

Monday, February 9, 2004

PRESS RELEASE

**Independent Voters of Illinois-Independent Precinct Organization
(IVI-IPO)**

**Announces Endorsements for the
2004 General Primary**

(Chicago) The IVI-IPO, Independent Voters of Illinois-Independent Precinct Organization announced today the endorsements for the 2004 General Primary Election. The two highlighted endorsements were Democratic U.S. Senate Candidate Barack Obama and Republican U.S. Senate Candidate Dr. Chirinjeev Kathuria.

These two candidates, while on opposite sides of the aisle, share some of IVI-IPO's most important and fundamental positions including opposition to the Patriot Act and support of civil liberties and civil rights.

Obama and Kathuria are both outspoken opponents of the Patriot Act. Dr. Kathuria has said that "The Patriot Act has gone too far with some of its present provisions and unfairly targets some minorities and religious groups." Barack Obama favors a repeal of those provisions "that strip us of our privacy and freedom without enhancing our security."

Obama and Kathuria are also both firm supporters of civil liberties and civil rights. Both candidates are for federal legislation to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation in housing, employment, and education. Both IVI-IPO endorsed Senate candidates are also both open and agreeable to gay civil unions.

IVI-IPO State Chair, David Igasaki says about the two endorsed candidates, "We are impressed by their dedication to gay civil unions. The IVI-IPO is appalled at the invasions and violation of civil liberties inherent in the Patriot Act. We are very pleased to endorse two candidates for the U.S. Senate who support the repeal of the oppressive provisions of the Patriot Act."

IVI-IPO is a 60-year-old, volunteer driven, grassroots organization dedicated to participatory democracy and good government. IVI-IPO is unique among political organizations in that every member is eligible to vote for endorsements.

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**IVI-IPO's endorsed candidates for the March 16, 2004 Primary Election
February 9, 2004 Press Conference**

HOWARD DEAN, President – Democratic

Howard Dean's candidacy for President has awakened a new generation of political activists and revitalized the remnants of past anti-war campaigns. He has succeeded in turning the anger and distrust of a population who has been deceived by their elected leaders into a positive movement for open, honest, accountable government. The benefits of his campaign will be felt on the political landscape through November and beyond.

BARACK OBAMA, US Senator – Democratic

The only Democratic candidate in the race for the US Senate with legislative experience, Barack Obama led the fight in the Illinois Senate for campaign finance reform, landmark ethics legislation and tax relief for the working poor. He was the chief sponsor of the recently enacted laws mandating videotaping of police interrogations and ending racial profiling by law enforcement agencies. Obama has been an outspoken opponent of the war in Iraq and the Patriot Act and promises to be vigilant in protecting American freedom and liberty from government abuse of power.

CHIRINJEEV KATHURIA, US Senator – Republican

Chirinjeev Kathuria wants to revitalize the Republican party in Illinois, by reaching out to minorities and others who feel marginalized by the political process and by returning honesty and integrity to public debate and government operations. He embraces issues held by a wide ideological spectrum within his party, from fiscal conservatism on the right to ending discrimination against gays on the left. Most importantly, Kathuria is a firm supporter of civil liberties and opposes the onerous provisions of the Patriot Act, positions that cross over traditional ideological divides.

TOMMY BREWER, States Attorney of Cook County – Democratic

The election of former FBI agent and Special Prosecutor Tommy Brewer as States Attorney will begin to restore public confidence in Cook County's criminal justice system. The release of numerous wrongfully convicted death row inmates and continuing allegations of police torture and prosecutorial misconduct have eroded the public's faith that the criminal justice system can administer justice fairly and equitably. The incumbent's refusal to admit any possibility of wrong-doing in the office and his stubborn pursuit of charges against those who have been exonerated by DNA evidence leads us to believe that only regime change can fix this problem. IVI-IPO enthusiastically endorses the extremely capable and qualified Brewer for States Attorney.

DOROTHY BROWN, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County – Democratic

Dorothy Brown has turned around decades of turmoil and brought the Clerk's office into the 21st century both technologically and professionally. She has recruited qualified managers, invested in employee training programs and implemented best practices in customer service. Under Brown's direction, operational efficiency and financial accountability have improved dramatically and she has earned our support for reelection.

EUGENE MOORE, Recorder of Deeds of Cook County – Democratic

Incumbent Gene Moore has continued the automation of the Recorder's office to include digital conversion of all documents back to October of 1985 and digital imaging of all extant county tract books. He promises further automation of office functions including the capability to electronically record documents via the Internet. In three consecutive budget cycles, the office has returned unused funds to the county treasury.

