

IVI-IPO GENERAL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

DATE January 16, 2004

CANDIDATE FOR: Illinois General Assembly, 39th District PARTY: Democrat

NAME: Pedro DeJesus, Jr.

VOTING ADDRESS: 2513 North Washtenaw, Chicago, Illinois 60647

HOME PHONE: (773) 457-5343 BUSINESS PHONE: (773) 276-8970

CAMPAIGN ADDRESS: 2660 N. Sawyer, Chicago, Illinois 60647

CAMPAIGN PHONE: (773) 276-8970 FAX: (773) 442-0869

EMAIL: DeJesusFor39@aol.com WEBSITE: www.pedrodejesus.com

CAMPAIGN MANAGER: Hanah Jubeh

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED: 2,200 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. **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.

Following high school I attended Wilbur Wright Junior College, where I received an Associates in Applied Science degree in Radiologic Technology and, upon graduating, worked as an x-ray technologist at Northwestern University Medical Center. After five years in the medical field I moved into the business world, working on the floor of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange trading commodity futures and options. During this time I also returned to college as a full-time night student at Roosevelt University, where I graduated with a B.A. in political science in 1996. In my graduating year I received the Lincoln Laureate Award, which is presented by the Governor of Illinois and awarded to one outstanding senior from each four-year degree granting institution of higher education in Illinois for overall excellence in academic and co-curricular activities. That same year I also received the Juan Andrade Scholarship for Young Hispanic Leaders presented by the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute.

Following college I attended Northwestern University School of Law, where I received a Juris Doctor degree in 1999. During law school I interned at Northwestern University's Children and Family Justice Center representing young people on matters of family violence, delinquency and crime. I also served as a legal intern at the Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing where I provided low-cost legal services to families living in deteriorating housing conditions and fought to increase the availability of safe, decent and affordable housing in Chicago.

After law school I was selected to serve a Fellowship at the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), the leading nonprofit Latino litigation and advocacy institution in the United States, where I was engaged in a variety of civil rights litigation affecting the Latino community. Since completing my fellowship at MALDEF I have been in the private practice of law.

Over the past five years I have donated my time to a wide range of professional, political and civic organizations. I currently chair the Chicago Bar Association's Coordinating Council on Minority Affairs and I served as past chair of its Committee on Racial and Ethnic Diversity. I also served as the past Midwest regional president of the Hispanic National Bar Association, the premier national organization for Hispanic lawyers, and I currently serve as a trustee for the Hispanic Lawyers Scholarship fund of Illinois where I provided grants and legal internships to promising law students.

I have also undertaken leadership roles with various community-based organizations. I sit on the Board of Directors of Mujeres Latinas En Accion, a social service organization providing bilingual and bicultural comprehensive services to Latinas and their families. In this capacity I serve as the organization's pro bono legal counsel and I also co-chair the organization's program committee. In my work with Mujeres I recently helped secure a substantial federal grant for the agency and I chaired the committee that oversaw the creation of the agency's non-custodial visitation program. The program was recently recognized by the Mayor as a demonstration program that has the opportunity to set national standards.

I also serve on the Board of Directors of Planned Parenthood/Chicago Area where I work to ensure that families have access to and are educated about family planning methods and where I right to protect women's individual reproductive choices.

I also sit on the Board of Directors of Family Care of Illinois, an 145 community service agency serving metropolitan Chicago that provides in-home and community-based services for families faced with the challenge of poverty, addiction and illness. In my capacity as a board member I ensure the continuation of the agency's core services, which include foster care and adoption, home-based services for seniors and the disabled, senior companionship, a foster grandparent program, GranConnections (a support group for grandparents raising grandchildren) and Transparenting, a program designed to help families dealing with separation and divorce.

I also serve on the Board of Directors of the 18th Street Development Corporation, a non-profit serving Chicago businesses that serves to promote commercial and industrial development and which helps local businesses succeed.

I am also a graduate of the Metropolitan Leadership Institute, a Latino leadership development project organized by the United Neighborhood Organization and I currently serve as Chair of newly formed advisory council. In addition, I also serve on the Roosevelt University Board of Governors and I am a member of the Young Leaders Fund of the Chicago Community Trust, where I provide donor-directed grants to community based groups and organizations.

