

**IVI-IPO 2012 CONGRESSIONAL QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 1**

**DATE:** January 11, 2011                      **DISTRICT:** Illinois 10th                      **PARTY:** Democratic

**NAME:** Ilya Sheyman

**VOTING ADDRESS:** 1425 North Ave., Apt. 306, Waukegan, IL 60085

**HOME PHONE:** (224) 216-2653    **BUSINESS PHONE:** (224) 216-2653

**CAMPAIGN ADDRESS:** 1146 Waukegan Rd, Suite 185; Waukegan, IL 60085

**CAMPAIGN PHONE:** (224) 216-2653      **FAX:** 1-952-479-3489

**EMAIL:** joanna@ilyasheyman.com

**WEBSITE:** <http://www.sheymanforcongress.com>

**CAMPAIGN MANAGER:** Annie Weinberg

**NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED:** 2,500 **NUMBER REQUIRED:** 600

**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) What is your primary occupation?**

**Community organizer**

**D) Briefly list your civic activities of the past ten years.**

**Most recently, I served as the national Mobilization Director at the progressive advocacy group MoveOn.org, organizing their five million members across the country to support efforts to pass health care reform with a public health insurance option.**

**As the the Field Director at Democracy for America, I worked to train, support and elect progressive candidates in key races across the nation.**

**As a community organizer for A+ Illinois in Illinois' northern suburbs, I worked to fix our broken public education funding systems, building a diverse coalition of educators, labor leaders, students, parents, and faith leaders to push for improved funding for quality public schools.**

**Prior to that, I worked for then-Senator Barack Obama in Constituent Services, helping Illinoisans with questions about Veterans Affairs, Homeland Security and Military Affairs navigate the federal government.**

**I got my first job when I was still in high school, and it launched a lifelong dedication to the values and priorities of organized labor -- while my parents launched their small business, I worked at the neighborhood Jewel Osco and became a member of United Food and Commercial Workers (Local 881).**

**In recent years, I co-founded the Community Connection Center in Waukegan, where community members can be matched up with the governmental resources they need. Whether people need help or information about food stamps, jobs skills training, loan applications, or medical services, the Center enables local governments to make more concrete improvements in the lives of their constituents.**

**I've been a longtime volunteer with the Illinois Tenth District Democrats, where I helped bring together the 12 township chairs to implement plans to become more effective in promoting an agenda for progressive change in Illinois.**

**I am a proud member of the NAACP of Lake County. I'm also volunteer jobs trainer with the Lake County Coalition to Reduce Recidivism, where I teach an job skills program for ex-offenders, helping them find the opportunity and support they'll need to get back on their feet.**

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

**I graduated from McGill University with a joint bachelor's degree in Political Science and US History, and I've spent my career working and organizing around issues affecting working families in Illinois' 10th District and around the country.**

**F) What candidates have you supported in past elections? Please be specific in describing your role in each campaign.**

**I was a strong supporter of Barack Obama's 2008 candidacy for president, including in the primary. I was also supportive of Dan Seals' campaigns for Congress in Illinois' 10th District.**

**As Field Director at Democracy for America and as national Mobilization Director at MoveOn, I worked to elect hundreds of progressive Democratic candidates in races at all levels of government around the country.**

**In final weeks of the November 2010 election, I was on the ground in Madison, WI, working to reelect progressive Senator Russ Feingold.**

**G) Please list all endorsements you have received so far.**

**I am honored to be the only candidate in the race who has earned support from organized labor, from unions including AFSCME, the Ironworkers, Local 1, the Transport Workers Union of America, the American Federation of Government Employees, Sheet Metal Workers, Local 73, the International Longshoremen's Association–AFL-CIO, and Mike McGue, the president of the Lake County Federation of Teachers, among other labor groups, leaders and rank-and-file members.**

**Our campaign has been endorsed by leading Illinois Democratic Congressman Danny K. Davis, by Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr., by Congressional Progressive Caucus Co-Chairs Keith Ellison and Raul Grijalva, by the former Democratic National Committee Chair Gov. Howard Dean, by Cook County Commissioner Larry Suffredin and Waukegan Township Supervisor Patricia Jones, amongst others.**