JESSE L JACKSON JR, Congress 2nd District – Democratic

In ten years of service to his district, Jesse Jackson has fought vigorously to promote economic development in Chicago's south side and south suburbs. He has won federal funds to improve schools, public transportation and clean water in the district and to expand opportunities for jobs and affordable housing. Jackson also has become a national leader in the struggle for racial, social and economic justice. Equally important to IVI-IPO, he has fostered a growing and dynamic independent movement in the south suburbs, successfully challenging the machine politics that has so long dominated and suffocated that region.

RAHM EMANUEL, Congress 5th District – Democratic

In his first term in Congress, Rahm Emanuel has worked to lower prescription drug prices, protect individuals' medical privacy and make college aid more accessible to working families. He also has focused on forging a bi-partisan coalition of Congresspeople from every state bordering the Great Lakes to pass legislation to fund environmental clean-up of the waterways and sponsored legislation to fund transportation and infrastructure improvements.

CHRISTINE CEGELIS, Congress 6th District – Democratic

Christine Cegelis is running for Congress because she believes too many office holders have lost touch with the reality of the American economy and the social structure that has changed in recent years. She supports a fair trade policy that would stem the loss of jobs, a universal health care system that would ensure no one lacks medical services and a sensible foreign policy that is sensitive to world opinion. Cegelis is running a dynamic and energetic campaign that is resonating through all areas of her district.

DANNY DAVIS, Congress 7th District – Democratic

Danny Davis has distinguished himself as an articulate voice for his constituents and as an effective legislator. In four terms in Congress, he has been a model of responsive leadership, maintaining weekly office hours in the district and sponsoring dozens of town hall meetings each year for his constituents to question him and express their own views on issues vital to their community. Davis is a national leader in the campaigns for affordable housing, a living wage and universal health care.

MELISSA BEAN, Congress 8th District – Democratic

A businesswoman who also claims wide support from organized labor, Melissa Bean defies traditional labels and is prepared for the challenge of overcoming partisan political divides. Her top priorities are economic development, improving schools and education and providing access to quality health care while practicing fiscal responsibility and holding the line on taxes. Bean is personally committed to raising the level of accountability in public service and providing her constituents with honest representation of which they can be proud.

DAVID GILL, Congress 15th District – Democratic

David Gill is an emergency room physician who also does volunteer work for Planned Parenthood of East Central Illinois. His most important goal is the implementation of a Universal Payer National Health Insurance Plan. Supporting a wide range of liberal policy positions including abortion rights, environmental protection, roll-back of Bush's tax cuts and repeal of the Patriot Act, Gill has garnered support from all 22 counties in the district.

XOCHITL FLORES, MWRD Commissioner – Democratic

A business management consultant with a degree in Industrial Engineering, Xochitl Flores would bring professional expertise and independence to the MWRD. Her main objectives are to end the practice of hiring retired employees as highly-compensated consultants, fight against pay increases for the Commissioners and investigate charges of sexual harassment at the District.

GLORIA MAJEWSKI, MWRD Commissioner – Democratic

Running for her fifth term, Gloria Majewski is a full-time Commissioner with a vast array of knowledge and experience that has served the district well. Her goals for the next term include reducing maintenance and energy consumption with no degradation of effluent quality and working with the IEPA to develop and achieve water quality standards for District waterways.

BARBARA MCGOWAN, MWRD Commissioner – Democratic

In her first term, Barbara McGowan was elected Chairperson of the Committee on Affirmative Action and has achieved an impressive record of extending opportunities to women and minorities as workers and contractors. She believes the MWRD should take a leadership role in determining the need of waterfront development and is an outspoken advocate of protecting public access to the Chicago River.

PATRICIA YOUNG, MWRD Commissioner – Democratic

First elected as an independent in 1992, Patricia Young has continued to lead the other commissioners in questioning management proposals and looking out for the public interest. She conducts her own research and analysis, enabling her to challenge assumptions and speak out against measures she believes would be detrimental to the taxpayers. Young is a leading proponent of utilizing district land for public recreational use

JAMES SMITH, State House 8th District – Democratic

James Smith is a substitute teacher in the Chicago Public Schools, an ordained minister and a retired airman in the US Air Force Reserve. He also has extensive experience working with youth programs and has established improvements in education funding, teacher training and government accountability as top legislative priorities.

