

IVI-IPO General Assembly Questionnaire

James T. Smith, Candidate
Illinois 8th District State Representative

Election & Ethics

1. I support moving the primary election date to February, keeping political party preferences secret, but I do not support reestablishing a straight party voting in the general election.
2. I do not support restoration of cumulative voting in the Illinois House of Representatives, and no institution of instant run-off voting.
3. Judges should be appointed by a non-partisan Commission which is appointed by the Governor and cleared by the Illinois General Assembly.
4. I believe that appointments to judicial vacancies should be based on nominations
5. I am in favor of legislation mandating statewide uniformity in voting procedures and equipment.
6. I support Public financing of election campaigns, limits on campaign contributions and political committee transfers, restriction of campaign fundraising during legislative sessions, limiting contributions to political campaigns by dollar amount or source, and extending the same campaign disclosure requirements for ward and township committeemen throughout the state.
7. I do support legislation to prohibit incumbency and political affiliation as criteria in the mapping of Congressional, Legislative and local governmental electoral districts, I would also support a non partisan commission to draw maps instead of the General Assembly.
8. I do not support permitting state employees to hold other public sector jobs concurrently.
9. I support instituting a graduated income tax and increasing income taxes to relieve or replace local property taxes, I do not support maintaining the current corporate to individual ratio.
10. I support amending the Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act to prohibit confession of judgment clauses in consumer contracts, allow expanded private rights of action, allow expanded rights of litigation, and mandate attorney fees to be awarded to successful plaintiffs.
11. I do not support casino gambling in Cook County, nor do I support the placement of slot machines at racetracks in Illinois.
12. I will support legislation requiring citizen referenda at the state or local level before casino gambling is expanded, at the .
13. I support Legislation banning Pay Day loans, banning or restricting ATM fees, and capping credit card interest rates.
14. I would vote to increase state funding to at least 50% of public education costs.
15. No opinion at this time
16. I do not support vouchers for public funding for private or parochial schools.
17. I support increased training and testing for teacher certification.
18. Certification should be required for a teacher to have sole responsibility in the classroom.

19. I will vote to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment.
20. I do 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.
21. I do support mandatory AIDS testing for insurance for employment.
22. I do you support mandatory drug testing for public or private sector employees, for public safety and health reasons only.
23. State police should not be allowed to stop vehicle operators to test for DUI on grounds other than probable cause.
24. I support legislation prohibiting racial profiling in law enforcement.
25. I do not support repeal of legislation that permits employers to eavesdrop on the telephone conversations of their employees.
26. I do not support
 - a. Prior government restraint of the press.
 - b. State censorship of the arts.
27. I do not favor detention of suspects and material witnesses without charges and/or probable cause.
28. States should not enact anti-terrorism legislation.
29. I favor restructuring the wage scale of state employees to institute gender-equal pay for jobs of comparable worth.
30. I do not support privatization of state services.
31. I do support the right of public employees to strike, but not where public health and safety are in danger.
32. I support the legislation banning the replacement of strikers in private employment.
33. I support family leave legislation for private employment.
34. I do support
 - a. Raising the minimum wage to establish a living wage for Illinois workers.
 - b. Establishing a lower minimum wage for minors.
 - c. Including farm workers and household employees under existing labor laws.
35. No opinion at this time.
36. I will support sufficient funding to provide community based services for discharged mental health patients.
37. I do not support
 - a. Medicaid funding for abortions.
 - b. Insurance coverage of abortions for state employees.I do support
 - c. Parental consent/notification for minors seeking abortions.
 - d. Banning so-called partial-birth abortions.
 - e. Private funding unless threat to health.
38. I support increasing appropriations to the Department of Children and Family Services to increase the number of caseworkers.

39. I would offer healthcare and childcare to those whose time on Welfare has run out and do not have adequate income to support themselves and their families.
40. I favor legislation banning discrimination in housing based on source of income.
41. I would support
- a. "Repair and deduct" legislation which would allow tenants to withhold rent to make repairs to correct substandard housing conditions.
 - b. Legislation mandating that landlords give tenants notice prior to entering their units.
 - c. Legislation assessing penalties against landlords who engage in illegal or retaliatory evictions.
42. No opinion at this time.
43. I support an elected ICC.
44. No opinion at this time.
45. I do support
- a. Expansion of O'Hare airport.
 - b. Expansion of other regional airports. Midway
- I do not support
- c. Building a new airport in Peotone.
46. I do support
- a. Inter-city high-speed rail.
- I do not support
- b. The current formula for allocation of funds to CTA, Metra and PACE.
47. I do not support
- a. Capital punishment.
 - b. Criminal prosecution of juveniles as adults.
 - c. Mandatory sentencing.
- I do support
- d. Work release, home monitoring, other alternative sentencing.
- I do not support
- e. Admissibility of illegally obtained evidence.
 - f. Electronic eavesdropping.
 - g. Roving wiretaps.
48. I do not support state legislation to ban the manufacture, sale and possession of
- a. Handguns
 - b. Ammunition for handguns.
- I do support state legislation to ban the manufacture, sale and possession of
- c. Assault weapons.
 - d. Ammunition for assault weapons
49. I do support
- a. Legislation increasing penalties for illegal resale of weapons.
 - b. Legislation permitting the licensing of concealed weapons.
 - c. Legislation mandating background checks of purchasers of weapons at gun shows, through the internet and through print advertisements.
50. I do favor continuation of the current moratorium on capital punishment in Illinois.