**We have also been endorsed by a host of national progressive organizations -- including MoveOn.org, whose 12,000 members in the 10th District voted overwhelmingly to support our campaign; by Democracy for America; by the Progressive Change Campaign Committee; by Students for a New American Politics PAC, and by the Council for a Livable World's Peace PAC.**

**H) 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 got into this race because I see politicians in Washington attacking the very programs and institutions that working families rely on -- from Social Security, to Medicare, to collective bargaining rights -- and with these attacks, more and more of the American Dream that made my own life story possible is slipping away for too many families across the 10th District and across the country.**

**As I talk to voters in the 10th District each day, it's clear that their number one concern is job creation. That is why I have called for a comprehensive federal bill to create millions of new jobs around the country.**

**We need to put people back to work rebuilding and repairing our infrastructure, teaching our kids, and protecting our neighborhoods as police and firefighters.**

**We also need to restore fairness to our tax system by rolling back the Bush Tax Cuts that overwhelmingly favor the wealthiest 2% of Americans, so we can invest in infrastructure and building a new clean energy economy here at home.**

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

**As one of the top targeted races in the country, we anticipate that the full campaign through November will cost approximately 6 million dollars.**

**We were thrilled to report over a quarter million dollars raised as of September 30th, nearly doubling the fundraising of our closest opponent in the previous quarter. We expect to show similarly excellent numbers on the January 31st reporting deadline.**

**Our rigorous grassroots fundraising program has resulted in one of the largest -- if not the largest -- challenger donor bases in the country, with over 11,000 individual contributors to our campaign.**

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

**We have a fully operative campaign staff, including a full time campaign manager, field director and four field organizers, a finance director and deputy, an operations manager and a communications director.**

**We are most proud of our grassroots leadership teams, through which we have engaged nearly 500 (and growing) volunteers - talking to fellow voters, participating in community events, organizing house parties, and building a rigorous presence in every township and every corner of the district.**

**IVI-IPO 2012 CONGRESSIONAL QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 2**

	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	
1.		√	Should the US wage war without a declaration from Congress?
2.	√		Do you support closing WHISC (the re-named Army School of the Americas)?
3.	√		mandating release of the names of all those who have attended the WHISC?
4.	√		Do you support normalization of relations with Cuba?
5.		√	the Helms-Burton Act?
6.	ESSA Y		What should be Congress' role in formulating foreign policy?
7.	ESSA Y		Comment on the necessity & effectiveness of our military deployment in Afganistan
<b>Ener gy &amp; Envir onme nt</b>			
8.		√	Do you Support Oil drilling in Alaska and other protected wilderness?
9.	√		Cap and trade?
10.	√		Lower National Carbon emissions goals?

11.	√			Clean Diesel Program?
12.	√			National Energy Efficiency goals?
13.		√		Coal Liquification?
14.		√		Increasing use of Nuclear power for electric generation?
15.		√		Mountaintop coal strip mining?
16.	√			Increase user fees for grazing, mining and lumbering on Federal lands?
17.		√		Opening more federal land for lumber exploitation?
18.		√		Support for Alberta Oil Sand exploitation?
19.	√			Incentives for business to develop alternative energy systems
20.	√			Tax credits for individuals to implement sustainable and renewable systems in their homes?
21.	√			Do you support allowing states to adopt more stringent environmental standards than provided for in Federal law?
<b>Trans porta tion</b>				
				Should the federal government have any funding responsibility for
22.	√			infrastructure improvements?
23.	√			highways?
24.	√			mass transit?
25.	√			high-speed rail?
26.	√			Amtrak?

27.	√			Air transportation?
28.	ESSA Y			Please comment on specific proposals
<b>Taxes and Econ omic Polic y</b>				
				Do you favor
29.	√			a more progressive income tax?
30.		√		a flat tax?
31.		√		a national sales tax?
32.				taxing capital gains at the same rate as earned income? <b>*I would be open to the possibility of pursuing such a tax as a means to generate new revenue.</b>
33.				taxing dividends at the same rate as earned income? <b>*I would be open to the possibility of pursuing such a tax as a means to generate new revenue.</b>
34.		√		reduction/elimination of the estate tax?
35.	√			any other changes in our tax structure?
36.		√		Elimination of mortgage interest deduction?
37.		√		Elimination of income tax credit for dependent children
38.	ESSA Y			What would you do to create jobs, specifically address communities with historically high and lingering unemployment rates?
39.	ESSA Y			What changes would you propose for the Social Security System?
40	√			Do you support repeal of the Commodity Futures Modernization Act?

