

IVI-IPO 2012 WARD COMMITTEEMAN QUESTIONNAIRE – Section

December 4, 2011 Ward 36th Democratic Party

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Campaign Manager Frank Tedesso

Number of Petitions Filed 1570
Minimum 491

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

A) No prior public or party office.

B) Other elective offices for which you have been a candidate.

B) Water Reclamation District, Sub Circuit Judge.

C) What is your primary occupation?

C) Attorney at law.

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

D) Executive Director of the Galewood-Montclare Community Organization
Sayre Language Academy Local School Council I was instrumental in helping Sayre School to establish itself as a Community First School.
Volunteer Legal Clinic 36th Ward.

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

E)
My college degree is in Political Science. I believe I have an understanding of what the elected offices are and how those offices impact our lives. As an attorney, I believe I have the ability to communicate concepts and ideas. I can bring information to the voters so that they understand what the people seeking their support actually do and how it is important. In a Democratic Primary, there are at times many offices up for election; Appellate Court, Circuit Court, Attorney General, States Attorney, County Commissioner Water Reclamation Commissioner. What are these offices? What are their functions? I can explain the offices and how they are important to us. The voter can then make an informed decision on each and every office and person. With this information the voters can then make a well reasoned endorsement of what candidate best reflects our principals in the Democratic Party. A Committeeman should never tell people how to vote rather, a Committeeman should give people the information on how best to make an informed decision.

I believe that a committeeman should not wear two hats; a committeeman should not serve as Alderman, Commissioner, etc. I have pledged to not seek an additional office so that I can be an objective advocate and voice for our Democratic party and to help elect progressive, transparent and reform minded officials.

I was the Executive Director of the Galewood-Montclare Community Organization (GMCO). I believe my experience in leading that organization will enable me to create a Democratic party that is open, transparent and encourages community participation. In addition, I believe my community organization focus will allow me to help organize people for not only politics, but for the greater good of the community to achieve worthwhile civic projects.

The GMCO structure was based upon the “big tent”, there was room for everyone and ideas, input and communication was the cornerstone. As the Executive Director I created a website, I worked with the Board of Directors to publish quarterly news letters’ for the community and we conducted regular board meetings and community meetings as a forum for people to discuss issues and obtain information. We encouraged anyone that had an idea to join and create a committee. I can bring this same structure and input to our local Democratic Party on a Ward wide level.

There is nothing like debate and politics as a vehicle to get groups of people motivated and together. If I have a core of people together and active, we can organize for more than just politics.

During my tenure as the Executive Director, the GMCO, sponsored scholarships for our youth, institute a beautification of project for our business district by placing planters on the main-street and flowers in our traffic circles as well as identification banners, sponsored a farmers market, a breakfast with Santa and the Easter Bunny for children. We also instituted several free breakfasts for seniors to gather together. In addition, we were able to send teens from the community to shovel snow free for our seniors in need.

In regards to community economic development, we created a website and a magazine showcasing our neighborhood. We also developed a marketing brochure to attract new businesses, which resulted in attracting the first Starbucks to our community.

If I am elected Committeeman I will create a platform to get people involved to do great things throughout the whole Ward. I believe I can channel this energy into civic minded activities. As a Committeeman I will create a local business referral and network program so we can create work through referrals for our residents. I would also create social networks to bring people together with common interests.

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

F) I have supported Democratic Candidates as a voter. I had an active role helping the Democratic Committeeman of Leyden Township in his last election. My specific role was to coordinate volunteers throughout the township on election day and to lend legal advice to ensure that the election code was followed at the polling places on election day.

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

G) No endorsements at this point have been made.

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?

H) I believe that I should be endorsed over other candidates because I am qualified to serve as a voice and advocate for the Democratic Party based upon my educational background and my community organization experience. I have a command of the issues and offices and believe I can effectively communicate this information to the voters. In addition, I believe my past experience and leadership style as a community organization leader will enable me to open the process for all voters and encourage participation, new ideas and debate. I believe that I can be a uniting force for people and groups to facilitate compromise and cooperation to achieve what is best for the community. I also believe that I can expand the role of Committeeman to not only be a source of political debate and support, but rather a resource to the community to help people and achieve worthwhile civic projects.

I am a lifelong Democrat and believe in the values of a progressive Democratic Party. I believe that my pledge to seek only to be Committeeman and hold no other office will enable me to be an objective voice for the Democratic Party in supporting good Democratic candidates that are transparent and reform minded.

My goal is to build a strong and inclusive Democratic Party in the 36th Ward that not only

encourages community participation and debate, but one that organizes people for the greater good of the community; a community organization focus and style.

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

I) My campaign budget is not definitive at this point. I will self fund the majority of my campaign and will hold only one fundraiser. I have not allowed campaign contributions as a link from my website. A Committeeman is a non-paid position, people are worried about keeping their jobs and supporting their families, I do not believe an aggressive fundraising effort would be appropriate in these economic times so I will rely on my own funds for a majority of the expenses associated with getting my message out. At this point I have raised approximately \$6,500.00.

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

J) I have a campaign staff of (5) individuals and over 50 volunteers that believe in my message and ideas. Every day I have a new volunteer that wants to get involved in some way.

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1. I believe the minimum signature requirement for Committeeman of under 500 is not unreasonable based upon the total voting population. What I do believe however is that current election cycles make it difficult for people to come out and vote and difficult for candidates to walk the Ward to speak with people. I believe that the election cycle and election should be in months with warmer weather to encourage more contact with the voters and to allow for more people to come out to vote.

