

**IVI-IPO 2012 GENERAL ASSEMBLY QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 1**

**DATE 12/14**

**DISTRICT: 24<sup>th</sup>**

**PARTY: Democratic**

**NAME: Robert Reyes**

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**CAMPAIGN MANAGER: Kevin Wunder**

**NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED: 1500**

**NUMBER REQUIRED: 500**

**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?**

Management consultant.

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

After working my way through college with the help of scholarships and student loans, I began work in community organizing, helping to found Project Lead — a community organization with the mission of increasing civic participation in Chicago's Little Village and Southwest Side neighborhoods. Project Lead registered voters and ran issue awareness campaigns, among other community activities.

I began his public service at the age of twenty — traveling to Los Angeles to help elect the city's first Latino mayor in modern history, Antonio Villaraigosa. Following the victory in California, I traveled to Washington, D.C., where I served in the United States House of Representatives under Congressman Luis Gutierrez, as well as in the United States Senate, under Senator Richard Durbin. Most recently, I served on Gery Chico's mayoral campaign staff, organizing Chicago's Southwest Side.

I also have private sector experience, having worked for a management consulting firm that helps small business owners to increase productivity and create jobs. As a management consultant, I worked with the U.S. Department of Education, helping low-income students to enter higher education.

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

At the University of Illinois at Chicago, I majored in political science with a focus on urban planning. I learned about modernizing government, which has never been more important. We learned that we have a 19<sup>th</sup> century government in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, which is not acceptable. It is critically important that we streamline government to provide services more efficiently. I learned that too many government agencies are not cross-functional and not sharing enough information, which would save the state money and improve services. My education has helped me identify problems in the 24<sup>th</sup> district as well as possible solutions.

I worked for a management consulting firm that helps small business owners increase productivity, expand their businesses and create new jobs. As State Representative, I will use that experience to help revitalize the state's economy and bring jobs to Illinois. I also worked with the U.S. Department of Education to help low-income students access higher education opportunities. This will help me as I work to implement transformative education policies for the students and families of the 24<sup>th</sup> district.

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

In the 2011 Chicago Mayoral race, I worked as Southwest Side organizer for Gery Chico. I organized the community, small businesses, religious institutions and elected officials to support the Gery Chico campaign. I talked to voters in the neighborhood and recruited dedicated field captains. I managed an office from which we launched voter contact drives, phone banking efforts and our get out the vote operation. We won every ward we targeted on the Southwest side including the 25<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 13<sup>th</sup> wards

In 2010 I assisted Jesus Chuy Garcia with research and message development in coordination with Ald. Ricardo Munoz (22<sup>nd</sup>). In 2008 I worked for Obama for America Latino Outreach at the campaign headquarters. In 2006 I served as a Precinct Captain for Congressman Luis Gutierrez, during which I went door-to-door, speaking with voters about the campaign. In 2005 I served under Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa as a GOTV operative in South Central Los Angeles, building an African-American and Latino coalition.

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

As a previously unelected, independent candidate running a grassroots organization, I have not yet received any endorsements.

**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?**

My three most important goals for the district are as follows: 1) to create a more friendly environment for small business and job creation; 2) to improve education to help children in the district become members of the community with a fair shot at the American dream; and 3) to expand and enhance proven crime and gang prevention techniques to make our streets safer.

Ms. Hernandez — the current representative — has not been responsive to the needs of her constituents, the State of Illinois or small businesses in our district. Ms. Hernandez has also neglected the educational and law enforcement needs of the district for which she is responsible — highlighted by a 50 percent high school dropout rate and growing gang presence. Ms. Hernandez is supported by Cicero Town President Larry Dominick and Cicero's corrupt political machine. It was through the Cicero machine by which Ms. Hernandez's petitions were circulated, and from which her campaign receives financial support (evidence of the aforementioned is available). I deserve the endorsement of IVI-IPO because I am independent in every way and not tied to any previously indicted official — the same cannot be said of Ms. Hernandez.

It is critical for state representatives to be responsive to the needs of their constituents, rather than to be beholden to local party bosses. As the state representative of the district in which I was born and raised, I will always put the needs of my community — my neighbors — before my own personal ambitions.

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

We run our campaign as I would run my office in Springfield: responsibly, accountably and with no waste. Our fixed costs are close to \$1,000 per month to pay the campaign manager. Most of our expenses come from purchases of office supplies and other tools and resources needed to run a campaign. To date, we have raised about \$10,000.

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

Our campaign staff consists of seven people. Our volunteer list has 255 people on it.

