

## IVI-IPO 2012 GENERAL ASSEMBLY QUESTIONNAIRE - Section 1

DATE: December 19, 2011 DISTRICT: 7<sup>th</sup> State House PARTY: Democrat  
NAME: Emanuel Christopher Welch  
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CAMPAIGN Contact Person: Linda Tyson  
NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED: 1500 NUMBER REQUIRED: 500

A) Elective or appointive public or party offices previously held including dates.  
*Proviso Township School Board from 2001 to present. I have served as Vice President, Secretary and now President. I have been President since 2003. I have also served in appointed positions. I have served as the founding Chair of the Hillside Human Relations Commission from 2000-2005. I have served as assistant secretary of the Des Plaines Valley Mosquito Abatement Board from 2004 to present. I have served as Chair of the Vanguard Westlake Hospital Board of Trustees since 2010.*

B) Other elective offices for which you have been a candidate.  
*I ran unsuccessfully for State Representative in the 7th District in 2006.*

C) What is your primary occupation?  
*Attorney. I am a partner at Sanchez, Daniels & Hoffman, LLP. The second largest minority firm in the country.*

D) Briefly list your civic activities of the past ten years.  
*I am a board member of Proviso-Leyden Council for Community Action, Inc. The largest non profit in the western suburbs. I have also been active in my church and organizations noted above.*

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 bachelors of science from Northwestern University in Speech with a minor in political science. I also have a law degree from the John Marshall Law School. My experience and educational background would serve me well on the elementary and secondary education committee, judiciary ii committee and human services.*

F) What candidates have you supported in past elections? Please be specific in describing your role in each campaign.  
*I have supported various candidates for elections over the years. The first campaign I was actively involved on was Cook County States Attorney Jack O' Malley's campaign in 1996. I served as his press secretary. I have worked on various school board campaigns since 2001, in most capacities as campaign chair.*

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

*The following Mayors have endorsed our campaign: Broadview Mayor Sherman Jones, Bellwood Mayor Frank Pasquale, Hillside Mayor Joseph Tamburino, Forest Park Mayor Anthony Calderone and several elected officials in Proviso Township from local school boards and park districts.*

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 to you personally?

*I should be endorsed over the other candidates because I am the most qualified candidate. I am the only candidate in the race who is experienced, has been tested and is homegrown. I will be able to go to Springfield and hit the ground running. I am most passionate about education. I would fight to change the way schools are funded. We need to lessen the property tax and look more to the income tax to help fund schools in a fairer manner. A progressive tax would help this state in many ways but especially in education.*

I) What is your campaign budget? *\$150,000* How much have you raised to date? *\$85,290*

J) How many are on your campaign staff? *We have 4 staff members* How many volunteers are on your list? *We have over 200 volunteers.*

## IVI-IPO 2012 GENERAL ASSEMBLY QUESTIONNAIRE - Section 2

### Elections & Ethics

1. Do you support moving the primary election date? Yes

ESSAY If so, to what month? The month of June would be best for Illinois because the weather during this time would encourage greater voter participation.

Do you support:

2. keeping voters' political party preferences in the primary elections secret? Yes

3. reestablishing straight party voting in general elections? Yes

4. establishing a signature requirement for independent candidates and new parties equal to the requirement for the major party candidates for the same office? Yes

5. Should there be a photo ID requirement to cast a ballot? No

6. Do you support legislation granting County Clerks jurisdiction over municipalities in their county regarding filing for municipal office and hearing objections to petitions? Yes.

7. Do you support restoration of cumulative voting for the Illinois House of Representatives? Yes

ESSAY: If so, please describe the plan you support.

