

IVI-IPO 2004 WARD COMMITTEEMAN QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 1

DATE: 01/06/2003

WARD: 49

PARTY: Democratic

NAME: **David Fagus**

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CAMPAIGN MANAGER: Ethan Roeder

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED: 1415

NUMBER REQUIRED: 445

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

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

Democratic Committeeman of the 49 th Ward	May 10, 1993 to Present
President, Democratic Party of the 49 th Ward	1988 to 5/10/1993

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 am presently on the Board of DevCorp North, a local economic development organization in Rogers Park, a member of the 49th Ward Zoning and Land Use Advisory Committee, am a member of the Howard St. Station redesign committee, was until 12/08/03 a Board member of the Independent Voters of Illinois-Independent Precinct Organization, have Chaired Vote 49 an non-partisan voter registration project, am a life member of the Friends of the Rogers Park Library and have served on numerous task forces, panels and committees that have promoted or improved the 49th Ward. Professionally, I am a health services administrator serving underserved communities of Chicago.

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 a BA in Political Studies, a Master of Public Administration degree with a concentration in health care, and more than 10 years of experience as the incumbent Democratic Committeeman. I am also a life long resident of the 49th Ward and therefore have many years of experience, understanding and work with 49th Ward residents.

E) Activities for other candidates. Please be specific.

I have personally performed political volunteer work on behalf of the following candidates: Bill Clinton, Al Gore, Howard Dean, Barack Obama, Paul Simon, Carol Mosley Braun, Dick Durbin, Sydney Yates, Jan Schakowsky, John Schmidt, Rod Blagojevich,

Pat Quinn, Lisa Madigan, Roland Burris, Jessie White, Julie Hamos, Carol Ronen, John Stroger, Dorothy Brown, David Orr, Larry Suffredin, and Joe Moore to name just a few of the many.

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

Barack Obama, David Orr, Joe Moore, Jan Schakowsky, Julie Hamos, Harry Osterman, Jessie White, Larry Suffredin. The IVI-IPO is the first organization to seek input for election/endorsement purposes this cycle.

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 believe that I should be reelected to the post of Democratic Committeeman of the 49th Ward because I have worked to reform the party into the leading progressive ward organization in the city. I believe that the strength of the Democratic Party is in its broad base, big tent theory of organizing. I have worked very hard to open the party to all of the residents of the 49th Ward and as a result the membership reflects the diverse population of my community. By holding endorsement sessions where the members select the candidates the organization will support I have empowered the party at its roots and have grown an organization dedicated to electing progressive candidates to public office. The job of Democratic Committeemen is, first and foremost to promote the Democratic Party and Democratic candidates. Others in the race have indicated they intend to use the office to promote their own candidacies for government office. Doing this would be a gross misuse of the office for personal power and gain while doing nothing to benefit the community.

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

The use of affirmative action has long held an important place in correcting social injustices committed in our past and to that extent race and gender should be used. Patronage on the other hand is often a tool used to reward persons for activities that have no relationship to their employment or the skills required to fulfill their job description. Sexual Orientation is a relatively new frontier in employment and I feel it is vitally important that government lead the way in providing the fair and open environment that encourages all Americans to compete on a level playing field.

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

My campaign budget is approximately \$75,000. To date, my campaign has raised approximately \$15,000, and an additional \$60,000 in pledges.

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

I have a campaign staff of 1. I have a volunteer list of approximately 300.

IVI-IPO 2004 WARD COMMITTEEMAN QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 2

Ward Committeeman Candidate Questionnaire - 3/21/04 Primary

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

In the last race for Alderman in the 49th Ward the number of petition signatures required was approximately 250 while the number of petition signatures required for Democratic Committeeman this year is 445. This disparity is a needless barrier to ballot access. I would like to see the number 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.

In the event a regularly scheduled general primary election will occur prior to the next scheduled Ward Committeeman election it should be used to elect a successor. In essence this means that if more than two years remain in the term, the primary voters should elect a person to complete the term. I would not favor a special election.

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 believe that one of the primary roles of any political organization that endorses candidates is to provide recommendations to the voters. This can be called slating, endorsing or something else but it is the same activity. It is important to the members of my organization to seek and promote progressives for elected office. If we were to wait until the General election to promote those candidates that reflect our interest it often would be too late. I have become less likely to involve the local Democratic Party in non-partisan races when all candidates have claimed to be Democrats, but if the non-partisan race is in actuality a party driven race I would encourage the local organization to get involved. Again, it is important that the membership be given an opportunity to support the progressive candidate in the initial process of candidate selection particularly in an election where there may not even be a second round.

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

Neither the Democratic Party of Cook County nor the local Democratic Party should finance the campaign of individuals seeking government office. The political party should be utilized as a vehicle to promote the party's candidates. In my organization we are far more likely to collect funds from candidates than provide them to candidates.

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

I do not believe that any Committeeman should be obligated to support the candidates of the Cook County Central Committee and most no longer do feel obligated. A Committeeman should have the responsibility of supporting the candidates his local party is endorsing.

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

I believe that this question addresses the fundamental right of individuals to participate in party politics. There is reason to be concerned when the local party does not have an opportunity for open membership and does not allow the members to provide the voice for endorsement. I am not a government official, but I am an elected official of the Democratic Party.

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

I believe that there are occasions where it is appropriate to send letters of support for a prospective employee/appointment. I believe the distinction should be if a person is seeking a Shackman covered position or a Shackman exempt position. When a person is seeking a position that is determined by the United States federal court to be a political position/appointment I have and would send a letter of support. I do not believe that it is appropriate to send such letters for Shackman covered positions.

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

I have formed a ward wide organization that is reflective of the diverse population of the 49th Ward. The organizational structure is one that includes officers and board members; membership meet on a monthly basis to cover topics and issues of concern and interest to our membership. Examples of topics and individuals who have made presentations include Marty Cohen of CUB, Cindy Canary of Illinois Campaign for Political Reform, Steve Whitney of the Save Meigs Field group, Springfield Update by our local state legislators, and candidates for office such as Dorothy Brown, Barack Obama and Jan Schakowsky who gave us a Congressional update. We are a volunteer organization and most often do not have staff. Our budget is small and pays for things like telephone service, membership mailings, and office supplies.

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

I will continue to fund the organization as I have previously. I raise funds from local residents and business that are interested in promoting Democratic politics in the 49th Ward.

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

We have dedicated a great deal of our manpower to voter registration and voter turnout. During my tenure as Committeeman more than 17,000 people have been registered to vote in the 49th Ward. The great challenge we face in the ward is the high rate of turnover by the residents. With a housing stock that is approximately 75% rental we consistently are trying to keep up with the influx of new residents. We have most recently implemented a non-partisan program called "Vote 49". In this effort, all of our major non-for-profits agreed to be registration stations and we were able to offer 12 sites throughout the Ward where persons could register to vote.

11. **Question for Incumbent:** What have you done to involve more people in the political process? What further steps will you take?

During my tenure as Committeeman I have held 89 community meeting to recruit persons to join our organization. The basic overview is to schedule a meeting in the immediate area, flyer door to door to announce the meeting, explain to persons who attend what activities we participate in and what our political philosophy is, and encourage people to join our grass roots organization to take an active role in shaping the endorsements of our local party and electing progressive candidates to office. We will continue to do community outreach and recruitment during this election cycle and at the end of it we will have held our 100th meeting.