**IVI-IPO 2012 GENERAL ASSEMBLY QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 2**

<b>Elections &amp; Ethics</b>			
	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	
1.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Do you support moving the primary election date?
	<b>ESSAY</b>		If so, to what month?
			Do you support
2.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	keeping voters' political party preferences in the primary elections secret?
3.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	reestablishing straight party voting in general elections?
4.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	establishing a signature requirement for independent candidates and new parties equal to the requirement for the major party candidates for the same office?
5.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Should there be a photo ID requirement to cast a ballot?
6.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Do you support legislation granting County Clerks jurisdiction over municipalities in their county regarding filing for municipal office and hearing objections to petitions?
7.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support restoration of cumulative voting for the Illinois House of Representatives?
	<b>ESSAY</b>		If so, please describe the plan you support.
Non-cumulative voting disenfranchises voters and reduces candidate and elected official accountability to voters and constituents. I support a return to the system in place until 1980 and an increase in the number of contested elections.			
8.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Should Illinois institute instant run-off voting?
			Do you support
9.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	holding a special primary to fill a vacancy caused by the nominee withdrawing from the ballot before the general elections?
10.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	holding a special election to fill vacancies for U.S. Senate and state constitutional officers?
11.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support changes in the way judges are selected?
	<b>ESSAY</b>		If so, please give a brief description of the system you support.
I support public financing for elected judicial candidates, to remove any possibility of conflicts of interest of an appearance of impropriety while they are on the bench.			
12.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If judges continue to be elected, should judicial elections be non-partisan?
13.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Do you support popular election of University of Illinois trustees?
14.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support any other changes in Illinois' election laws?
	<b>ESSAY</b>		Please explain.
I will support any changes that make it easier for ordinary citizens to become public servants, and any changes that help weaken the tight grip the political class has on government in Illinois.			

			Do you support:
15.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	dollar limits on campaign contributions?
16.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	dollar limits on political committee transfers?
17.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	the same limits on leadership PACs as on candidate PACs?
18.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	dollar limits on campaign expenditures?
19.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	public financing of election campaigns?
20.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Will you accept or have you accepted campaign donations from current or potential suppliers, employees, or outside contractors?
21.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support a ban on hiring, firing and promotion based on political considerations for non policy making positions?
	ESSAY		Please explain your position.
Illinois can't afford cronyism. Each job that is paid for by the people of Illinois should be filled by the person who is best-qualified to perform that service for the people.			
			Will you employ or have you employed staff in your office who
22.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	hold other public sector jobs concurrently?
23.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	have either outside employment or contracts with entities which do business with the state?
			Do you support
24.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	legislation to prohibit incumbency and political affiliation as criteria in the mapping process for Congressional, Legislative and local government electoral districts?
25.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	creation of a non-partisan Commission to draw maps instead of the General Assembly?
26.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support term limits for legislative leaders?
27.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support term limits for members of the General Assembly
<b>Taxes and Economic Policy</b>			
			Do you support amending the constitution to
27.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	institute a graduated income tax?
28.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	allow the legislature to change the corporate/individual ratio in income taxes?
29.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Do you support increasing income taxes to relieve or replace local property taxes and increase state funding of education?
I am in favor of more efficient spending of our education dollars to ensure that more resources end up in the schoolhouse and fewer in the Statehouse. Education money should be spent on children, not bureaucracy.			
			Do you favor:
30.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stricter definitions of blight required for TIF creation?
31.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Greater legislative oversight of TIFs to ensure they are meeting their purpose?
32.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Requiring itemization on property tax bills of funds diverted to TIFs?
33.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Restriction of fund transfers between TIF districts?
34.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Consent of affected taxing bodies before TIF creation?
35.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you vote to terminate a TIF if the objectives of the TIF plan have been accomplished before the 23 year period is ended
36.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Will you support a moratorium on creation of any new TIF districts until new funding sources are identified to replace the revenue diverted to the TIF?
37.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public disclosure of each TIF district's funds and expenditures?

