

IVI-IPO 2004 WARD COMMITTEEMAN QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 1

DATE: 1/15/04 WARD: 46 PARTY: Democratic

NAME: Tom Sharpe

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NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED: 1,100 +

NUMBER REQUIRED: 565

IVI-IPO 2004 Ward Committeeman Questionnaire

**Tom Sharpe for 46th Ward Democratic Committeeman
3/16/04 Election**

- A. Elective or appointive public or party offices previously held including dates.

Answer: None.

- B. Other elective offices for which you have been a candidate.

Answer: Alderman of the 1st Ward – 1991. Endorsed by IVI-IPO.

- C. Principal business, education, professional and civic activities of the past ten years.

Answer: Since 1997, Management Analyst for Forest Preserve District of Cook County. Former marketing representative for Woman/Minority-owned businesses.

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

Answer: Masters in Communications, Northwestern University. VISTA Volunteer (Federal anti-poverty program). Assistant Commissioner, City of Chicago's Department of Consumer Services. During my work in the Harold Washington administration in city government, I worked with progressive elected officials and activists throughout the entire city.

- E. Activities for other candidates. Please be specific.

Answer: Blagojevich for Governor, Lisa Madigan for Attorney General, Tom Tunney for 44th Ward Alderman.

- F. Please list all endorsements you have received so far.

Answer: Americans for Democratic Action, Northeastern Illinois Chapter.

- 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?

Answer: I believe the strength of my commitment can help 46th Ward Democrats find common ground and build a stronger, more effective election organization. That's why I decided to become a candidate for Democratic Ward Committeeman of the 46th Ward.

- H. Please outline the place of patronage, personnel codes, race, gender and sexual orientation in establishing criteria for hiring and promoting public employees.

Answer: In order to have the most effective government, hiring and promotions should be based on the qualifications and experience of applicants regardless of race, gender, age and sexual orientation.

- I. What is your campaign budget? How much have you raised to date?

Answer: \$30,000. To date, I have received commitments for \$10,000.

- J. How many people are on your campaign staff? How many volunteers are on your list?

Answer: Three on staff; seventy-five volunteers.

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1. Should the present signature requirement for a Committeeman's nominating petition be changed? If so, how?

Answer: Serious candidates should have no problem meeting the current petition signature requirements for Committeeman contests.

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?

Answer: No. Committeeman is a non-salaried party election-coordination position.

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?

Answer: Slating is a political party's endorsement process prior to primary elections. I have always encouraged and will continue to encourage my party to seek community input for this endorsement process.

4. Should the party finance the campaigns of selected candidates in contested primary elections or non-partisan elections (such as aldermanic elections)?

Answer: No. Candidates are responsible for raising funds from a variety of sources.

5. Does a committeeman have a responsibility to support the party's candidates after they have been selected in a primary election?

Answer: Yes. The Committeeman's job description is the party's local campaign coordinator.

6. Do you feel it is appropriate for elected officials to hold a party office? Please explain your position.

Answer: Yes, if the party office is unpaid. Committeeman is an elected as well as party office.

7. Have you or would you send letters to government officials soliciting jobs or promotions for individuals?

Answer: Qualified individuals from every ward and township should have the opportunity to apply for government employment. As 46th Ward Democratic Committeeman, I would direct all interested applicants to the most efficient channel for consideration of their resume/experience.

8. Have you formed or would you form a ward-wide organization? Discuss structure, meetings, membership, staff and budget.

Answer: This is a key element of my commitment to 46th Ward Democrats. I will establish a modern Democratic ward organization in which membership is open to the full spectrum of Democratic voters in the 46th Ward.

9. How do you propose to finance your ward operations?

Answer: Annual ward organization dues and ward-wide fund raising activities.

10. What plans do you have to enhance voter registration and voter turn out in your ward?

Answer: The key to increased voter registration and turn out is voter education. I will make available a variety of political and governmental information at every ward event.