

IVI-IPO 2004 GENERAL ASSEMBLY QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 1

DATE 1/08/03 DISTRICT: 79th PARTY: Democratic

NAME: Ann Bernard

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CAMPAIGN MANAGER: Katherine Miller

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED: 900+ 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.

Member, Kankakee County Board, 1996- to present

Precinct Committeeperson, Kankakee County Democratic Central Committee, 2000- to present

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.

Current –

Board Member, Exchange Club of Kankakee

Board Member, co-founder, Kankakee County Animal Foundation

Leader, Girl Scout Troop 645

Board Member, Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, Kankakee County Chapter

Board Member, Kankakee Federation of Labor Community Services, Inc.

PAST:

Former Board Member, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Foundation

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

I have a B.A. in English from the University of Illinois at Chicago. I am a former newspaper reporter and covered a variety of issues, including local government, education and the environment.

E) Activities for other candidates. Please be specific.

I have done fundraising for Tari Renner, Congressional Candidate in the 11th District. I coordinated the successful campaign for Alderman Sam Ciaccio in the city of Kankakee. I helped develop ads and issues for our county board candidates, which resulted in the Democrats taking over the county board for the first time in history in 1998, the same year George Ryan of Kankakee became governor. .

F) Please list all endorsements you have received so far. *Former Kankakee County Board Chairman Leonard "Shakey" Martin .*

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?

I feel I have a solid record of working hard and standing up for the public interest. That record includes taking up the cause to re-open beds at the Manteno Veterans' Home after the state had shut down a wing. I've also exposed sweetheart deals and worked to try and clean up government.

H) Please outline the place of patronage, personnel codes, race, gender, and sexual orientation in establishing criteria for hiring and promoting public employees. *Hiring and promoting public employees should be done based on their job qualifications. I believe personnel codes should protect employees from political pressure, and that applicants should not be discriminated against on race, gender or sexual orientation.*

I) What is your campaign budget? How much have you raised to date? *I am budgeting \$12,000 - \$15,000. I have raised about \$1,200 and am currently fundraising.*

J) How many people are on your campaign staff? How many volunteers are on your list? *My campaign staff is all-volunteer. I am working closely with a committee of about 8 people, and will have between 40 to 50 volunteers.*

IVI-IPO 2004 GENERAL ASSEMBLY QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 2

Elections & Ethics

1. Do you support:

- a. moving the primary election date? *Yes*. If so, to what month? *To June or July*
- b. keeping voters' political party preferences in the primary elections secret? *Yes*
- c. reestablishing straight party voting in general elections? *Yes*
- d. any other changes in Illinois' election laws?

I would like to see a shift to weekend voting to encourage more people to get out and vote, or scheduling an election over a 48-hour period.

2. a. Do you support restoration of cumulative voting for the Illinois House of Representatives? If so, please describe the plan you support.

Yes. I support the plan being advanced by Drive to Revive. The current system of representation has concentrated too much power in too few hands, and has resulted in too many seats going uncontested.

b. Should Illinois institute instant run-off voting? *Yes.*

3. Do you support changes in the way judges are selected? If so, please give a brief description of the system you support. *Yes. My concern with the current system is that politics plays too much of a role in judicial selection. I support the merit selection of judges.*

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 would support local review panels if they are open in their selection process. I believe it would be important to appoint a bipartisan panel, subject to provisions of the Illinois Open Meetings Act.*

5. Do you favor legislation mandating uniform voting procedures and equipment throughout Illinois? *Yes, I also have serious concerns about electronic voting. I would like to see Illinois adopt the Canadian system of voting, in which paper ballots are used and the entire country's ballots are counted in about 4 hours.*

6. Do you support:

- a. public financing of election campaigns? *Absolutely. It would allow legislators to act in the public interest, and not the special interests,*
- b. limits on campaign contributions and political committee transfers? *Yes, if it is consistently applied.*
- c. restricting campaign fundraising during legislative sessions? *Yes*
- d. limiting contributions to political campaigns by dollar amount or source? *Only if done consistently. I would like to see the limit for individual contributors kept low enough so that it does not create an uneven playing field.*
- 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 and yes. I believe we should consider remapping the way it has been done in Iowa.

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

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? *No.*
- b. placement of slot machines at racetracks in Illinois? *No.*

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. I believe referenda should be held at the county level, or in the case of a home rule community, at the municipal level.

13. Do you support legislation

- a. banning Pay Day loans? *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. I asked that our local Kankakee County Board meeting, but the board refused to vote on it.*

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? *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?
- b. legislation providing legal recognition of domestic partnerships?
- c. legislation prohibiting discrimination in housing against unmarried individuals residing together?

I would have to examine the wording for these three proposals. I believe these three issues need to be addressed in a fair and objective manner to ensure that people's basic rights aren't violated.

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 believe testing would be appropriate in cases where public safety is jeopardized, or an employee appears to be impaired. I don't believe it's cost-effective to do mandatory, across the board testing of all employees. In addition, I am troubled by the invasiveness of mandatory drug-testing without probable cause.

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? *If the state is not paying for it, I don't see how they can censor it.*

However, I do have problems with some extreme exhibits that have been considered art.

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?