38.	ESSAY		How would you fully fund the state pension systems?
<p>I would offer current state pension employees a choice: we can either reduce benefits or increase contributions, but we can't do nothing. It is a shame that past and current politicians have collaborated with union leaders to mis-spend pension contributions state employees have made in good faith, but without changes, the system will collapse and everyone will lose.</p> <p>My proposed solution will allow each current employee to take a reduced benefits package, contribute a greater percentage of income or shift their pension into a self-managed 401(k)-style account. New employees will be offered the same choice. The keys to any pension funding solution are: 1) we must find a solution quickly instead of continuing to ignore the problem as it drains the state budget and 2) the necessary pain to honor our commitments to state employees must be shared equally.</p>			
<b>Consumer Protection</b>			
			Do you support legislation to
39.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Increase electric rates outside of the ICC to build a Smart Grid?
40.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ban Pay Day loans?
41.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	regulate ATM fees and service charges on credit cards and other consumer loans?
42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	cap interest rates on credit cards and other consumer loans?
			Do you support legislation to
43.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	prohibit confession of judgment clauses in consumer contracts?
44.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	mandate attorney fees to be awarded to successful plaintiffs?
47.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you support legislation requiring citizen referenda at the state or local level before casino gambling is expanded?
<b>Education</b>			
48.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Will you vote to increase state funding to at least 50% of public education costs?
<p>I will vote to ensure that education is funded at a level necessary to give all Illinois children an opportunity to become productive citizens. However, I will not commit to a state funding level that may burden already-struggling taxpayers or further disincentivize job creation.</p>			
49.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support vouchers or other means of public funding for private or parochial schools?
50.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support public funding of charter or contract schools?
ESSAY			Please explain your position.
<p>I want to improve the education environment in Illinois, both by demanding greater accountability from the public school system and offering parents more choices. While we're working to improve public schools, we must also give parents additional options, because some of our public schools do not offer a good education. However, all education funding must be connected to increased accountability and improvement. I will not vote to throw money at schools without following up to ensure that each school, private, public or charter, is improving. If a program is proved to not work, I will cut off its funding. The state does, however, need to make changes in the way it provides education, because the status quo has and continues to fail many Illinois children.</p>			
51.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Do you support abolition of the General Assembly scholarship fund?
ESSAY			As a recipient of the scholarship I know first-hand how valuable it is to students. This scholarship made my education possible. However, distribution of these scholarships should be based on merit. Oversight must be established so that scholarships are not awarded in exchange for political support.

<b>Civil Rights &amp; Civil Liberties</b>			
52.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Do you support Affirmative Action?
I will work tirelessly to create a system in which each Illinoisan has an opportunity to succeed, regardless of race, gender or any other superficial attribute. My dream is to help build a state in which we don't need affirmative action, because everyone is judged on their merits.			
53.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you vote to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution?
54.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you favor legislation legalizing civil marriage between two people of the same gender?
55.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Do you support mandatory AIDS testing for insurance or employment?
56.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support legislation to prohibit discrimination in housing against unmarried individuals residing together?
57	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support the decriminalization of Marijuana?
			Do you support mandatory drug testing
58.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	for public sector employees?
59.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	for private sector employees?
	ESSAY		If so, under what circumstances?
60.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Should state police be allowed to stop vehicle operators to test for DUI on grounds other than probable cause?
61.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Would you support legislation to include data on pedestrian, as well as motor vehicle, stops by police for the purpose of gathering statistics on racial profiling?
62.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support repeal of legislation that permits employers to eavesdrop on the telephone conversations of their employees?
63.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Do you favor detention of suspects and material witnesses without charges and/or probable cause?
<b>Labor</b>			
64.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you favor restructuring the wage scale of state employees to correct disparities based on gender by instituting equal pay for jobs of comparable worth?
65.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Do you support privatization of state services?
			If so, which services?
66.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support the right of public employees to strike?
67.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support legislation banning the replacement of strikers in private employment?
68.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support family leave legislation for employees of private companies not currently covered by federal law?
			Do you support
69.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	raising the minimum wage to establish a living wage for Illinois workers?

