

## IVI-IPO 2004 WARD COMMITTEEMAN QUESTIONNAIRE– Section 1

**DATE:** January 15, 2004                      **PARTY:** DEMOCRATIC  
**NAME:** Judge Kenneth L. Gillis  
**VOTING ADDRESS:** 208 W. Washington, Unit 1213  
**HOME PHONE:** 312-422-0607  
**CAMPAIGN ADDRESS:** 111 W. Washington, Suite 1421  
**CAMPAIGN PHONE:** 312-456-0256      **FAX:** 312-456-0147  
**EMAIL:** JudgeGillis42@ameritech.com

**CAMPAIGN MANAGER:** Harvey Levin

**NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED:** 1,177    **NUMBER REQUIRED:** 680

**A) Elective or appointive public or party offices previously held including dates:**

Elected to Circuit Court Dec. 1978.

Elected to Circuit Court Dec. 1994

Appointed by Justice Michael Bilandick to Circuit Court, March 1992

**B) Other elective offices for which you have been a candidate:** none

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

***Business.***

I currently conduct arbitration, mediation services.

My prior experience includes serving as a Circuit Court Judge in Criminal Division, Chancery Division and Law Divisions.

I also served as First Assistant State's Attorney of Cook County.

My professional career started as an Administrative Assistant to Alderman Leon M. Despres. After that I worked in the City of Chicago's Corporation Counsel's office.

***Education***

I received my J.D. Degree from the University. of Chicago 1961

I received my LLM Degree in Financial Services from IIT, Chicago Kent 1990

I have a Bachelor's Degree in Science Civil Engineering from IIT, 1958

***Civic***

I was first Vice President of the Illinois. Judges Association.

I am currently the President of the Board of the 208 W. Washington Board of Directors

**D) What subjects have you studied and what experience have you had which will be the most helpful to you in the office you seek?** My relevant life and professional experience, along with the experience I gained working with the Democratic 5<sup>th</sup> Ward committeeman Marshall Korshak, taught me how to run an effective organization...

**E) Activities for other candidates. Please be specific.** I ran the political campaign for Congressman Barrett O'Hara in 1966 and the political campaign that resulting in the election of Alderman Leon M Depress.

**F) Please list all endorsements you have received so far.** We have not received any yet.

**G) As concisely as possible, please state why you feel you should be endorsed over other candidate(s). What goals for the office you seek are most important to you personally?**  
I hope to strength the democratic ward so you can carry qualified candidates, including qualified judges. I bring a career of honesty and integrity to the position and the Party.

**H) Please outline for the place of patronage, personal codes, race, gender, and sexual, orientation in establishing criteria for hiring and promoting public employees.** I do not believe that patronage should be a criterion for promoting public employees. Qualifications and ability are the only criteria which should be considered in hiring and promoting public employees.

**I) What is you campaign budget?** We have no idea how much money we will raise

**How much have you raised to date?** I am unable to answer this question since we have just started fund raising activities. George Dunne gave very little notice that he was resigning his position. We do, however, have two fundraisers scheduled and we just sent out a mail solicitations.

**J) How many people are on your campaign staff?** 6

**How many volunteers are on your list?** We have not compiled that information yet.

## **IVI-IPO 2004 WARD COMMITTEEMAN QUESTIONNAIRE - Section 2** **Ward Committeeman Candidate Questionnaire - 3/21/00 Primary**

- 1. Should the present signature requirement for a committeeman's nominating petition be changed? If so, how?** No. The number is reasonable. You do not want to inhibit a candidacy of any serious candidate, but the requirement should exclude frivolous campaigns.
- 2. Should there be (like the law for replacing an alderman, etc.) a law for replacing a ward or township Committeeman who leaves office during her/his term?** No. A committeeman position is part of a private organization and should be guided by its own rules. However, I am in favor of a rule that would prohibit a retiring committeeman from naming her/his own successor.
- 3. What are your views on slating, the selection of candidates by the party or party committees prior to a primary or non-partisan election? If you are opposed to slating, will you participate in slating sessions?** A political party should be able to slate whomever it wants. That is the very nature of a party. It should support people who have the same views as the organization. The support, however, should always be consistent with the party's stated platform. To do otherwise would violate the trust given to the party by its members.

4. **Should the party finance the campaigns of selected candidates in contested primary elections or non-partisan elections (such as aldermanic elections)?** Yes. However, not always. If two candidates both have views consistent with the party's platform, it would not be proper to choose one over the other.
5. **Does a committeeman have a responsibility to support the party's candidates after they have been selected in a primary election?** Yes, but with certain limitations. The position of committeeman is one which requires loyalty to the organization. It would be inappropriate for a committeeman to support the opposing candidate. However, it is possible for an unqualified candidate to win the party's primary election. In that case, lack of support for the unqualified candidate would be appropriate.
6. **Do you feel it is appropriate for elected officials to hold a party office? Please explain your position.** Some public and party positions may be held consistent with one's obligations to the public and to her or his party. However, an Alderman, is the Alderman of all of the people in the Ward whether one is an Independent, Democrat, Republican, or non-partisan citizen. There always should be an independent Aldermanic office available to all the citizens. To permit an elected official to hold a party office would, therefore, be a conflict of interest to some of the people of the Ward.
7. **Have you or would you send letters to government officials soliciting jobs or promotions for individuals?** Yes. In the past I have sent recommendation letters on behalf of people I knew to prospective employers. It is certainly appropriate to give the benefit of one's experience. What is inappropriate is sending letters of recommendation without having knowledge of the job candidate's abilities, or for reasons other than a good faith and accurate assessment of the candidate's abilities.
8. **Have you formed or would you form a ward-wide organization? Discuss structure, meetings, membership, staff and budget.** The primary reasons I am running is to strengthen our ward wide organization. I envision a broad based organization that serves the Ward citizenry by getting input from the people in the Ward and being a resource of the people. With that in mind, we intend to cover the ward via grass roots, person to person campaign. We will rely on tools of direct communications, such as traditional coffees, regular meetings, while combing these traditional methods with modern technology such as electronic newsletters and websites. I envision volunteer staff.
9. **How do you propose to finance your ward operations?** The campaign will be financed through donations from concerned citizens.
10. **What plans do you have to enhance voter registration and voter turn out in your ward?** We will make a dedicated commitment to increase voter registration. Our campaign workers will be equipped to give motor-voter cards to unregistered voters.