41.		√		Will you support “fast track” legislation for trade treaties?
-----	--	---	--	---

<b>Consumer Rights</b>				
42.	ESS AY			What legislation or regulation would you support to safeguard consumers harmed in the recent sub-prime lending credit crisis?
43.	√			Do you support federal legislation to cap interest rates on credit cards and other consumer loans?
44.	√			federal legislation to regulate ATM fees and service charges on credit cards and other consumer loans?
45.	√			allowing states to enact consumer laws which go beyond the protection of federal legislation?
<b>Government and Ethics</b>				
				Do you support
46.	√			Constitutional amendment to regulate campaign financing?
47.	√			Constitutional amendment to reverse the Citizens United case?
48.	√			Would you support increased Congressional oversight of federal contracting?
	ESS AY			Why or why not?

<b>Health &amp; Human Services</b>				
49.	√			Do you support “Single Payer” or “Extended Medicare”?
	ESS AY			Why or why not?
50.	√			Do you support authorizing Medicare and other government insurance programs to negotiate lower prices for prescription drugs?
51.	√			Should the FDA approve importation of drugs from countries whose manufacturing and safety standards are equal or superior to those in the US?
52.	√			Do you support funding of medically accurate, age appropriate, sex education programs?
53.	√			Do you support increased funding for HIV/AIDS research, education, prevention, and services?

				Do you support
54.		√		the Human Life Amendment?
55.	√			the Freedom of Choice Act?
56.		√		parental notification to obtain an abortion?
57.		√		a ban on so-called partial birth abortions?
58.	√			Repeal of the Hyde Amendment?
59.	ESS AY			What other changes would you support in the area of reproductive health?
				Do you favor increased funding for:
60.	√			supplemental food programs for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)?

61.	√			food stamp allowances?
62.	√			Head Start?
63.	√			school lunch programs?
				Do you support
64.	√			reauthorization of TANF in 2012?
65.	√			raising TANF benefits to at least equal the poverty level?
66.	√			Reestablishing federal regulation of statewide programs?
67.		√		TANF work requirement?
68.	√			Support the further extension of unemployment benefits?
69.	ESS AY			What are your proposals to help people who do not qualify for TANF or for unemployment benefits?
				Do you support
70.	√			increased funding to develop affordable housing?
71.	√			restrictions to ensure development of low-income rather than market rate housing?
72.	√			adequate funding for the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund out of the premiums paid for Fannie Mae and Ginnie Mae loans?
73.	√			protection against housing discrimination for holders of Section 8 housing vouchers?
				Do you favor
74.		√		vouchers, tuition tax-credits or other any direct public support for parochial or private schools?
75.		√		Are the provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act the most effective way to advance student achievement?
	ESS AY			If not, what plan would you propose?

<b>Law, Justice, and Correc tional Syste m</b>					
					Do you support:
76.		√			admissibility of illegally obtained evidence?
77.					electronic eavesdropping? <b>*Yes, with a legally obtained warrant.</b>
78.		√			oving wiretaps?
79.		√			capital punishment?
80.		√			criminal prosecution of juveniles as adults?
81.		√			mandatory sentencing?
82.	√				criminalization of hate crimes?
83.	√				Congressional oversight of the NSA?
84.		√			Real ID program?
85.		√			detention of suspects and material witnesses without charges and/or probable cause?
					Do you support
86.	√				repeal of the Military Commissions Act?
87.	√				a statutory ban on the use of extraordinary rendition and secret prisons?
88.	√				creation of a special committee to learn the truth about unlawful and inappropriate activities by government officials in the post-9/11 era?

89.	√			repeal of the FISA Amendments Act of 2008?
90.	√			Do you support legislation prohibiting racial profiling in law enforcement?
91.	√			Do you support legislation restricting the sale and possession of assault weapons?
92.	√			Do you support legislation mandating background checks of purchasers of weapons at gun shows, through the internet and through print advertisements?
93.	√			increasing penalties for illegal resale of weapons?
94.	ESS AY			What restrictions, if any, should Congress enact or repeal regarding the scope of federally funded legal services for the poor?
<b>Civil Liberties and Civil Rights</b>				
95.	√			Do you favor repeal of the Patriot Act?
96.	√			amending the NSL provisions to expand court oversight, require a mandatory showing of a connection to terrorist activity and rescind unconstitutional gag restrictions?
97.	√			any other changes to the Patriot Act?
98.		√		Do you support repeal/revision of the Posse Comitatus Act?
		ESS AY		Please explain.
99.	√			Do you support prioritizing family reunification as criteria in granting visas and processing citizenship and permanent resident applications?
100.	√			halting deportations of immigrants until final determination of residency status has been made and appeals have been exhausted?