*The state of Illinois had a semi-proportional voting system to elect the lower House from 1870 to 1980. This was a minor modification of the winner-take-all rules. The state was divided into three-seat districts. Voters had three votes but had the option to give all three votes to one candidate. As a result, in Illinois, districts typically had two representatives representing two major factions within the majority party and one representative from the minority party.*

*Voters got rid of the system in 1980, partly to save money and partly in response to the slogan "Fire 59 lousy politicians with one shot." The house shrank from 177 seats to 118 and simple majority voting became the rule.*

*In 1995 the Chicago Tribune editorialized in support of cumulative voting's return, writing that "Many partisans and political independents have looked back wistfully at the era of cumulative*

voting. They acknowledge that it has produced some of the best and the brightest in Illinois politics."

*A bipartisan group of Illinois leaders led by former Governor Jim Edgar and former federal Judge Abner Mikva said that it was time to change back. The final report of the Illinois Assembly on Political Representation and Alternative Electoral Systems, released in July 2001, summarizes a detailed review by assembly participants of problems facing Illinois' current electoral system and their examination of alternative methods used around the world. It also includes their proclamation calling for a return to cumulative voting.*

8. Should Illinois institute instant run-off voting? Yes

Do you support:

9. holding a special primary to fill a vacancy caused by the nominee withdrawing from the ballot before the general elections? Yes

10. holding a special election to fill vacancies for U.S. Senate and state constitutional officers? Yes

11. Do you support changes in the way judges are selected? Yes

ESSAY: If so, please give a brief description of the system you support.

*I support merit selection of judges.*

12. If judges continue to be elected, should judicial elections be non-partisan? Yes

13. Do you support popular election of University of Illinois trustees? Yes

14. Do you support any other changes in Illinois' election laws?

ESSAY: Please explain.

*None at this time. I would like to sit down with noted election law attorneys, candidates who have run for public office, and others to get feedback on this issue first.*

Do you support:

15. dollar limits on campaign contributions? Yes

16. dollar limits on political committee transfers? Yes

17. the same limits on leadership PACs as on candidate PACs? Yes

18. dollar limits on campaign expenditures? No

19. public financing of election campaigns? Yes

20. Will you accept or have you accepted campaign donations from current or potential suppliers, employees, or outside contractors? Yes, within the boundaries of the law.

21. Do you support a ban on hiring, firing and promotion based on political considerations for non policy making positions? Yes.

ESSAY: Please explain your position.

*Political considerations should play no part in the hiring and firing and promotion process. That is illegal.*

Will you employ or have you employed staff in your office who:

22. hold other public sector jobs concurrently? No

23. have either outside employment or contracts with entities which do business with the state? No

Do you support:

24. legislation to prohibit incumbency and political affiliation as criteria in the mapping process for Congressional, Legislative and local government electoral districts? Yes

25. creation of a non-partisan Commission to draw maps instead of the General Assembly? Yes

26. Do you support term limits for legislative leaders? Yes

27. Do you support term limits for members of the General Assembly? Yes

## **Taxes and Economic Policy**

Do you support amending the constitution to:

27. institute a graduated income tax? Yes

28. allow the legislature to change the corporate/individual ratio in income taxes? Yes

29. Do you support increasing income taxes to relieve or replace local property taxes and increase state funding of education? Yes

Do you favor:

30. Stricter definitions of blight required for TIF creation? Yes

31. Greater legislative oversight of TIFs to ensure they are meeting their purpose? Yes

32. Requiring itemization on property tax bills of funds diverted to TIFs? Yes

33. Restriction of fund transfers between TIF districts? Yes

34. Consent of affected taxing bodies before TIF creation? Yes

35. Will you vote to terminate a TIF if the objectives of the TIF plan have been accomplished before the 23 year period is ended? Yes

36. 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? Yes

37. Public disclosure of each TIF district's funds and expenditures? Yes

38. ESSAY: How would you fully fund the state pension systems?

*I do not believe that we should reduce the \$80 billion unfunded liability on the backs of state and university employees and teachers. The decision not to pay what was owed was made by state leaders and not employees or teachers. Therefore, it is not fair to make them pay for decisions they did not make.*

