

IVI-IPO 2012 GENERAL ASSEMBLY QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 1

DATE: December 19, 2011 **DISTRICT:** 1st Legislative **PARTY:** Democrat

NAME: Adolfo Mondragon

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CAMPAIGN MANAGER: TBD

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED: 2050 **NUMBER REQUIRED:** 1000

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

NONE.

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

I ran for this same office in the 2010 General Primary.

C) What is your primary occupation:

I am an attorney. I have a private practice in the areas of Criminal Law, Election Law; Consumer Protection Law, and Civil Rights & Civil Liberties Law.

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

I was a board member of the Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago (RHAMC).

I was a board member of the Yale Club of Chicago.

I was a member of the Holy Cross/Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Council.

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 have a Bachelor of Arts degree from Yale in Political Science and a Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Chicago. I believe that my academic background has given me a firm foundation in research, writing, and reasoning. My study of Political Science, in particular, has helped me gain an understanding of the workings of government and of the historical, philosophical, and socio-economic underpinnings of the political process. My professional experience, in turn, has allowed me to understand the major themes and elements of the law, to interpret and apply statutes and the common law, and to understand how laws can both hinder and help society.

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

I helped Jesus "Jesse" Iñiguez, a family friend, run for Alderman of the 12th Ward in 2007 and in 2011. Specifically, I prepared his nomination papers and defended them against multiple objections as a service-in-kind. In 2011, I had to go before the Chicago Board of Elections to re-instate Iñiguez after an administrative judge had knocked him off of the ballot.

I helped David Hoffman's campaign in 2010. Specifically, I canvassed for him in the 1st Legislative District and carried him on my palm card on Election Day.

I am currently helping Josip "Joe" Trutin, candidate for the 2nd Representative District, stay on the ballot by defending *pro bono* his nomination papers.

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

I have not received endorsements as of yet. In 2010, however, I garnered the endorsement of the Chicago Tribune and of the Chicago Sun-Times.

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 believe that I should be endorsed because Antonio "Tony" Muñoz has been a mediocre-at-best leader whose 12-year tenure as State Senator is severely tainted by his intimate relationship with the now-defunct HDO and with Angelo Torres and the Hired Truck Scandal. Moreover, I believe that the following factors make me the best candidate.

First, I am a life-long resident of the district who can better empathize with the daily struggles of the community. Indeed, I grew up in a blue-collar family with two working parents; attended public grammar school and high school; learned to read, write, and speak Spanish; and was raised to value my religious and cultural heritage. *In other words, I'm very similar to the quintessential resident of the district.*

Second, I am better equipped to understand the complexities of the problems facing the State legislature because of my educational and professional experience.

Third, I can better advocate for the district because I am not beholden to the Democratic Machine or to the numerous PACs that keep Tony Muñoz in office.

Fourth, I don't have the taint of scandal and corruption that Tony Muñoz carries around his neck like an albatross. I am a man of integrity, bound by the ethical code of the legal profession, who has an established record of fighting to uphold the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

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

I believe that we can win this election if my campaign can raise at least \$20,000.

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

About 30 volunteers helped me get my 2000 signatures during the petition period. We are striving to have between 150 and 300 volunteers on Election Day.