101.	√			Prohibiting deportation of undocumented immigrants arrested for misdemeanors or traffic violations?
102.	√			A pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants currently in the country?
103.	√			The DREAM Act?
104.	√			Recognizing same sex marital or union status when determining immigration status?
105.		ESS AY		What other immigration reforms do you support?
106.	√			Do you support DC statehood?
107.	√			Do you support federal legislation to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation in housing, employment and education?
108.	√			repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act?
109.	√			passage of the Respect for Marriage Act?
110.	√			Would you support legislation allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military?
111.		√		Do you support prior government restraint of the press?
112.	√			Do you support separation of church and state?
113.		√		Do you support prayer in public schools?
114.	√			moment of silence?
115.		√		Do you support mandatory drug testing in private employment?

116.		√			in public employment?
117.		√			Do you support mandatory AIDS testing for insurance or employment?
118.	√				Do you support legislation to redress inequities in pension benefits for women?
119.	√				Do you support the Equal Rights Amendment to the US Constitution?
<b>Labo</b>					
120.	√				Do you support Affirmative Action with specific goals, targets and timetables for federal employment, grants and contracts?
121.	√				Do you support legislation to restructure the wage scale of federal employees to correct disparities based on gender by instituting equal pay for jobs of comparable worth?
122.	√				Do you support repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act?
123.	√				a prohibition on permanent replacement of strikers?
124.	√				giving federal employees the right to strike?
125.	√				the Employee Freedom of Choice Act?
126.	√				Do you support a federal living wage law to guarantee that a person working forty hours a week would be able to afford housing, food, utilities, transportation and health care?

Essay Responses:

6. What should be Congress' role in formulating foreign policy?

**I believe in a United States that, through its actions at home and abroad, serves as a model of democratic government with broad based legitimacy amongst its people and a commitment to justice, equality, security and opportunity -- while at the same time working constructively as a partner with other**

**governments, international organizations, civil society, and multilateral institutions to combat international challenges, from genocide to disease.**

7. Comment on the necessity & effectiveness of our military deployment in Afghanistan.

**I support a fixed timetable to extricate the United States from the quagmire in Afghanistan—so that we stop spending billions of dollars a week overseas and start building bridges and roads, schools and hospitals, mass transit and a green economy right here in the 10th District.**

**I will only support further funding for the war in Afghanistan if it is tied to a fixed timetable for a speedy and responsible withdrawal of all our troops.**

28. Please comment on specific proposals for the federal government to have any funding responsibility for air transportation.

**I have called for a comprehensive jobs bill that would aim to put millions of Americans back to work. By investing in our infrastructure and job creation, the airline industry should stand as a vital sector of the economy with strong support from government investment and protections. We must fully fund the NTSB to make sure domestic and international airlines meet the highest safety standards possible; and that pilots, flight attendants, air traffic controllers and airport personnel are allowed the right to unionize.**

38. What would you do to create jobs, specifically address communities with historically high and lingering unemployment rates?

**Some communities in my district are facing double-digit unemployment levels--and there is no sign of relief in sight, so Congress urgently must move forward with a jobs bill that would-**

- put millions of Americans back to work—in classrooms, on police forces, repairing our roads and bridges, and building high speed rail lines that will bring us up to speed with Europe and China;**
- stimulate private sector job creation through the creation of a national green jobs bank that will offer loans directly to small businesses, and by providing tax credits for those small businesses already looking to hire;**
- provide a life vest of continued unemployment assistance to those drowning without work, and**
- guarantee state and local aid, so that communities can stop letting go of cops, sanitation workers, firefighters and teachers.**

**As I've said, families in my district want and need the opportunity to get back to work. But they also need the assurance that the safety net they rely on, including Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, are not put on the chopping block. I'm committed to defending those programs and promoting real economic growth through job creation, the development of a green economy, and a focus on bringing a manufacturing sector back to the district.**

39. What changes would you propose for the Social Security System?

**I will oppose any cuts to Social Security benefits – including means testing, raising the retirement age, reducing cost-of-living increases, or any attempt to privatize benefits. Social Security is a core piece of the American safety net and I will defend it relentlessly in Congress.**

42. What legislation or regulation would you support to safeguard consumers harmed in the recent sub-prime lending credit crisis?