*We know that the level of Illinois benefits is only average compared to other states, considering our level of wealth. Therefore, I do not believe further reducing benefits will solve this issue. Instead we need to focus on increasing revenues by establishing a progressive tax rate. I believe we need to follow President Obama's idea which requires the top 1% to pay a higher rate.*

## **Consumer Protection**

Do you support legislation to:

39. Increase electric rates outside of the ICC to build a Smart Grid? No.

40. ban Pay Day loans? Yes

41. regulate ATM fees and service charges on credit cards and other consumer loans? Yes

42. cap interest rates on credit cards and other consumer loans? Yes

Do you support legislation to:

43. prohibit confession of judgment clauses in consumer contracts? Yes

44. mandate attorney fees to be awarded to successful plaintiffs? Yes

47. Will you support legislation requiring citizen referenda at the state or local level before casino gambling is expanded? Yes

## **Education**

48. Will you vote to increase state funding to at least 50% of public education costs? Yes

49. Do you support vouchers or other means of public funding for private or parochial schools? No

50. Do you support public funding of charter or contract schools?

Essay: Please explain your position. No

51. Do you support abolition of the General Assembly scholarship fund?

Essay: Please explain your position. No

## **Civil Rights & Civil Liberties**

52. Do you support Affirmative Action? Yes

53. Will you vote to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution? Yes

54. Do you favor legislation legalizing civil marriage between two people of the same gender? Yes

55. Do you support mandatory AIDS testing for insurance or employment? No

56. Do you support legislation to prohibit discrimination in housing against unmarried individuals residing together? Yes

57. Do you support the decriminalization of Marijuana? No

Do you support mandatory drug testing:

58. for public sector employees? No

59. for private sector employees? No

Essay: If so, under what circumstances?

60. Should state police be allowed to stop vehicle operators to test for DUI on grounds other than probable cause? No

61. 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? No

62. Do you support repeal of legislation that permits employers to eavesdrop on the conversations of their employees? Yes

63. Do you favor detention of suspects and material witnesses without charges and/or probable cause? No

64. 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? Yes

65. Do you support privatization of state services?  
If so, which services? No

66. Do you support the right of public employees to strike? Yes

67. Do you support legislation banning the replacement of strikers in private employment? Yes

68. Do you support family leave legislation for employees of private companies not currently covered by federal law? Yes

Do you support:

69. raising the minimum wage to establish a living wage for Illinois workers? Yes

70. establishing a lower minimum wage for minors? No

71. including farm workers and household employees under existing labor laws? Yes

## **Health & Human Services**

71. Will you support Single Payer or Extended Medicare healthcare plans? Yes

ESSAY: If not, what is your plan for providing health care for Illinois residents without insurance?

72. Do you support the Affordable Care Act? Yes

ESSAY: What are your priorities involving implementation in Illinois?

*All Illinoisans should have access to affordable health care, but for too long the ability to secure quality care has been difficult for thousands of residents. The signing of the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA) provides our state with an opportunity to advance reforms that will ensure that we have a more efficient and cost-effective health care system.*

*My priorities for implementing ACA are as follows:*

- *To protect Medicare and Medicaid*
- *Ensure there are additional safeguards to protect our ability to continue receiving affordable insurance if we are currently insured*
- *Ensure will have options to receive insurance coverage if we are uninsured*
- *Ensure small businesses will have new opportunities to provide health insurance for their employees*
- *Ensure Medicare benefits do not change. In fact, we should receive additional assistance and resources like help with pharmaceutical coverage and better access to preventative care.*

**73. ESSAY: What is your plan to provide sufficient funding to provide community based services for discharged mental health patients?**

*The proposed cuts are yet another lack of commitment to helping patients and families affected by mental illness. Any more cuts or lack of clarity about when the state is going to pay its bills, or what's going to get reimbursed, could force a lot of community based providers to severely limit services or possibly shut down. Those that would be most hurt by the proposed budget cuts, include the working poor – minimum-wage earners who didn't qualify for Medicaid or Medicare, and couldn't afford private insurance.*