DENNIS FLEMING, State House 15th District – Democratic

Challenging the political powerhouses of his district, Dennis Fleming disclaims any allegiance to party bosses, while pledging to work with all constituencies in his community. He relishes the concept of citizen-legislator and has embraced progressive issue positions on civil rights and civil liberties, gun control, tenants rights and election reform.

LOU LANG, State House 16th District – Democratic

A champion of women's rights, Lou Lang is the chief sponsor of the ERA in the Illinois General Assembly and has been an outspoken advocate of abortion rights for all women, including the indigent. He is a leader in the fight to protect people from discrimination based on sexual orientation and a consistent supporter of civil rights and civil liberties. Lang's other legislative initiatives include bills to prevent political insiders from obtaining sweetheart deals or defaulting on state contracts.

JEFF HOLEWINSKI, State House 19th District – Democratic

In his first run for office, Jeff Holewinski is challenging the power of the Democratic machine in one of its strongholds, and is uniting discontented neighborhood residents in the effort. Seeking greater respect for and accountability to the community is the primary focus of the campaign and is reflected in Holewinski's policy positions advocating election and ethics reform in state and local government.

MONIQUE DAVIS, State House 27th District – Democratic

A former teacher in Chicago's public schools, Monique Davis is running for her 10th term in the General Assembly. She has been a consistent supporter of education and social services, fighting for funding for state programs assisting the most vulnerable members of our society. Striving for fairness and equity in our justice system, Davis sponsored the Racial Profiling Bill and Videotaped Confessions Bill which are now law.

ARVIN BODDIE, State House 28th District – Democratic

Arvin Boddie has been actively involved in the civil rights movement since 1964 and brings a wealth of experience in business, law and community service to his campaign for State Representative. His call to combat racism in society at large and in the criminal justice system in particular resonated well with IVI-IPO members. Boddie, a veteran Marine Corps officer, serves on the Illinois Prisoner Review Board and was a Corporation Counsel in Harold Washington's mayoral administration.

DAVID MILLER, State House 29th District – Democratic

Ensuring that south suburban residents are treated equitably in the distribution of government services has been a major priority for two-term incumbent David Miller. In the last general assembly session he sponsored legislation to more accurately reflect poverty counts in school districts, resulting in 7 million additional dollars for schools in his district and millions more for poor students statewide. Economic development is another priority for Miller who has endorsed Cong. Jackson's public/private partnership plan for development of a new airport in the region.

MARLOW COLVIN, State House 33rd District – Democratic

Responding to the needs of his district and desire of his constituents, Marlow Colvin has set improving educational opportunities as a top legislative priority. In the last session he sponsored legislation to cap tuition increases at state universities and increase the number of teachers in disadvantaged schools. Colvin has also taken the initiative on other issues from preventing domestic violence to battling consumer fraud.

ROBIN KELLY, State House 38th District – Democratic

In her first term, Robin Kelly has kept her promise to fight for economic development in the region through sponsorship of legislation to provide tax credits for businesses established in communities with affordable housing or access to public transportation and to provide better accountability for TIF districts. She also has championed legislation concerning children's welfare, from increasing reimbursement for providers of childcare to TANF recipients to removing truants from the criminal justice system.

PEDRO DEJESUS, State House 39th District – Democratic

Pedro DeJesùs aspires to join the growing list of independent leaders to challenge and defeat the dying dinosaur of machine politics on the northwest side. An attorney with an extensive resume of community activism and service, he has brought together diverse neighborhoods in his district who demand open, honest and accountable government. DeJesùs supports election and ethics reform, greater funding of public education through redistribution of the tax burden, and extending unemployment insurance and family leave programs to assist working families in times of economic difficulty.

MICHAEL NOLAND, State House 43rd District – Democratic

Attorney Michael Noland is a former Kane County Public Defender, teacher, and Navy corpsman. While advocating increased funding for education and health care, he stresses the need for fiscal responsibility by ending member initiatives and slashing special-interest corporate tax breaks. Noland is a strong advocate of a balanced transportation system, supporting extension of the Elgin-O'Hare expressway as well as expansion of public transit systems.

SUZIE BASSI, State House 54th District – Republican

Former school teacher Suzie Bassi has built a solid record of support for education, women's rights and governmental reform. In the last session, she has concentrated on issues of concern to senior citizens, from long term care, elder abuse and property tax relief to her successful sponsorship of the Senior Prescription Drug Discount Plan that will save Illinois seniors, regardless of income, up to 30 percent on prescription drugs.