**The economic disaster caused by unregulated lending and sub-prime mortgage loans has made it abundantly clear that the federal government must play a more active role in overseeing financial institutions to ensure fair and secure exchanges. Through improving regulations on the banking and mortgage industries, and through the strengthening of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, we can make sure that speculative, destructive practices that created the crisis will not be allowed to continue.**

**I also support a proposal from Sen. Durbin that would allow homeowners in bankruptcy to renegotiate the principle of their mortgages with banks. It is a key priority to not only prevent future housing crises through holding these institutions accountable, but to maintain the stability of neighborhoods, health of families and welfare of the community, by helping families stay in their homes.**

48. Would you support increased Congressional oversight of federal contracting?

**Yes.**

49. Do you support “Single Payer” or “Extended Medicare”?

**I support and have been a vocal advocate for “Medicare for All” as the only path to ultimately provide quality, affordable health care for every American – while reducing costs for individuals, small businesses and the federal government.**

59. What other changes would you support in the area of reproductive health?

**I firmly believe that the decision of whether and when to have a child must remain between a woman and her medical professional - without interference from government or health insurance companies. As a member of Congress, I will be an advocate for ensuring all women, regardless of income level, have access to the medical care they need.**

69. What are your proposals to help people who do not qualify for TANF or for unemployment benefits?

**In a nation as wealthy and prosperous as the United States of America, it’s shameful that we would allow anyone to slip through the cracks of our financial safety net. Americans who are unable to work, and yet do not qualify for TANF or for unemployment benefits deserve an opportunity to live in relative comfort and security.**

**Those who don't qualify for TANF or unemployment will be aided by an expansion of health care benefits, the protection of Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid benefits, and the jobs bill that I have called for, which would create millions of jobs for Americans.**

75. Are the provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act the most effective way to advance student achievement? If not, then what do you propose?

**I support some of President Obama's intended reforms to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, which include providing funds to states in order to implement a broader range of assessments to evaluate academic skills, as well as lessening the stringent accountability standards in the No Child Left Behind Act in order to focus on student improvement. This would allow schools to consider measures beyond reading and math tests, and would promote incentives to keep students enrolled through graduation, rather than encouraging students to drop-out in order to increase test scores.**

**As a product of a quality public school system in the 10th District, I owe my own journey to quality teachers, committed family members and a community willing to invest in the resources needed to educate every student.**

**As an organizer with A+ Illinois, I worked all across the District to increase funding and accountability for the public school system. I will continue to work to ensure that all our public schools have the essential funding and resources they need to serve every child, regardless of his or her socioeconomic background. That means identifying the programs that work in successful public schools – including a workforce of well-trained and highly-qualified teachers, a commitment to early childhood education, and a focus on a well-rounded curriculum including math, science, social studies, English, the arts and more.**

94. What restrictions, if any, should Congress enact or repeal regarding the scope of federally funded legal services for the poor?

**All Americans, regardless of income or wealth, must be provided an equal opportunity to access the judicial system.**

98. Do you support repeal/revision of the Posse Comitatus Act?

**The recent changes made to the Posse Comitatus Act leave the legislation open-ended and susceptible to overreach by the federal government. To close this loophole, a revision of the Posse Comitatus Act may be necessary.**

105. What other immigration reforms do you support?

**My family and I came to the United States from the former Soviet Union as Jewish refugees in 1991. With hard work, perseverance, and the support of their community and government, we found economic stability and safety in the state of Illinois.**

**As a member of Congress, I will work to pass comprehensive immigration reform legislation that will create a pathway to citizenship. It will also provide the millions of immigrants upon whom our**

**communities and economies depend with the ability to realize their dreams and aspirations right here in the United States.**

**I fully support the DREAM Act, bipartisan legislation which will provide young people the opportunity to get on a path to citizenship upon completing two years of college or military service.**