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

My studies, both as undergraduate student and in law school, will be helpful to me as a state legislator. As an undergraduate student I majored in political science and I studied federal state and local government policy. In law school my studies included state and local government law and policy (studying under Professor Dawn Clark Netsch), federal and state constitutional law, education law and legislation.

E) Activities for other candidates. Please be specific.

Precinct Captain, 26th Ward Democratic Organization, 1994-1996

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

The IVI-IPO endorsement is the first endorsement I have sought. I have received no other endorsements as of 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?

Our community has, quite literally, been unrepresented in the Illinois General Assembly since the creation of the 39th house district. We have had an absent representative, who has failed to even open a public service office within the district and has failed to reach out to the community in any meaningful way. Moreover, I believe that an elected official's past history and record of involvement are the best indicator of their commitment to the community. The current incumbent has never taken a leadership role on any issues affecting our community. We deserve better and more qualified leadership. If elected, I will be the first Latino attorney to ever serve in the Illinois General Assembly and I believe that my past history of civic and community involvement demonstrates my commitment to the issues that matter most to our community.

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

Patronage should never be used as a standard for hiring and promoting public employees. In certain circumstances, however, race, gender and sexual orientation can play a role in hiring to remedy past discrimination.

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

I reported approximately \$13,000 raised in my first semi-annual report and I will have approximately \$30,000 cash on hand in January 2003. I have budgeted to raise an additional \$30,000 to \$45,000 by election day.

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

We currently have a volunteer group of 35 people with 12 leaders, 4 of which are volunteer campaign workers and 1 is a hired campaign staff worker.

Independent Voters of Illinois-Independent Precinct Organization
2002 GENERAL ASSEMBLY QUESTIONNAIRE

Elections & Ethics

1. Do you support:
 - a. moving the primary election date? If so, to what month?
 - **I support the idea of moving the Illinois primary election from March to some time during the summer, preferably August or September. Candidates running for two-year terms, such as candidates for the Illinois General Assembly, have to file in December, a full 11 months before the November general election. This schedule places an unnecessary fundraising burden on legislators during the legislative session. Sponsoring and passing legislation and representing your constituents, not fundraising and campaigning, should be the primary focus when the legislature is in session. Moreover, with a March primary, the 8-month period between March and November is too long for both candidates and voters and disrupts what could be a natural political flow from the primary to the general election.**
 - b. keeping voters' political party preferences in the primary elections secret?
 - **I don't believe there is any need for voters to have to declare a party preference. I support computerized voting, which would eliminate the need for separate ballots and would keep voters' party preferences private.**
 - c. reestablishing straight party voting in general elections?
 - **I don't believe straight party should be used in general elections. Rather, a candidate should be elected because voters believed the candidate was qualified for the job. Straight party voting restricts a voter's freedom to respond to specific candidacies.**
 - d. any other changes in Illinois' election laws?
 - **See above.**
2.
 - a. Do you support restoration of cumulative voting for the Illinois House of Representatives? If so, please describe the plan you support.
 - **I support the restoration of cumulative voting in multi-member districts. Cumulative voting gives voters the right to cast his or her full allocation of votes for the one candidate he or she supports and helps the political minority get some level of representation. DuPage County is a good example of the need for cumulative voting rights. There are 24 members of the DuPage County Board and only a single Democrat sits on the board, even though Jesse White carried the county in 2002 and Democrats almost always earn one-third of the vote. McHenry County is similarly situated.**
 - b. Should Illinois institute instant run-off voting?
 - **I believe that the system may be too complex for voters under our current system, although with a fully automated system instant run-off voting may work well.**
3. Do you support changes in the way judges are selected? If so, please give a brief description of the system you support.
 - **I think judges should be elected in non-partisan elections, similar to aldermanic elections.**

