

IVI-IPO 2004

WARD COMMITTEEMAN QUESTIONNAIRE

Section 1

DATE: January 14, 2004

WARD: 5 PARTY: REPUBLICAN

NAME: Clara Simms-Johnson

VOTING ADDRESS: 1400 East 55th Place

HOME PHONE: 773/684-8032

BUSINESS PHONE: 312/808-5061

CAMPAIGN ADDRESS: 1400 East 55th Place

CAMPAIGN PHONE: 773/684-8032 FAX: none

EMAIL: ward [five@netzero.com](mailto:five@netzero.com) WEBSITE: none

CAMPAIGN MANAGER:

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED: 240

NUMBERS REQUIRED: 148

SECTION # 1

(A)

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

A). 1992 Elected 5th Ward Republican Committeeman

1994 Accepted Post of President of the Hyde Park-Kenwood Community Conference

1996 Elected 5th Ward Republican Committeeman

2000 Elected 5th Ward Republican Committeeman

(B)

Other elective offices for which you have been a candidate.

A). 1994 County Commissioner 3rd District

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Q) Principal business, education, professional and civic activities of the past ten years.

A)

1. Recruited voters to serve as judges of election

2. Spearheaded curtailment of the plan by the RTA to change the # 6 express bus into feeder bus to the Metra rail line.

3. Formed the Southside, transportation coalition to meet community needs to keep the #6 bus line as express mode of operations.

4. Addressed Welfare reform: Addressed Domestic Violence: Addressed the lack of employment opportunities:

5. Invited our elected officials, service providers, and community organizations to the seminar held for the purpose of addressing the impact on the community.

(D)

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

A) Subjects I have studied have included:

Political Science, Public Administration, Statistics, Organization Theory

Research Methods/education and Administration and Supervision, Communication

Process, Public Service in the U.S., Human Resource Management

My experiences have included a tremendous amount of community outreach as a

Volunteer with the Hyde park-Kenwood Community Conference, serving as precinct

Captain, volunteer and member of IVI-IPO, NAACP, Operation Breadbasket, Operation

Push, running campaign for my re-election, serving as area coordinator for Mayor

Harold Washington, serving as scheduler #2 for Congressman Charles Hayes,

Keeping my promise to the community for a progressive 5th ward republican

committeeman's office operation.

My educational background, my community involvement and my work history supports

And I think compliments the office I seek for re-election

I have served in the following capacity in city, state and federal employment:

Federal) Congressional Aide (late Charles A. Hayes)

City) Director of Veterans' Affairs,

Program Planner, Public Safety

State) Children and Family Services

Community) Volunteer Hyde park-Kenwood Community Conference

Precinct Captain, Organizing seminars, Workshops, YWCA

NAACP member, Operation Bread Basket/Push, Office

(E)

Activities for other candidates. Please be specific.

A) Members of our organization distributed literatures for candidates for public

Office, endorsed and sent mailings about their candidacy.

(F)

Please list all endorsements you have received so far.

A) As of now we have not received any endorsements.

(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?

A) Since the 1970's I have in some way been involved with community issues, concerns and activities impacting the community, i.e. registering persons to vote, public safety, economic development, transportation, welfare reform, campaigns-elections and in every way attempting to do my share in making the community the best it can be. I think I should be endorsed over the other candidate (s), in light of one of the candidates (William "Mr. D") Delay having been released in April 2002, from federal prison for frauds and swindles and currently is on federal supervised release. This candidate's eligibility as a candidate is now in question. However, we have since been informed that this candidate will be on the March 16th general primary election ballot.

The other candidate (Christopher Coordes) who is from St. Louis Missouri, registered to vote in November 2001; voted for the first time in the 2002 gubernatorial election. His registration status at the Missouri listed address is "Active Voter" in St. Louis County, St. Louis Missouri . His registration status at the Chicago listed address is "Active Voter" in Cook County, Chicago, Illinois. It appears both candidates are ineligible to have obtained the status of candidate in this March 16th general primary election.

Personally, it is important that a fair and balance election process continues to advance through-out the 5th Ward. And that the open dialogue which currently exist between ward committeeman and legislative elected officials remain in place and a part of all planning for community improvements. My goal is to continue to be a partner in this community and to work in the furthering of a fair and balanced election process.

(H)

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

A) The criteria for hiring and promoting public employees, should be established using Fair employment practices. The public employees personnel code should support and adhere to fair employment practices in hiring and promotion. Hiring and promotion should not be contingent upon race, gender, or sexual orientation.

(I)

what is your campaign budget? How much have you raised to date?

A) We are operating on a shoe-string budget. Our campaign budget is projected for \$4,000. To date we have raised \$1,400

(J)

How many people is on your campaign staff? How many volunteers are on your list?

A) At present our campaign is staffed by our Board of Directors.

#### IVI-IPO 2004 WARD COMMITTEEMAN QUESTIONNAIRE -Section 2

Ward Committeeman Candidate questionnaire -3/16/04 Primary

(1)

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

A) No. I think the present signature requirements are reasonable.

(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.

A) Yes, all wards should have an active committeemen of both political parties elected from that particular ward. there should be scheduled special elections.

(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 session

A) I view slating as an effective means of selecting candidate (s) prior to a primary or non-partisan elections. I see nothing wrong with party officials slating candidates. This is a political fact of life.

(4)

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

A) Yes, the party should finance selected candidates; if candidates are from the same political party then the party should provide finance and sufficient resources to the incumbent. There is nothing wrong with such financing. It is bound to happen anyway.

(5)

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

A) Yes, although a committeeman in fact may do this in varying degrees of enthusiasm.

(6)

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

A) Yes, in any case this is bound to exist. I think all politics are local and for an elected official to hold a party office in today's political environment is an advantage. Knowing what interest and concerns impact the community enables the elected officials to provide better service to all concerned.

(7)

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

A) No, letters soliciting jobs have I sent to government officials requesting jobs or promotions for individuals. However, letters soliciting jobs or promotions are appropriate under certain circumstances i.e. unequal access to jobs and promotion due discrimination in contractual businesses engaging in business ventures with city, state, and federal government contracts. I realize such request to government officials have become a political fact of life and as such is necessary when a lack of access to jobs and promotions noticeably impact the community negatively.

(8)

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

A) Yes, I have formed a ward-wide organization that currently features a Board of Directors made up of individuals from across the ward. Our aim is to further expand our structure. we notify people of our public meetings. We do not have paid or unpaid staff or a specific budget.

(9)

How do you propose to finance your ward operations?

A) We rely on community support. We have had and will continue to have fund raisers.

(10)

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

A) We will actively recruit persons to serve as judges of election and encourage them to register if they are not registered. We plan to inform all who attend our meetings to work in their area of the community to identify persons needing to register; We will use our telephone canvassing to ask if there is anyone needing to be registered. We will ask those in our meetings to notify us of anyone needing to register as well as inform them of registration locations. We plan to enclose information about where to go to register in our mailings.

(11)

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

A) Throughout the pass twelve years we have worked within our community recruiting voters to serve as judges of election; we have served as deputy registrars meeting and registering persons; we have addressed those issues and concerns expressed to us relative to unemployment, welfare reform, transportation, domestic violence and a two party system. We intend to work more closely with our elected officials in an effort to better service our community.