

**IVI-IPO 2004 GENERAL ASSEMBLY QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 1**

**DATE** January 11, 2004      **DISTRICT:** 57<sup>th</sup> House District      **PARTY:** Democrat

**NAME:** Elaine Nekritz

**VOTING ADDRESS:** 3 The Court of Island Point, Northbrook, IL 60062

**HOME PHONE:** (847) 498-2309      **BUSINESS PHONE:** (847) 257-0450

**CAMPAIGN ADDRESS:** P.O. Box 2563, Glenview, IL 60025

**CAMPAIGN PHONE:** (847) 998-1002      **FAX:** (847) 486-0230

**EMAIL:** nekritz4staterrep@aol.com      **WEBSITE:** None

**CAMPAIGN MANAGER:** None

**NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED:** 1600      **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.

State Representative 57<sup>th</sup> House District – January, 2003 to present

Northfield Township Democratic Committeeman – March, 1999 to present

Chair, Village of Northbrook Community Relations Commission – 1997 to 2002

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

State Representative 57<sup>th</sup> House District - 1996

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

Business

1989-1991      Partner at the law firm of Altheimer & Gray (Chicago, IL) specializing in real estate

1992-1996      Alberto's Cycles (Winnetka, IL) – part time store manager

1997-2000      Legislative Aide to State Rep. Jeff Schoenberg (D-Evanston)

Civic Activities

National Council of Jewish Women-Chicago North Shore Section (State Public Affairs Chair and Vice President)

Village of Northbrook Community Relations Commission – Chairman

Northbrook Cares

Northbrook Community Network

Volunteer Information Center of Glenview/Northbrook

Glenview Values Project

Chicagoland Bicycle Federation – Board member

**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 most valuable experience is as the incumbent.

**E)** Activities for other candidates. Please be specific.

Campaign worker for State Rep. Jeff Schoenberg re-election campaign (1998)

Volunteer for Nancy Alessi for State Senate (1998)

Campaign Chairman for Jody Wadhwa for State Representative (2000)

Campaign Chairman for Democratic Northfield Township Trustee candidates (2001)

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

None for the 2004 primary.

**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?

In my first term, I have provided thoughtful and independent representation for the residents of the 57<sup>th</sup> House District. My goal is to continue to provide top quality constituent service and continue to seek ways to assist residents and solve problems facing the district and the state.

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

I oppose discrimination on the basis of race, gender, ethnicity, national origin, sex, age and sexual orientation. I believe all government employees must meet the requirements for the work for which they are hired and continue to perform up to established standards to retain the position.

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

The campaign budget for the primary is \$40,000. I have raised \$40,000.

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

I have no campaign staff at the moment. I have approximately 150 volunteers on my list.

## **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? I believe our election season is too long and that moving the primary election date back to August would help reduce “voter burnout”.

b. keeping voters’ political party preferences in the primary elections secret? No

c. reestablishing straight party voting in general elections? Yes

d. any other changes in Illinois’ election laws? Providing additional funding for voting equipment that will assure a more reliable result.

2.
  - a. Do you support restoration of cumulative voting for the Illinois House of Representatives? If so, please describe the plan you support. No
  - b. Should Illinois institute instant run-off voting? Yes, in some cases. I am a co-sponsor of the bill pending in the House.
  
3. Do you support changes in the way judges are selected? If so, please give a brief description of the system you support. Yes. I believe all judicial candidates should qualify to run for election by passing a rigorous assessment by a bar association panel and have practiced law for a minimum number of years (e.g. fifteen).
  
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? I believe all judicial candidates should qualify to run for election by passing a rigorous assessment by a bar association panel. I could support a local review panel appointed by the bar associations.
  
5. Do you favor legislation mandating uniform voting procedures and equipment throughout Illinois? I support spending state funds to assure that high quality voting tabulating methods are available to each county but I do not believe that uniformity is a panacea for voting tabulation discrepancies.
  
6. Do you support:
  - a. public financing of election campaigns? I could support public financing similar to that adopted in Nebraska.
  - b. limits on campaign contributions and political committee transfers? Caps on federal contributions have had the undesirable effect of making fundraising a nationwide effort. While I believe that money is too great a factor in political campaigns, I do not support such limits.
  - c. restricting campaign fundraising during legislative sessions? Yes
  - d. limiting contributions to political campaigns by dollar amount or source? I support limiting contributions from regulated industries.
  - 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? I would support a process to draw the electoral maps that removes, to the greatest extent possible, political, incumbency, party and other considerations.
  
8. Do you support permitting state employees to hold other public sector jobs concurrently? I support some limits on state employees holding other public sector jobs.

## **Taxes and Economic Policy**

9. Do you support:
  - a. instituting a graduated income tax?
  - b. maintaining the current corporate/individual ratio? Yes
  - c. increasing income taxes to relieve or replace local property taxes? While the property tax is a regressive tax, I believe that the state can adequately fund education without raising income taxes.
  