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?
- **As a past member of the local review panel for the Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois, I support the use of local review panels for the selection of judges.**
5. Do you favor legislation mandating uniform voting procedures and equipment throughout Illinois?
- **I support legislation mandating statewide uniform voting procedures. If communities are given discretion to decide their own standards, wealthy communities will have access to easy to understand ballots and quality equipment while disenfranchised communities will continue to lose votes due to faulty equipment. As previously mentioned, I support implementing statewide computerized voting standards.**
6. Do you support:
- a. public financing of election campaigns?
 - **Yes.**
 - b. limits on campaign contributions and political committee transfers?
 - **Yes.**
 - c. restricting campaign fundraising during legislative sessions?
 - **As previously mentioned, sponsoring and passing legislation and representing your constituents, not fundraising and campaigning, should be the primary focus when the legislature is in session.**
 - 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?
 - **We should close this campaign disclosure loophole and hold ward and township committeemen to the same campaign disclosure requirements as other candidates and elected officials.**
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?
- **I would support legislation prohibiting incumbency and political affiliation as criteria in the mapping process and also support the creation of a non-partisan commission to draw maps instead of the General Assembly.**
8. Do you support permitting state employees to hold other public sector jobs concurrently?
- **I oppose “double-dipping” in which state employees concurrently hold other public sector jobs. When a public official holds another public sector job it creates conflicts of interest and other opportunities for corruption.**

Taxes and Economic Policy

9. Do you support:
- a. instituting a graduated income tax?
 - **Since the state income tax rate in Illinois is regulated by the Illinois state constitution, there**

are significant obstacles to any move toward graduated tax rates. Having said that, I would support examining the institution of a graduated income tax in Illinois, as it will remove the burden placed on lower income individuals. Illinois has one of the most regressive tax systems in the Nation, with the bottom 20% of all income earners paying 13.5% of their total income to the state in taxes while the wealthiest 1% pay only 4.9%. We need to examine options that make sense to low to moderate income working families.

b. maintaining the current corporate/individual ratio?

- **The corporate income tax helps offset the regressivity of the property and sales taxes, which make up the bulk of state and local tax revenues. Currently, the corporate income tax is levied at a flat rate of 4.8% and the ability of lawmakers to raise this rate is hampered by the Illinois constitution, which requires a flat-rate corporate income tax limited to 180% of the rate on personal income. Thus, we need to assess how to adequately maintain a healthy corporate income tax to avoid increasing our reliance on other sources – including individual income and property taxes.**

c. increasing income taxes to relieve or replace local property taxes?

- **Compared with other states, Illinois communities rely too heavily on property taxes to fund schools, with more than 60% of local property taxes going to schools. Moreover, the Illinois tax system has not kept pace with economic changes. For example, the size of the service sector has increased dramatically and patterns of economic and income growth have changed. Yet, the Illinois tax base mix has not changed substantially since 1970 and does not reflect these realities.**

Other states have taken steps to correct this and Illinois must similarly move forward. When elected, I will work to provide homeowners property tax relief and reduce our reliance on local property taxes for school funding. As such, I am a strong supporter of SB 1498, the Neighborhood Preservation and Homeowners Exemption Plan, which caps property tax assessment increases to 7% per year, and I will work to get it passed.

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?

- **I support casino gambling on the condition that casinos are not afforded special tax breaks and that local communities have a say on whether casinos come into their community.**

b. placement of slot machines at racetracks in Illinois?

- **Casinos and racetracks have already had enough help from state handouts. As such, I would not support helping racetrack owners lure additional patrons through the use of slot machines.**

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?

- **I believe that citizen referenda should be required, on a local level, for casinos.**

13. Do you support legislation

a. banning Pay Day loans?

- **I would support a ban on Pay Day loans, which through intensive lobbying and campaign contributing, are still operating in Illinois.**

b. banning or restricting ATM fees?

- **Although the idea of banning and restricting ATM fees sounds good in theory, a ban would fail to adequately address the problem presented by this question. Banks have hundreds of different ways they can assess fees to consumers, ATM fees being only one of many. The real solution to this problem, therefore, must focus on capping total bank fees as opposed to focusing strictly on ATM fees.**

c. capping credit card interest rates?

- **Yes.**

Education

14. Will you vote to increase state funding to at least 50% of public education costs?

- **Like many of our neighboring states, Illinois is confronted with an education system that is crumbling under the weight of an outdated and inefficient system of taxation. Relying too much on local property taxes, the system is not connected to student achievement and is struggling to meet the rapidly increasing costs of providing for the educational needs of today's children. The current system of funding public education was built for a different era for a different society.**

According to Article X of the Illinois state constitution, the state has the primary responsibility for financing the system of public education. To be the primary source of school funding, however, means providing more than 50% of the cost of education. Yet, Illinois' share of public elementary and secondary education ranks 48th in the Nation, with the state of Illinois funding an abysmal 38% of public education (52% coming from local sources and the remaining 10% coming from federal sources). I strongly support increasing state education funding to at least 50% of public education costs, relying on income and other taxes instead of local property taxes.