2. Yes, I believe that a special election should be held.

3. I am not opposed to slating provided it is open and a candidate provides their qualifications and positions at slating. I believe that prior to slating, each Ward should ensure that there is an open forum and community participation for the candidate to present their ideas, qualifications and positions before each organization. In this way, each committeeman can have

the input of their voters when they attend slating in addition to the process of the presentation by the candidates at the actual slating of the party.

As to non-partisan elections, I do not believe the respective party's should have slating sessions. I do not believe there is anything wrong with supporting non-partisan candidates as a group of voters however, having a formal slating of a non-partisan position by an existing established party would defeat the purpose and intent of a non-partisan election.

4. I do not believe the party should finance non-partisan elections as again, these elections are designed to be distinct from party politics. As to the party financing primary elections, I believe the purpose of the respective party's is to support good candidates that reflect the values of the party and the voters so help with resources to good candidates would be acceptable.

5. I believe that a Committeeman should support the party's candidate after the primary election. The purpose of the Committeeman is to support the candidates from their respective party's because ideologically and value wise there are distinctions and differences between political party's. If as a committeeman, you are not supporting the choice of the people of your political party then you are not honoring their wishes and representing them.

6. I believe that a party offices and elected offices should be separate. I believe political organizations need to be about the people not the politician. I am aware that there are many people that do both fairly and honorably however, I believe that there is a possibility that if a person holds an elective office and a political office human nature can skew the person to create a platform of people for their own interest of staying elected instead of electing candidates as a whole in line with the philosophical views and values of their party. For these reasons as a measure to prevent the potential for abuse, I believe the positions should be separate.

7. I would not. and I have not. I believe a good committeeman can make sure information is available to people regarding how to apply for jobs, jobs fairs and even create workshops for resume writing and interviewing skills.

8. I would form an organization similar in structure to the community organization model.

The structure I believe in follows a community organization structure. Membership; all people are welcome to participate . The members are the Democratic Voters of the Ward. There should be a Board of Directors and various committees created to address specific issues or ideas. There should be regular and open office hours for people to come in to discuss ideas, input and participate. There should be quarterly meetings, and annual general meetings for the public to receive information and discuss issue. In addition, there should be news letters, a website and e-mail communication. I believe at election time there should be Ward wide pre-endorsement sessions, and there should be community forums throughout the Ward to meet candidates, exchange ideas and have debates and presentation of positions and platforms.

As to staff and budget, this is unknown at this time as this would depend upon how much can be raised.

9. I will likely have to initially donate my own funds to the organization however I would like to create fundraising events for people to contribute to fund the organization. I would like fundraising to not only be for the organization operating costs, but al to fund civic projects and activities for the people of the community.

10. I believe we could have volunteers register people to vote and create a voter information drive to advise people how and when they can register to vote. We could send and stress informative pieces to let people know their vote counts and how important it is to participate in democracy.

11. Membership is open to anyone that wants to be a part of the Democratic Party.

12. Yes, I believe the participants should be a part of the input and decision making process to endorse good Democrats that represent the needs and views of the Ward. There is little point in endorsing and supporting a candidate that the community is not behind. The purpose of Committeeman is to respect and represent the wishes of the voters as the local leader of the party.

13. Yes, I plan to have open office hours, I want to have a website, newsletters, quarterly

meetings and community forums at election time. We seek to encourage voters to volunteer, participate and get involved.

14. I believe that from the list of applicants a Committeeman receives he or she should have a separate training session with these potential judges to determine if they understand the guidelines set out in the handbook. I would also advertise that these positions are available through news letter, website and community meetings. I would actively recruit people from the Ward to submit an application to the Clerk's office so that the list is competitive and there is a large pool of people seeking these positions and to be part of the process. A smooth, efficient, fair and knowledgeable group of judges is critical to the process of a fair and honest election.

In order to get young people involved I would make sure I sent and communicated information to the local high school and colleges about the Student Involvement Program through the County Clerk's Office; there are programs for Student Judges and Student Deputy Registrar to motivate our young people to get involved, understand the process and participate.

15. I believe to get people to vote you need to motivate people. In order to motivate people you need to create excitement in the process and have people feel they have a stake. Logically, people have a stake in every election but over the years low voter turn out does not seem to adhere to this proposition. I believe by creating public debates, community forums and give people a chance to participate in the process pre-vote will encourage more voter turn out. If you have a say in who is actually being endorsed, and you have the opportunity to hear or question that person your more likely to want to vote and be involved because you are more intimately a part of the process.

In order to attract younger voters I would like to go out to the local high schools and speak with the young people about voting.

In every political science class and history class they talk about voting. The majority of the subject matter however is facts and ideas. I believe that if an actual politician or party representative can go out to the youth, talk about the nuts and bolts and the reality of the process we can get them involved. I think I can incorporate some some mock elections for them in the ward and encourage them to get involved. On the college

level I believe we could offer some internships with the local college the incentive being maybe a credit hour or so to have the young people motivates and a part of the process.

16. I believe there should be a special election when a vacancy occurs; I believe appointments are not appropriate.

17. NA

18. I do not believe in an automatic vote yes for retention of Judges. I do not believe that bar ratings alone should be the determinative of a vote “yes” or “no” however, I believe it needs to be based upon the totality of the factors and circumstances.

19. NA