees to be awarded to successful plaintiffs? Yes
- e. provide for any other changes? Please specify.

11. Do you support
- a. casino gambling in Cook County? Regulated, Yes
 - b. placement of slot machines at racetracks in Illinois? Regulated, Yes

12. Will you support legislation requiring citizen referenda at the state or local level before casino gambling is expanded? If so, at which level and why? Yes, at the state level...

13. Do you support legislation
- a. banning Pay Day loans? Restricting, Yes
 - b. banning or restricting ATM fees? Yes
 - c. capping credit card interest rates? Yes

Education

- 14. Will you vote to increase state funding to at least 50% of public education costs? Yes
- 15. Do you support the proposed Taxpayer Action Amendment? Yes
- 16. Do you support vouchers or other means of public funding for private or parochial schools? Yes
- 17. Do you support increased training and testing for teacher certification? Yes
- 18. Should certification be required for a teacher to have sole responsibility in the classroom? Yes

Civil Rights & Civil Liberties

- 19. Will you vote to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment? Yes
- 20. Do you favor
 - a. adding sexual orientation to the Human Rights Act? Yes
 - b. legislation providing legal recognition of domestic partnerships? Yes
 - c. legislation prohibiting discrimination in housing against unmarried individuals residing together? Yes
- 21. Do you support mandatory AIDS testing for insurance or employment?
For insurance, yes. Employment, No
- 22. Do you support mandatory drug testing for public or private sector employees? Under what circumstances?
Yes, for public and private health care and security workers, transportation and elected officials.
i.e. hospital workers, police, drivers, etc.
- 23. Should state police be allowed to stop vehicle operators to test for DUI on grounds other than probable cause?
No
- 24. Do you support legislation prohibiting racial profiling in law enforcement?
Yes
- 25. Do you support repeal of legislation that permits employers to eavesdrop on the telephone conversations of their employees?

- Yes
26. Do you support
- a. prior government restraint of the press? No
 - b. State censorship of the arts? No
27. Do you favor detention of suspects and material witnesses without charges and/or probable cause?
No
28. Should states enact anti-terrorism legislation? If so, do you support the provisions outlined in the Illinois Comprehensive Anti-Terrorism Act of 2001?
Yes, but the provisions need to be studied more.

Labor

29. Do you favor restructuring the wage scale of state employees to institute gender-equal pay for jobs of comparable worth?
Yes
30. Do you support privatization of state services? If so, which services?
No
31. Do you support the right of public employees to strike?
Yes
32. Do you support legislation banning the replacement of strikers in private employment?
Yes
33. Do you support family leave legislation for private employment? If so, for which employers?
Yes
34. Do you support
- a. raising the minimum wage to establish a living wage for Illinois workers? Yes
 - b. establishing a lower minimum wage for minors? No
 - c. including farm workers and household employees under existing labor laws? Yes

Health & Human Services

35. Will you support a single-payer health plan for Illinois? If so, how would Medicaid be incorporated into the program you support?
Yes
36. Will you support sufficient funding to provide community based services for discharged mental health patients?
Yes
37. Do you support:
- a. Medicaid funding for abortions? No
 - b. insurance coverage of abortions for state employees? No
 - c. parental consent/notification for minors seeking abortions? Yes
 - d. banning so-called partial-birth abortions? I consider the language confusing, No
 - e. any other restrictions on abortions? Please specify. Late pregnancy **elective** abortions
38. Do you support increasing appropriations to the Department of Children and Family Services to increase the number of caseworkers?
Yes
39. What services, if any, would you offer to those whose time on Welfare has run out and do not have adequate income to support themselves and their families?
A work from home program and a study at home program to help them acquire the skills to get

better jobs BEFORE they run out of welfare.

Housing

40. Do you favor legislation banning discrimination in housing based on source of income? Yes
41. Would you support
- a. "repair and deduct" legislation, which would allow tenants to withhold rent to make repairs to correct substandard housing conditions? Yes
 - b. legislation mandating that landlords give tenants notice prior to entering their units? Yes
 - c. legislation assessing penalties against landlords who engage in illegal or retaliatory evictions? Yes

Energy & Environment

42. Please assess the benefits and drawbacks of deregulation of utilities in Illinois. I want to study them more.
43. Do you support an elected ICC? I think that some benefit will come from electing some key positions at the ICC
44. How do we balance our need to protect our environment with our need for economic development? Your comments should include: enforcement of pollution statutes, recycling and waste management, state purchasing practices and economic development zones. I prefer to study more this issue and use a specific case to answer the question

Transportation

45. Do you support
- a. expansion of O'Hare airport? If so, how? I'm not completely familiar with the numbers,
 - b. expansion of other regional airports? If so, which? I'll need to study them more.
 - c. building a new airport in Peotone?
46. Do you support
- a. inter-city high speed rail? Yes
 - b. the current formula for allocation of funds to CTA, Metra and PACE? I'm not familiar with it.

Criminal Justice

47. Do you support:
- a. capital punishment? No
 - b. criminal prosecution of juveniles as adults? With limits on age and a case by case basis, Yes.
 - c. mandatory sentencing? Yes
 - d. work release, home monitoring, other alternative sentencing? Yes
 - e. admissibility of illegally obtained evidence? No
 - f. electronic eavesdropping? Yes
 - g. roving wiretaps? No
48. Do you support state legislation to ban the manufacture, sale and possession of
- a. handguns? Highly restrict sale Yes, ban No
 - b. assault weapons? Highly restrict sale Yes, ban No
 - c. ammunition for handguns and assault weapons? No

49. Do you support
- a. legislation increasing penalties for illegal resale of weapons? Yes
 - b. legislation permitting the licensing of concealed weapons? No
 - c. legislation mandating background checks of purchasers of weapons at gun shows, through the internet and through print advertisements? Yes

50. Do you favor continuation of the current moratorium on capital punishment in Illinois? If not, how would you address the inequities enumerated in the report of the Commission on the Death Penalty?
Yes