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?

- **Granting vouchers takes money away from an already underfunded education system and grants these public monies to institutions not accountable to the public. I am, however, supportive of the idea of giving families more education choices through the use of charter schools.**

17. Do you support increased training and testing for teacher certification?
- **Teachers rarely have the necessary tools to do their job effectively. We need to investigate the level of training currently being provided to teachers to determine if more training is necessary or whether different and/or more advanced training is more appropriate.**
18. Should certification be required for a teacher to have sole responsibility in the classroom?
- **Anyone taking sole responsibility for children in a classroom should have some level of oversight and required certification.**

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. I was glad to see HB 101 pass in the Illinois General Assembly and look forward to passage of SB 101 in the Senate.**
 - b. legislation providing legal recognition of domestic partnerships?
 - **Yes. I was happy to see the implementation of the Domestic Partnership Registry and I also support the Domestic Partnership Benefits and Obligation Act which is pending in Congress and would like to see it passed.**
 - c. legislation prohibiting discrimination in housing against unmarried individuals residing together?
 - **Yes.**
21. Do you support mandatory AIDS testing for insurance or employment?
- **I do not support AIDS testing for the purpose of denying insurance or employment. I would only support such a measure to make potential carrier aware that they have the disease, but I would not support revealing the results to an employer or insurance company.**
22. Do you support mandatory drug testing for public or private sector employees? Under what circumstances?
- **I would support mandatory drug testing for public or private sector employees only for jobs where the physical safety of the public is involved.**
23. Should state police be allowed to stop vehicle operators to test for DUI on grounds other than probable cause?
- **Having successfully defended legal claims on probable cause grounds for clients at the Northwestern University Children and Family Justice Center, I support protecting our Fourth Amendment rights and would only support DUI stops for probable cause.**
24. Do you support legislation prohibiting racial profiling in law enforcement?
- **Racial profiling is an insidious form of racism and we should not tolerate the unfair harassment of law-abiding minorities. I was glad to see the Governor sign SB 30, which is a good first step to putting an end to the practice of racial profiling by helping law enforcement assess the extent to which race may be used as a factor in police stops.**

Thankfully, Illinois now joins 14 other states in mandating that law enforcement officers statewide collect data on racial profiling by documenting the perceived race of every individual pulled over for

a traffic violation. Moreover, since I support the idea of officers undergoing enhanced cultural diversity training generally, I was glad to see these training provisions added into the law with respect to racial profiling during traffic stops.

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?

- **Suspects and witnesses should only be detained with probable cause and only after being formally charged. I also believe that interrogations and suspect identifications should be fully videotaped and, therefore, I was glad to see the Governor sign HB 2233, which made Illinois the first state in the Nation to require, by statute, that police record all custodial interrogations and confessions in homicide cases. I would like to see this legislation expanded to require videotaping and recording of interrogations and confessions in lesser crimes.**

28. Should states enact anti-terrorism legislation? If so, do you support the provisions outlined in the Illinois Comprehensive Anti-Terrorism Act of 2001?

- **Anti-terrorism legislation is best set by the federal government, as opposed to developing different anti-terrorism programs in each state.**

Labor

29. Do you favor restructuring the wage scale of state employees to institute gender-equal pay for jobs of comparable worth?

- **Incredibly, women still only earn approximately 70 cents for every dollar a man makes. We must fight to immediately align women's pay to make it equal to that of men. Jobs of comparable worth must be compensated comparably.**

30. Do you support privatization of state services? If so, which services?

- **Although I generally oppose the privatization of state services, certain state services might be more efficiently run by the private sector. As such, I would support implementation of a task force to analyze if and where the inefficiencies in the system exist and how the private sector may be able correct those inefficiencies (if at all).**

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?

