

## **Independent Voters of Illinois- Independent Precinct Organization 2004 WARD COMMITTEEMAN 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.** If you would like to receive the questionnaire electronically, please call our office at 312-939-5105 and we will email it to you.

You 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.

Interviews for Ward Committeemen will be held January 17-24. 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. **If you have not been scheduled for an interview by January 9, please call the IVI-IPO office at 312-939-5105.**

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 WARD COMMITTEEMAN QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 1**

DATE 01-12-2004 WARD: 45 PARTY: Democratic

NAME: Robert A. Bank

VOTING ADDRESS: 5041 W. Sunnyside, Chicago, Il. 60630

HOME PHONE: (773) 286-5664 BUSINESS PHONE: (773) 631-6464 x165

CAMPAIGN ADDRESS: 5041 W. Sunnyside, Chicago, Il. 60630

CAMPAIGN PHONE: (773) 286-5664 FAX: None

EMAIL: robabank1@excite.com WEBSITE: None yet

CAMPAIGN MANAGER: Ron Ernst

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED: 973 NUMBER REQUIRED: 672

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

- A) Elective or appointive public or party offices previously held including dates. *None*
- 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. *I spent 25 years in the telecommunication field and just last year switched to real estate.*
- 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 attended some Urban Land Institute and some Metropolitan Planning Commission seminars and workshops. I was Secretary of the Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association and recently became their President. I have testified against pay-day loans at the Zoning Board of Appeals and against new developments that cause overcrowding and traffic congestion at the Zoning Committee..*
- E) Activities for other candidates. Please be specific. *I helped distribute literature and convince people to put up signs for Pete Conway during is run for Alderman in the 45<sup>th</sup> ward.*
- F) Please list all endorsements you have received so far. *No official endorsements yet but I do have about twenty people who helped me collect 973 door to door signatures in just 15 days( I got into the race when I found out the current Democratic Committeeman was going to run unopposed).*
- 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 would encourage energetic and good willed people to get involved in the election process at all levels especially as candidates. I would also hold annual "town-hall" meetings. The current committeeman for the Democratic party in my ward has a history of using the ward superintendent and the alderman's aide and other political lackeys from his organization, to launch objections to any challengers and to try to eliminate all competition. He has never, to the best of my knowledge had a "townhall" meeting!.*
- H) Please outline the place of patronage, personnel codes, race, gender, and sexual orientation in establishing criteria for hiring and promoting public employees. *I think political patronage has hurt the democratic process severely here, and has created a feudal*

*culture in Chicago where many people do not feel they or anyone else has the right to demand good governing from their elected officials. As for hiring and promoting public employees, I think that should be based solely on ability.*

**D)** What is your campaign budget? How much have you raised to date? *The campaign budget is tight, we've only raised \$250 so far but we started very late and I have been forced to spend too much time at the Chicago Election Board defending my nominating petition I will spend this week raising more money..*

**J)** How many people are on your campaign staff? How many volunteers are on your list? *There are only two staff members right now, but I have met with a candidate for State Representative and we are going to share resources. I have about twenty people that circulated petitions; I hope to build on that.*

## **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? *Yes, the minimum should be greatly reduced.*
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. *Yes, I would like to see a special election rather than appointments.*
3. What are your views on slating, the selection of candidates by the party or party committees prior to a primary or non-partisan elections? If you are opposed to slating, will you participate in slating sessions?  
*I think the party committees do need to search for strong candidates and then slate them so that the voters are guaranteed at least one candidate to choose from.*
4. Should the party finance the campaigns of selected candidates in contested primary elections or non-partisan elections (such as aldermanic elections)? *I believe the party should not finance campaigns in the primary election, but the party should help finance their candidate in general elections and even non-partisan elections. It would be nice if the party sponsored debates in the primary.*
5. Does a committeeman have a responsibility to support the party's candidates after they have been selected in a primary election? *Yes, the committeeman should support the party's candidate unless there is some strong conscientious objection to that candidate.*

6. Do you feel it is appropriate for elected officials to hold a party office? Please explain your position.  
*Yes, I see no extraordinary conflict or greater time constraint than one would have in a private sector career.*
7. Have you or would you send letters to government officials soliciting jobs or promotions for individuals? *No.*
8. Have you formed or would you form a ward-wide organization? Discuss structure, meetings, membership, staff and budget. *Yes, I would ask leaders from the various community groups within the ward to send a representative from their group to sit on a zoning advisory board*
9. How do you propose to finance your ward operations? *I would ask my party to help support the office and I would rely on volunteerism and I hope I could start an internship/college credit for junior college students interested in politics in exchange for their work.*
10. What plans do you have to enhance voter registration and voter turn out in your ward? *During the campaign I plan on having all my campaign workers and myself while we are distributing campaign literature, go door to door and handout the white self registration cards and collect them and hand them in. I also plan to hold a few events with voter registrars at a table registering people.*
11. **Question for Incumbent:** What have you done to involve more people in the political process. What further steps will you take?