ELAINE NEKRITZ, State House 57th District – Democratic

In her first term, Elaine Nekritz has fulfilled her promise of providing top quality constituent services to the residents of her district. She also has provided legislative leadership in the area of privacy protection, sponsoring legislation combating identity theft and abuse of information in the public domain. Most important to IVI-IPO is Nekritz 's commitment to government ethics and reform, exemplified by her sponsorship of legislation to restrict lame-duck gubernatorial appointments.

ANN BERNARD, State House 79th District – Democratic

Kankakee County Board member Ann Bernard is an activist and former newspaper reporter with a comprehensive knowledge of the environmental issues facing the rapidly developing communities of the 79th district. She is an avid proponent of recycling and closed-loop technology to recapture emissions and is currently leading opposition to landfills proposed to be located above the area's aquifers. A strong supporter of fiscal responsibility and governmental reform, Bernard would be an energetic advocate for the people of her district.

COOK COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

WILLIAM HADDAD, O'Malley Vacancy - Democratic
DENISE STANIEC, Orlando Vacancy - Democratic
MICHELLE JORDAN, Salyers Vacancy - Democratic
SUSAN MALONE, Siracusa Vacancy - Democratic
ED WASHINGTON, 5th Subcircuit - Democrat
MARY MIKVA , 8th Subcircuit "A" Vacancy - Democrat
JON ERICKSON , 8th Subcircuit "Gardner" - Vacancy Democrat
JEANNE CLEVELAND-BERNSTEIN, 9th Subcircuit - Democrat
PEGGY CHIAMPAS, 10th Subcircuit "A" Vacancy - Democrat
CAROLYN QUINN, 10th Subcircuit "Fleming" Vacancy - Democrat
ROGER FEIN, 12th Subcircuit - Republican
JAMES MACHOLL, 13th Subcircuit - Republican
ANNA HELEN DEMACOPOLOUS, 15th Subcircuit - Democrat

CHICAGO WARD COMMITTEEMAN

BOBBIE JOHNSON, 3rd Ward - Republican
CLARA SIMMS JOHNSON, 5th Ward - Republican
ANDREW HEIDGERKEN, 11th Ward - Republican
CALVIN OMAR JOHNSON, 24th Ward - Republican
THOMAS SWISS, 27th Ward - Republican
ROBERT FOSS, 30th Ward - Republican
KENNETH GILLIS, 42nd Ward - Democratic
ROBERT BANK, 45th Ward - Democratic
TOM SHARPE, 46th Ward - Democratic
DAVID FAGUS, 49th Ward - Democratic

DELEGATES TO THE DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATING CONVENTION

DENISE DIXON (preferring Dean) - 1st Congressional District

ALAN DOBRY (preferring Dean - 1st Congressional District

JAMAAL BUCHANAN (preferring Dean) - 1st Congressional District

AL RILEY (preferring Clark) - 2nd Congressional District

RICARDO MUNOZ (preferring Dean) - 4th Congressional District

GLORIA CHEVERE (preferring Edwards) - 4th Congressional District

MARILYN KATZ (preferring Clark) - 5th Congressional District

SARA FEIGENHOLTZ (preferring Dean) - 5th Congressional District

DAVID IGASAKI (preferring Dean) - 5th Congressional District

MICHAEL BAUER (preferring Edwards) - 5th Congressional District

MIKE QUIGLEY (preferring Kerry) - 5th Congressional District

DANIEL BIRKHAHN-ROMMELFANGER (preferring Kucinich) - 5th Congressional District

JACQUELINE MCKAY (preferring Kucinich) - 5th Congressional District

ROBERT BAREN (preferring Dean) - 7th Congressional District

BARBARA BURCHJOLLA (preferring Dean) - 7th Congressional District

LISA ELLMAN (preferring Kerry) - 7th Congressional District

BONNIE BERGER-NEEL (preferring Kerry) - 8th Congressional District

WILLIAM MAROVITZ (preferring Dean) - 9th Congressional District

JOE MOORE (preferring Dean) - 9th Congressional District

DEBRA SHORE (preferring Dean) - 9th Congressional District

HOWARD LEARNER (preferring Kerry) - 9th Congressional District

DARLENE SOWELL (preferring Kerry) - 9th Congressional District

ART BERMAN (preferring Lieberman) - 9th Congressional District

IRA SILVERSTEIN (preferring Lieberman) - 9th Congressional District