- **I would only support employers replacing striking workers if the workers are failing to bargain in good faith.**

33. Do you support family leave legislation for private employment? If so, for which employers?
- **We must adequately balance the concern of small business owners against the rights of employees. Although I support the Medical Family Leave Act, which applies to employers with more than 50 employees, and I believe that the Act provides an extremely important workplace protection of millions of workers, it does not adequately fill the gap. 45% of workers are not covered by the FMLA, and even those who are eligible may be unable to afford the leave they and their families need. According to a study by the bi-partisan Family Leave Commission, 64% of workers who were eligible for family and medical leave since the legislation was passed in 1993 could not afford to take it, and the United States is one of the few states in the western world without paid family and medical leave.**

In response to President Clinton's executive order in the year 2000, the Department of Labor issued regulations that enabled states to provide unemployment checks for family leave "on a voluntarily, experimental basis." Since that time, over 20 state legislatures across the country have considered proposals for income maintenance while on family leave, but no state has yet enacted such legislation (although Illinois, as well as several other states have passed legislation calling for studies of paid parental leave).

34. Do you support
- a. raising the minimum wage to establish a living wage for Illinois workers?
 - **I support the enactment of a living wage, determined by the living wage index.**
 - b. establishing a lower minimum wage for minors?
 - **A lower minimum wage for minors sounds good in theory, but may result in fewer jobs for adult employees who may have families to support. The minimum wage exists to protect workers, which, in many cases a multi-tiered system would undo.**
 - c. including farm workers and household employees under existing labor laws?
 - **I would support protection of farm workers under existing labor laws, but I believe we need to analyze which class of household employees are best suited for coverage under existing labor laws.**

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?
- **I support universal, single payer health coverage for Illinois, using Medicaid as its base.**
36. Will you support sufficient funding to provide community based services for discharged mental health patients?
- **Yes. All community health services, especially mental health services, need to be consistently funded to meet community needs.**
37. Do you support:
- a. Medicaid funding for abortions?
 - **Yes.**

- b. insurance coverage of abortions for state employees?
 - **Yes.**
- c. parental consent/notification for minors seeking abortions?
 - **I oppose parental consent/notification for minors seeking abortions.**
- d. banning so-called partial-birth abortions?
 - **Partial-birth abortion is a highly misleading term. I believe that further public education is necessary in this area and I plan on taking a leadership role in the Illinois General Assembly when it comes to introducing and supporting legislation protecting a woman's individual reproductive choice.**
- e. any other restrictions on abortions? Please specify.
 - **No.**

38. Do you support increasing appropriations to the Department of Children and Family Services to increase the number of caseworkers?

- **Yes. Needless to say, with an overburdened system, our current caseworkers are overloaded.**

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?

- **Extending the length as well as the quality of eligibility to receive welfare is an important first step to solving this problem. Illinois, unfortunately, previously received an "F" from AFL-CIO with respect to unemployment insurance**

Moreover, people who work part-time and at low-income jobs are often ineligible, despite good work records, and women are 20% less likely to receive benefits, despite the likelihood of additional family responsibilities. We need to use the incoming federal dollars to help people get back on their feet, not make them dependent on benefits. A more equitable unemployment system will better prepare people for when their benefits expire.

Housing

40. Do you favor legislation banning discrimination in housing based on source of income?

- **While providing legal services at Lawyer's Committee for Better Housing I fought to ban housing discrimination based on a source of income and I will continue this fight in the Illinois legislature.**

41. Would you support:

- a. "repair and deduct" legislation, which would allow tenants to withhold rent to make repairs to correct substandard housing conditions?
 - **As stated above, I previously worked providing free legal services to lower income families living in deteriorating house conditions. As such, I am sensitive to the problems faced by lower income families living in substandard housing and I would support such "repair and deduct" legislation**
- 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.
- **Deregulation has largely benefited utilities and their stockholders, but the drawbacks have fallen squarely on the shoulder of regular people and the environment. Despite the big changes that have taken place since deregulation, the basic electricity infrastructure remains ominously unchanged. Almost all of the electricity in Illinois comes from outdated, high-polluting coal plants, and expensive and unreliable nuclear plants. While companies restructure and reorganizes, cleaner and more efficient electric technologies are still shut out of the market and this will not change until the state legislature revisits the 1977 law and adds some support for efficiency and renewables.**
43. Do you support an elected ICC?
- **Yes.**
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.
- **Before addressing issues of economic development we need to work harder to enforce already existing pollutions statues. Having said that, environmental protection and economic development are not mutually exclusive concepts. There are many potential developments that would let businesses operate more efficiently and in an environmentally friends manner. Moreover, we should reward companies that obey or exceed pollutions standards and work to develop more sustainable ways of doing business with greater state investment.**