*The following are ways to provide funding:*

- Currently Illinois is one of a minority of states that has no oversight mechanism in place for escalating health insurance rates. I would support legislation to require rate review so that insurance companies will have to justify their requests for rate increases to the state Department of Insurance and cannot raise rates unless their request passes this review?*
- As Illinois develops a state health insurance exchange marketplace (required by federal law), I would support the Illinois exchange to be an active purchaser, so that the exchange could use its negotiating power to demand quality, responsiveness to consumer concerns, reasonable rates, affordable plan designs, and good benefits*
- When a plan that reflects Illinois' new financial reality is in place, It is my hope that the state will once again be a full partner with community mental health centers, reinvigorating the common goal of providing the best, most humane and cost-effective services for people with mental illnesses – care that keeps them productive and connected members of society.*

**Do you support:**

**74. 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? Yes**

**75. Repealing the Illinois 1995 Parental Notice of Abortion Law? Yes**

*I support legislation that would amend the Parental Notification Act of 1995 to allow the notification of additional adult family members like aunts, uncles, and siblings and allow the option of counseling by a licensed professional as an alternative to judicial bypass.*

**76. Allowing the government to decide what medical care a physician may provide to patients during pregnancy? No**

77. Allowing pharmacies or pharmacists to refuse to fill prescriptions based on their own conscientious objections and send customers away without being served? No

78 Do you support legislation to authorize medically accurate, age-appropriate sex education in public schools? Yes

79. Do you support increasing appropriations to the Department of Children and Family Services to increase the number of caseworkers? Yes

Do you support:

80. raising TANF benefits to at least equal the poverty level? Yes

81. providing greater benefits to fund child care and transportation for TANF recipients? Yes

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

*We need to expand current programs to prevent people from falling through the cracks.*

*Providing access to educational and training opportunities is one way to assist in preparing for new job opportunities.*

## **Housing**

Do you favor:

84. legislation banning housing discrimination against holders of Section 8 vouchers? Yes

85. mandating that landlords give tenants notice prior to entering their units? Yes

86. assessing penalties against landlords who engage in illegal or retaliatory evictions? Yes

87. Would you support legislation requiring mortgage holders to honor the terms of existing residential leases in effect when property is foreclosed upon? Yes

88. **ESSAY:** How do you solve the problem of vacant foreclosed housing?

*The City of Chicago has adopted an ordinance that would require lenders and servicers to pay a \$500 fee to register abandoned homes, and would require \$500-\$1,000 daily fines for each and every building code violation assessed at these properties. The City is now supporting statewide legislation that would allow all 1,300 municipalities in Illinois to enact similar ordinances. I firmly believe that the owners of the abandoned properties should be responsible for their upkeep. Maintaining the properties help in reducing crime and protect the values of the properties and the people living in the surrounding areas.*

## **Energy & Environment**

89. Do you support an elected ICC? Yes

90. 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? Yes

91. Do you support funding for high speed rail connecting Illinois Metropolitan areas? Yes

92. Do you support a comprehensive statewide mass transit plan for Illinois? Yes

## **Criminal Justice**

93. Do you support state legislation to ban the manufacture, sale and possession of assault weapons? Yes

Do you support:

94. legislation increasing penalties for illegal resale of weapons? Yes

95. legislation permitting the carrying of concealed weapons? Yes

96. legislation mandating background checks of purchasers of weapons at gun shows, through the internet and through print advertisements? Yes

97. capital punishment? No

98. criminal prosecution of juveniles as adults? No

99. mandatory sentencing? No

*Mandatory sentencing does not allow consideration to be given on a case by case basis.*

100. work release, home monitoring, other alternative sentencing? Yes

101. admissibility of illegally obtained evidence? No

102. electronic eavesdropping? No

103. roving wiretaps? No

104. Life sentences for juvenile offenders? No