70.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	establishing a lower minimum wage for minors?
71.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	including farm workers and household employees under existing labor laws?
<b>Health &amp; Human Services</b>			
71.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you support Single Payer or Extended Medicare healthcare plans?
	ESSAY		If not, what is your plan for providing health care for Illinois residents without insurance?
72.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support the Affordable Care Act?
	ESSAY		What are your priorities involving implementation in Illinois?
<p>Given that the ACA is about to be reviewed by the U.S. Supreme Court, it's possible that some aspects of the legislation may change. Having said that, the most important part of the ACA is the increase in freedom of mobility workers, especially young ones, will experience. For many people, their biggest single asset is their own human capital, that is, their ability to learn new skills and earn money over a lifetime. Reducing their employment options by forcing them to stay in a certain job or industry to access health care reduces workers' ability to move to a new job, which can help depress wages and create a stagnant workforce.</p> <p>The prohibition against denying care based on pre-existing conditions is also important. The more people are denied health care, the more will seek emergency treatment, ultimately producing a much greater drain on Illinois' limited public health dollars.</p>			
73.	ESSAY		What is your plan to provide sufficient funding to provide community based services for discharged mental health patients?
<p>Mental health outpatients should be placed in the least restrictive environment possible, ideally run by a licensed care provider and not the state of Illinois. The state can and should pay for these services because, again, failing to do so will ultimately lead to greater costs for Illinois taxpayers in the form of higher crime and decreased quality of living for all residents. The state should deliver mental health services as effectively as possible, asking experienced providers to bid against each other for short-term contracts. Money for these services can come from reductions in wasteful spending and transferring more mental health patients from state-run to third party-run facilities.</p> <p>I will audit and review current state spending, to reallocate resources to the funding of community-based services for discharged mental health patients.</p>			
			Do you support:
74.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Repealing the Illinois Abortion Law of 1975 and replacing it with a law stating that decisions about reproductive matters are to be made privately between a woman and her doctor, without governmental interference?
75.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Repealing the Illinois 1995 Parental Notice of Abortion Law?
76.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Allowing the government to decide what medical care a physician may provide to patients during pregnancy?
77.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Allowing pharmacies or pharmacists to refuse to fill prescriptions based on their own conscientious objections and send customers away without being served?
78.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support legislation to authorize medically accurate, age-appropriate sex education in public schools?
79.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support increasing appropriations to the Department of Children and Family Services to increase the number of caseworkers?

			Do you support
80.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	raising TANF benefits to at least equal the poverty level?
81.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	providing greater benefits to fund child care and transportation for TANF recipients?
83.	ESSAY		What are your proposals to help people who do not qualify for TANF or for unemployment benefits?
<p>My plans to balance Illinois' budget fairly, create a business-friendly environment for job creation, and improve the state's education opportunities offer long-term solutions to Illinoisans hit hard by the sputtering economy. In the meantime, however, we must ensure that all Illinoisans receive at least a basic level of government support, either from the United States or Illinois. Rather than throw money at a problem indefinitely, though, I will put systems in place so that people receiving long-term unemployment benefits are re-trained or re-educated to eventually support themselves and their families. I am in favor of temporary benefits for people who have fallen on hard times, not a permanent welfare system.</p>			
<b>Housing</b>			
			Do you favor
84.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	legislation banning housing discrimination against holders of Section 8 vouchers?
85.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	mandating that landlords give tenants notice prior to entering their units?
86.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	assessing penalties against landlords who engage in illegal or retaliatory evictions?
87.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Would you support legislation requiring mortgage holders to honor the terms of existing residential leases in effect when property is foreclosed upon?
88.	ESSAY		How do you solve the problem of vacant foreclosed housing?
<p>Foreclosed houses are a scourge on their communities. Vacant buildings attract criminals and squatters, reduce property values of surrounding homes and hurt property tax revenues. They often act as a cancer, spreading to destroy entire neighborhoods with the problems they attract. Worse, once a vacant building has been ruined by thieves or squatters, it becomes much harder to put back on the market to help restore the neighborhood to its previous quality.</p> <p>The vacant buildings ordinances recently adopted by the City of Chicago and Cook County represent a good start, to ensure that someone is accountable for security and maintenance of vacant homes. I would support a state law to the same effect.</p> <p>I would also support a state land bank, so that the state can temporarily assume control of housing stock while the economy recovers, and eventually sell land and houses at a profit.</p>			
<b>Energy &amp; Environment</b>			
89.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Do you support an elected ICC?
90.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Would you support legislation that would provide state technical assistance funds to local communities to help them prepare and implement comprehensive smart growth plans to avoid the costs of rapid unplanned growth and urban sprawl?
91.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Do you support funding for high speed rail connecting Illinois Metropolitan areas?
<p>Many of these projects have been shown to be ineffective and unwanted by the traveling public. If a demand exists for high-speed rail in Illinois, the private sector will build it. If a demand does not exist, Illinois taxpayers will be stuck paying billions of dollars for a system no one uses.</p>			
92.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support a comprehensive statewide mass transit plan for Illinois?
<b>Criminal Justice</b>			

93.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support state legislation to ban the manufacture, sale and possession of assault weapons?
			Do you support
94.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	legislation increasing penalties for illegal resale of weapons?
95.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	legislation permitting the carrying of concealed weapons?
96.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	legislation mandating background checks of purchasers of weapons at gun shows, through the internet and through print advertisements?
			Do you support:
97.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	capital punishment?
98.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	criminal prosecution of juveniles as adults?
99.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	mandatory sentencing?
100.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	work release, home monitoring, other alternative sentencing?
101.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	admissibility of illegally obtained evidence?
102.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	electronic eavesdropping? When used in conjunction with a warrant.
103.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	roving wiretaps?
104.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Life sentences for juvenile offenders?