If state assemblies feel there are particular local issues that the federal government has not addressed, such as offering stronger protection at sensitive sites such as nuclear power plants or chemical plants, I think it would be appropriate. I do not, however, support the Illinois Comprehensive Anti-Terrorism Act of 2001. It is a threat to civil liberties, and I believe will do little, if anything, to protect us from terrorism.

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? *No. It is harder to have accountability when services are privatized.*

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, for employers with 10 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? *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, Medicaid could be absorbed directly into a universal plan without deductibles or co-pays. Medicaid should cease to exist under a single-payer system. The costs of the premiums for providing Medicaid recipients with coverage could be subsidized among rates paid for by the general public*

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? *In instances of rape, incest, inevitable death of the fetus, and to protect the health of the mother.*
- b. insurance coverage of abortions for state employees? *In instances of rape, incest, inevitable death of the fetus, and to protect the health of the mother.*
- d. banning so-called partial-birth abortions? *I believe we need to defer to medical experts on this issue. I do have some concerns about legislating medicine.*
- 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.*

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?

I believe we need to re-examine time limits, because of the large number of jobs we have lost in this state. We also need to focus more on ensuring that welfare recipients are not penalized for attending school/vocational learning, instead of being forced to take the first job that comes up, regardless of how low the pay or how meager the benefits are.

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, as long as there are protections for both parties. There should also be some kind of process/procedure in place documenting that tenants notified landlords. Perhaps it might also be good to set up a procedure in which local authorities can establish a mediation process to resolve these issues.*
- b. legislation mandating that landlords give tenants notice prior to entering their units? *Yes, to respect*

the tenants' privacy.

c. legislation assessing penalties against landlords who engage in illegal or retaliatory evictions?

Yes, as long as there is a procedure in place to document these activities and a mediation process before assessing penalties.

Energy & Environment

42. Please assess the benefits and drawbacks of deregulation of utilities in Illinois. *Perhaps deregulation might be some benefit from more competition, but I believe the drawbacks outweigh the benefits. My concern is that Illinois could see the type of crisis that occurred in California from late 2000 to spring 2001. I also believe that utilities are essential to public health and safety, and should be regulated more strongly. Last year, I initiated an effort to try and stop a 24 percent rate hike being proposed by Consumers' Illinois Water Company. The company had just received a rate hike of 16 percent in 2002. I believe that water systems should be publicly owned, as water is essential to life.*

43. Do you support an elected ICC?

I would not only support an elected ICC, but an elected Illinois Pollution Control Board. There would be more accountability if they were elected, versus appointed, but I believe it would be important to implement this with campaign finance reform, so that utilities don't buy their commissioners via campaign donations.

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.

First of all, I believe we should be redeveloping areas that have existing infrastructure, such as in the inner cities and inner-ring suburbs. I think it's also important to encourage, as strongly as possible, that industry use closed-loop technology to recapture emissions. We should enforce pollution statutes to the fullest extent possible, and close any existing loopholes. As far as recycling and waste management, I have been an avid proponent of recycling and using cleaner alternatives, such as closed-loop gasification. Two regional landfills are being proposed for Kankakee County and both are situated over aquifers. I oppose both proposals; neither is environmentally sound, especially over the long-term.

I believe the state should expand programs such as the EPA's Green Lights program, and look at giving preference to energy-efficient products. As far as with state purchasing practices in general, I think they need to be as open and competitive as possible. In regards to economic development zones, preference should be given to redeveloping blighted areas. As far as Enterprise Zones and other state incentive programs, I believe we need to bring more accountability to them.

Transportation

45. Do you support

a. expansion of O'Hare airport? If so, how? *I believe there are other alternatives to expansion. I support Senator Dick Durbin's proposal to allow airlines to discuss their schedules to reduce congestion. This is a practical measure to alleviate congestion. In addition, I think we need to look at focusing on high-speed rail to replace short flights to Midwestern cities.*

b. expansion of other regional airports? If so, which?

I would support expansion of Rockford, possibly Gary, and the Kankakee Regional Airport in Kankakee, but again, I would prefer we implement high-speed rail.

c. building a new airport in Peotone?

I am opposed to the current proposal. There are still environmental concerns that must be addressed, and I believe there needs to be more local control over this proposal. Although we need economic development, I am concerned at the loss of habitat open space.

46. Do you support

a. inter-city high speed rail? *Yes. I believe it would be a better alternative to Peotone.*

b. the current formula for allocation of funds to CTA, Metra and PACE? *Yes*

Criminal Justice

47. Do you support:

a. capital punishment? *I personally am opposed to it. However, the political reality is that capital punishment will continue in Illinois. What we must do is safeguard the rights of the wrongly accused as much as possible, and ensure that they are given fair trials.*

b. criminal prosecution of juveniles as adults? *Only in extraordinary circumstances, and not below the age of 16.*

c. mandatory sentencing? *No. It has resulted in an explosive growth in prison population.*

d. work release, home monitoring, other alternative sentencing? *Yes, I believe it has the opportunity to reduce recidivism and the costs of incarceration.*

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? *No.*

b. assault weapons? *Yes*

c. ammunition for handguns and assault weapons? *No for handguns, but yes 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? *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 would legislatively support reforms to eliminate inequities in how the death penalty is administered.