We should also find more innovative ways to deal with waste, as our current recycling program in Chicago is not a comprehensive program. Our community residents need to have a greater say in what hoes on in their neighborhoods. When communities have a stake in planning their own economic development, everyone wins. Not only do neighborhoods become self-sustaining, but all of its residents have a stake in the neighborhood's success

I also believe that we need to adopt renewable energy standards. I support House Bill 2200 that requires utilities to generate 5 percent of their energy sales in Illinois from renewable energy resources by 2010 and 15 percent by 2020. Thirteen other states, including Texas and several Midwestern states have already adopted renewable energy standards.

Transportation

45. Do you support
- a. expansion of O'Hare airport? If so, how?
 - **I support the expansion and redesign of O'Hare airport to allow for increased capacity, although we must remain sensitive to the concerns of local homeowners and residents.**
 - b. expansion of other regional airports? If so, which?
 - **Although I do not believe that another airport is currently in needed in Illinois, I believe**

that other regional airports, such as the Gary airport, should be expanded and utilize to make certain travel options more affordable and convenient.

- c. building a new airport in Peotone?
 - **I currently do not see the need for a new airport in Peotone.**
- d. closing Meigs Field?
 - **With the closing of Meigs Field we have an opportunity to create a wonderful outdoor space in downtown Chicago. Although there was a great deal of controversy surrounding Meigs Field's closing, the fact was that the usage of Meigs Field was declining for 20 years and the benefits of keeping the airport open outweighed the drawbacks of its closing.**

46. Do you support

- a. inter-city high speed rail?
 - **I support inner-city rails and I think we should invest immediately in making it a reality. Sprawl will be reduced, jobs would be created, and travelers will be able to travel with less dependency on cars.**
- b. the current formula for allocation of funds to CTA, Metra and PACE?
 - **The CTA remains underfunded and we need to examine the current formula to ensure that it receives the necessary funds to pursue expanded transportation options. I would like to see more 24-hour trains and buses to help working families in need of transportation options during off-peak hours.**

Criminal Justice

47. Do you support:

- a. capital punishment?
 - **I am in opposition to capital punishment and as State Representative would work to convert the moratorium in Illinois to an outright ban.**
- b. criminal prosecution of juveniles as adults?
 - **When we prosecute juveniles and adults we shut out any hope of their future rehabilitation. I believe that a more productive option think is to send these children to facilities that can help them put their lives back together while they pay for the mistake they made.**
- c. mandatory sentencing?
 - **I am opposed to mandatory sentencing, as each crime should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.**
- d. work release, home monitoring, other alternative sentencing?
 - **I am a strong believer in helping people assimilate back into normal, productive lives and we need to take a closer look at alternative sentencing plans in our criminal justice system.**
- e. admissibility of illegally obtained evidence?
 - **No.**
- f. electronic eavesdropping?
 - **No.**

g. roving wiretaps?

- **No.**

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

a. handguns?

- **I do not support the banning of handgun sales outright, although I believe that handgun sales need to be closely monitored and limited to avoid getting guns into the hands of criminals.**

b. assault weapons?

- **I support a ban on assault weapons.**

c. ammunition for handguns and assault weapons?

- **I support a ban on ammunition for assault weapons.**

49. Do you support

a. legislation increasing penalties for illegal resale of weapons?

- **Yes.**

b. legislation permitting the licensing of concealed weapons?

- **I am opposed to legislation that would permit the licensing of concealed weapons.**

c. legislation mandating background checks of purchasers of weapons at gun shows, through the internet and through print advertisements?

- **We need to close the gun show loophole and apply the same standards for any weapons sale, regardless of where the sale occurs. Background checks must be a required before a gun is sold, and anyone who sells a gun to repeat violent offender should be held responsible.**

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?

- **I am in favor of the moratorium, but only as a reprieve, and would like to see the moratorium become an outright ban.**