

## **Independent Voters of Illinois- Independent Precinct Organization 2004 STATES ATTORNEY CANDIDATE INSTRUCTIONS**

In order to be favorably considered for an IVI-IPO endorsement, you should follow these instructions carefully.

IVI-IPO is widely recognized as having one of the most comprehensive issue questionnaires. We often receive requests from reporters who use candidate responses as background material for their stories. All or part of your questionnaire also may be posted to our web page. We hope you will consider this in completing your questionnaire and provide us with thoughtful, thorough responses.

Please be sure to complete the contact information and the 10 background questions in Section 1, as well as the numbered questions specific to the office you seek in Section 2.

**MOST QUESTIONS CAN BE ANSWERED SIMPLY YES OR NO.** Feel free to explain your answers in greater detail if you wish. **Your responses should include both the questions and the answers; otherwise, the reader will be confused.**

**Your completed questionnaire, in Word format, must be submitted to our office by email by Friday, January 16, 2004.** Please call our office if you did not receive the questionnaire electronically and we will email it to you.

You also will be asked to bring 20 copies of your completed questionnaire to the interviewing session. **You must provide hard copies of your questionnaire.** IVI-IPO will not make copies of your questionnaire for you.

Prior to the final endorsement, completed questionnaires will be available for review only by IVI-IPO members. Candidates, even if they are members, will not be able to view their opponents' responses until after the interviewing session. After an endorsement has been made, completed questionnaires will be available for review by members, candidates, the press or the public.

### **THE INTERVIEW**

Candidates for each office are interviewed separately and consecutively by IVI-IPO members residing in the affected electoral district. Each candidate will make a brief presentation, followed by questions from our members. The allowed time in your race will be determined by the chair of your endorsement session.

Although every effort will be made to accommodate your personal schedule, the dates for the sessions are fixed, and it is not always possible to give each candidate the time slot of his or her choice. If you are unable to attend, you may send a surrogate to make a presentation and answer questions on your behalf.

Candidates may not be present for their opponents' interview, nor for the deliberations of members. With those exceptions, the entire interviewing process is open to the public and the press.

After candidates for an office have been heard, the members will evaluate each candidate on the basis of agreement with IVI-IPO positions, past record (for incumbents), political independence, and campaign viability. A vote will be taken to endorse one or more candidates or to make no endorsement. A 3/5 vote of a quorum of eligible members present is required to make a final endorsement of a candidate. If either the quorum or the 3/5 majority requirement is not met, the vote is a recommendation to the IVI-IPO Board.

### **REVIEW BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The IVI-IPO Board will meet January 28 to consider recommendations from the interview sessions. Candidates do not make additional presentations at this time. Board members will receive reports from the interview sessions, review the questionnaires, and vote to accept or reject the membership recommendation.

### **AFTER THE ENDORSEMENT**

All candidates who appeared for an interview will be notified by mail or email of the endorsement decision. IVI-IPO will arrange a press conference to announce our endorsements. The Independent Campaign Committee (ICC) will work with IVI-IPO supported candidates to distribute literature, get press coverage and mobilize volunteers.

**If you have any further questions, please contact our office at 312-939-5105. We wish you good luck in your endorsement application and in your campaign.**

**IVI-IPO 2004 STATES ATTORNEY QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 1**

**DATE** \_\_\_\_\_ **PARTY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**VOTING ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**HOME PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **BUSINESS PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CAMPAIGN ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CAMPAIGN PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **FAX:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_ **WEBSITE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CAMPAIGN MANAGER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED:** \_\_\_\_\_ **NUMBER REQUIRED:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

- A)** Elective or appointive public or party offices previously held including dates.
- B)** Other elective offices for which you have been a candidate.
- C)** Principal business, education, professional and civic activities of the past ten years.
- D)** What subjects have you studied and what experience have you had which will be most helpful to you in the office you seek?
- E)** Activities for other candidates. Please be specific.
- F)** Please list all endorsements you have received so far.
- 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?
- H)** Please outline the place of patronage, personnel codes, race, gender, and sexual orientation in establishing criteria for hiring and promoting public employees.
- I)** What is your campaign budget? How much have you raised to date?
- J)** How many people are on your campaign staff? How many volunteers are on your list?