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? In some cases.
- e. provide for any other changes? Please specify.

11. Do you support

- a. casino gambling in Cook County? I do not support expanded gambling in Illinois.
- b. placement of slot machines at racetracks in Illinois?

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? If additional gambling licenses are issues, I support a competitive bidding process for the licenses. I could support a citizen referendum at either the state or local level, however, as so clearly demonstrated by the ballot initiative process in other states such as California, a citizen referendum does not assure freedom from the influence of money or special interests.

13. Do you support legislation

- a. banning Pay Day loans? I support strong regulation of this industry.
- 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? I am not familiar with this proposal.

16. Do you support vouchers or other means of public funding for private or parochial schools? No

17. Do you support increased training and testing for teacher certification? We must do everything we can to assure a sufficient number of qualified teachers in our classrooms.

18. Should certification be required for a teacher to have sole responsibility in the classroom? See above.

## **Civil Rights & Civil Liberties**

19. Will you vote to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment? I did.

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? No

22. Do you support mandatory drug testing for public or private sector employees? Under what circumstances? I generally do not support mandatory drug testing but I feel it is important in law enforcement and prison services.

23. Should state police be allowed to stop vehicle operators to test for DUI on grounds other than probable cause? Only in very limited circumstances.

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? I believe that the anti-terrorism legislation is better handled at the federal level. That being said, I support some, but not all, of the provisions of the Illinois Comprehensive Anti-Terrorism Act of 2001.

### **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? I support the regulation of privatization that includes the following provisions: that prior to privatizing, a company be required to prove privatization would result in a minimum of 10% savings; that wages be maintained; that insurance and benefits for employees be maintained; that similar standards regarding criminal background checks and drug testing be maintained; and that the actual performance of service and savings be publicly audited.
31. Do you support the right of public employees to strike? Yes, in most instances.
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, for employers with 25 or more employees.
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? I would support this only if it provided a significant boost in employment for minors.
  - 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? I support programs that will assure the availability of quality, affordable health care for all. This includes programs such as KidCare and FamilyCare. I would want to see the specifics of a single-payer system before committing my support.
36. Will you support sufficient funding to provide community based services for discharged mental health patients? Yes

37. Do you support:
- Medicaid funding for abortions? Yes
  - insurance coverage of abortions for state employees? Yes
  - parental consent/notification for minors seeking abortions? No
  - banning so-called partial-birth abortions? No
  - any other restrictions on abortions? Please specify. I support *Roe v. Wade*.
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? The programs I support include KidCare, FamilyCare, food stamps, job and vocational training and assistance with child care.

## **Housing**

40. Do you favor legislation banning discrimination in housing based on source of income? I voted for this in the House.
41. Would you support
- “repair and deduct” legislation, which would allow tenants to withhold rent to make repairs to correct substandard housing conditions? Yes
  - legislation mandating that landlords give tenants notice prior to entering their units? Yes
  - 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. While consumer costs for telephone service have decreased as a result of deregulation, the level of service has also declined. It is too early to assess the impact of electricity deregulation on pricing, however, we are already seeing evidence of declining reliability. This was evident in the huge blackout on the east coast and in Canada last year.
43. Do you support an elected ICC? I do not believe that requiring candidates to raise money to run state wide will necessarily create an independent ICC that is responsive to consumers.
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 believe we can balance economic development with protecting the environment. I support strong enforcement of the Clean Air Act (not Clear Skies) and the Clean Water Act as well as applicable Illinois laws. I also support expanding recycling programs so that it is easier for small and medium sized businesses to participate. State purchasing programs can be altered so that state government can be a leader in energy conservation and promoting the use of alternative energy.

## **Transportation**

45. Do you support
- expansion of O'Hare airport? If so, how? Yes
  - expansion of other regional airports? If so, which? A third airport may be necessary to preserve the economic strength of the Chicagoland area. Definitive plans on the location of a third airport should wait until plans for O'Hare airport are finalized.
  - building a new airport in Peotone? See above.

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 have not seen anything that convinces me that spending 95% of the RTA's discretionary funds on CTA is fair to Metra or PACE.

### **Criminal Justice**

47. Do you support:
- a. capital punishment? Yes, in appropriate cases.
  - b. criminal prosecution of juveniles as adults? In limited circumstances.
  - c. mandatory sentencing? In limited circumstances.
  - d. work release, home monitoring, other alternative sentencing? Yes
  - e. admissibility of illegally obtained evidence? No
  - f. electronic eavesdropping? Only after receipt of a judicial warrant and upon showing of probable cause.
  - g. roving wiretaps? Only after receipt of a judicial warrant and upon showing of probable cause.
48. Do you support state legislation to ban the manufacture, sale and possession of
- a. handguns? I am a strong proponent of sensible gun laws.
  - b. assault weapons? Yes
  - c. ammunition for handguns and assault weapons? Yes, in most cases.
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, I support the continuation of the current moratorium.