**IVI-IPO 2004 STATES ATTORNEY QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 2**  
**Cook County State’s Attorney Candidate Questionnaire - 3/21/00 Primary**

1. What is your position on gun control?
2. What is your position on capital punishment? In what instance would you seek the death penalty? Do we need a moratorium on the death penalty?
3. How quickly is the State’s Attorney’s office required to turn around a Freedom of Information Request (FOIA). What do you think the turnaround time should be? (**Incumbent**: how many FOIA requests has your office processed? What is the current turnaround time for FOIA requests? What should it be?)

**CIVIL RIGHTS**

4. Under what circumstances should law enforcement agencies put citizens or organizations under surveillance?
5. Would you support legislation to prohibit the use of eavesdropping and wire-tapping in criminal investigations?
6. Do present procedures adequately protect the rights of the accused?
7. Comment on the state of the law on fitness to stand trial and the insanity defense. Should any changes be made?
8. Would you support the mandatory videotaping of all interrogations?

**PROSECUTORIAL DISCRETION**

9. What criteria will you employ in reaching decisions as to : whether or not to prosecute; recommendations as to sentences; prosecution for lesser offenses; and grants of immunity?
10. Comment on the felony screening process currently used by the State's Attorney's office.
11. What do you think about the use of programs as alternatives to prosecution?
12. Should the present procedures for bail and personal recognizance bonds be changed and, if so, how?

**MANAGEMENT**

13. What is your opinion on the rights of attorneys to unionize.

14. What changes, operational, legislative, or financial, do you believe are necessary to enable this office to be more effective?
15. What means would you employ to encourage neighborhood outreach and citizen input into your office?
16. What plans, if any, are needed to make it possible to recruit and hold long-time career personnel in this office?
17. a) What is your position in regard to putting all Assistant State's Attorneys and other employees of your office under Civil Service or other merit systems?  
b) How would hiring minorities and women and retaining career personnel in your office be affected?
18. What is your position on state's attorney promotions based on convictions?
19. How would you address the issue of pressure on public defenders to plea bargain?
20. How would you address the issue of prosecuting police officers for police brutality or any other crime?

## **SENTENCING**

21. Has determinate sentencing had an effect on crime prevention or the behavior of inmates?
22. What is your opinion on the victim impact statements in the sentencing process?

## **PROSECUTORIAL PRIORITIES**

23. What are your priorities in prosecuting various types of crime? What is your attitude toward prosecuting victimless crimes?
24. Comment on the adequacy of the State's Attorney's treatment of crimes of domestic violence.
25. How would you address the problem of hate crimes and violence against racial minorities, gays and lesbians? How would you implement the Hate Crimes statute?
26. Under what circumstances would you prosecute "right to life" demonstrators?
27. Comment on the current procedures for handling rape cases. What changes would you make, if any?
28. What would you change, and what would you keep, in the present system of handling criminal housing prosecutions?

29. Do you plan to prosecute election fraud. Please be specific.

### **CIVIL DUTIES**

30. What plans do you have to enhance the collection of unpaid taxes on behalf of the county when such matters come into your preview?

31. What types of cases involving law reform or civil activism (such as civil rights or environmental enforcement) would you anticipate bring to the State's Attorney's office?

### **VARIOUS**

32. How would you speed up the time which normally elapses between arrest and trial? Be specific.

33. Comment on the propriety of prosecutorial public criticism of judges on criminal case outcomes. Be specific.

34. Do you favor mandatory drug testing of: your employees? prisoners? probationers? under what circumstances and standards?