

IVI-IPO 2012 GENERAL ASSEMBLY QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 1

DATE 12/22/2011 DISTRICT: 14th PARTY: Democrat

NAME: Paula Basta

VOTING ADDRESS: 1930 W Estes Ave

HOME PHONE: 773.497.5970 BUSINESS PHONE: _____

CAMPAIGN ADDRESS: 1333 W Devon, #204 Chicago, IL 60660

CAMPAIGN PHONE: 315.480.4500 FAX: _____

EMAIL: paula@paulabasta.org WEBSITE: paulabasta.org

CAMPAIGN MANAGER: Michael Dobrow

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED: 1,000 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?

- Regional Director at the Northeast (Levy) Senior Center

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

- I manage the Northeast Levy Senior Center – one of Chicago’s busiest senior centers – where I manage the needs of more than 4,000 senior citizens who come through the door every month. I also oversee the region’s Golden Diner program, which provides 4200 meals a week to senior citizens. Prior to my work with the Levy Senior Center, I was the Executive Director of HOME – an organization which provided housing assistance to the elderly. I began my career as a social worker at Little brothers Friends of the Elderly in Chicago, and I am also the former President of Equality Illinois.

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

- Though I do have a Master’s degree from McCormick Theological Seminary, my direct service experience is my chief asset as a candidate in this race.

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

- Harry Osterman – Precinct Captain

- Gregory Harris – Donor
- Anita Alvarez – Donor
- Lisa Madigan – Donor

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

- Americans for Disabled Americans

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 intend to be an independent Democratic voice for the people in the 14th State House district, and I’m not beholden to the influence of insider, Machine politics. I have dedicated my career to direct service, government and NGO work as opposed to being a career politician.
- My top goals are: environmental sustainability and protection, economic recovery and local business, and full-marriage equality in Illinois.

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

- Our full budget runs at \$200,000, while we have raised roughly \$120,000 to date.

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

- The campaign employs a fundraising consultant, a pollster, an opposition research consultant, a campaign manager and a deputy campaign manager. We have 80 total volunteers on our books.

IVI-IPO 2012 GENERAL ASSEMBLY QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 2

Elections & Ethics			
	YES	NO	
1.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support moving the primary election date?
	ESSAY		If so, to what month?
I would not be opposed to moving the primary date later (which would ostensibly raise turnout), but it would not be a priority at my office.			
	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support restoration of cumulative voting for the Illinois House of Representatives?
	ESSAY		If so, please describe the plan you support.
8.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Should Illinois institute instant run-off voting?
9.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support 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"/>	Do you support holding a special election to fill vacancies for U.S. Senate and state constitutional officers?
11.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support changes in the way judges are selected?
	ESSAY		If so, please give a brief description of the system you support.
12.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If judges continue to be elected, should judicial elections be non-partisan?
13.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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?
	ESSAY		Please explain.
I would support a bill making it illegal to accept campaign contributions from corporate lobbyists in exchange for favorable legislation in Springfield.			
			Do you support:
15.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	dollar limits on campaign contributions?
16.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	dollar limits on political committee transfers?
17.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	the same limits on leadership PACs as on candidate PACs?
18.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	dollar limits on campaign expenditures?
19.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	public financing of election campaigns?
20.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you accept or have you accepted campaign donations from current or potential suppliers, employees, or outside contractors?
			Several of my biggest supporters also happen to be seasoned campaign professionals. I've accepted their help and utilized their services at times.
21.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<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.
22.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Will you employ or have you employed staff in your office who hold other public sector jobs concurrently?
23.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Will you employ or have you employed staff in your office who have either outside employment or contracts with entities which do business with the state?
24.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support legislation to prohibit incumbency and political affiliation as criteria in the mapping process for Congressional, Legislative and local government electoral districts?
25.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support creation of a non-partisan Commission to draw maps instead of the General Assembly?

26.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support term limits for legislative leaders?
27.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support term limits for members of the General Assembly
Taxes and Economic Policy			
			Do you support amending the constitution to
27.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	institute a graduated income tax?
28.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	allow the legislature to change the corporate/individual ratio in income taxes?
29.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support increasing income taxes to relieve or replace local property taxes and increase state funding of education?
			Do you favor:
30.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stricter definitions of blight required for TIF creation?
31.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Greater legislative oversight of TIFs to ensure they are meeting their purpose?
32.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Requiring itemization on property tax bills of funds diverted to TIFs?
33.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Restriction of fund transfers between TIF districts?
34.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consent of affected taxing bodies before TIF creation?
35.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public disclosure of each TIF district's funds and expenditures?
38.	ESSAY		How would you fully fund the state pension systems?
Illinois must adopt a progressive tax structure, which would have the dual results of lowering taxes for 90% of residents and increasing the state's revenue. With that tax system in place, the state could address its currently unfunded liabilities, like the state pension system. The state must also keep its prior commitments to current public sector employees.			
Consumer Protection			
			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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you support legislation requiring citizen referenda at the state or local level before casino gambling is expanded?
I would not necessarily oppose such legislation, but it seems clear that gambling is going to expand one way or another. The question is how can we make the expansion of gambling work for our communities? How can we make sure that portions of casino profits go back into local communities, education and infrastructure?			
Education			

48.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you vote to increase state funding to at least 50% of public education costs?
49.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support vouchers or other means of public funding for private or parochial schools? Yes, but never at the expense of general public school funding.
50.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support public funding of charter or contract schools?
	ESSAY		Please explain your position.
Charter schools consistently outperform public schools. Despite the occasional closing, charter schools are an asset to Chicago.			
51.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support abolition of the General Assembly scholarship fund?
	ESSAY		Please explain your position.
The scholarship's only requirement is that the student live in the lawmaker's district, meaning that many legislators use the fund to put their own family members through school. The fund needs to either be abolished or restructured to provide that the recipient is not related to the lawmaker.			
Civil Rights & Civil Liberties			
52.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support Affirmative Action?
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?
Elected officials in Cook County have largely indicated that the processing and detainment of low-level possession offenders is a waste of taxpayer money, since judges dismiss the vast majority of those cases. Decriminalizing marijuana is not the same as full legalization, and will prove to be legally and fiscally responsible policy. I support Toni Preckwinkle's call to decriminalize possession of less than 10 grams of marijuana and make it a finable offense.			
			Do you support mandatory drug testing
58.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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?
Labor			

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?
Health & Human Services			
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?
73.	ESSAY		What is your plan to provide sufficient funding to provide community based services for discharged mental health patients?
			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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	raising TANF benefits to at least equal the poverty level?
81.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<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?

Housing			
		Do you favor	
84.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	legislation banning housing discrimination against holders of Section 8 vouchers?
85.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	mandating that landlords give tenants notice prior to entering their units?
86.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	assessing penalties against landlords who engage in illegal or retaliatory evictions?
87.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<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?
Unfortunately, foreclosure will continue to be a problem until the housing market rises and the state gets its economic house in order. However, in the short term we must pass stricter vacancy rules, obligating financial institutions to maintain those properties while they remain in a state of foreclosure. Likewise, we need legislation that fines municipalities that do not care for foreclosed properties in their possession.			
Energy & Environment			
89.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support an elected ICC?
90.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support funding for high speed rail connecting Illinois Metropolitan areas?
92.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support a comprehensive statewide mass transit plan for Illinois?
Criminal Justice			
93.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support state legislation to ban the manufacture, sale and possession of assault weapons?
		Do you support	
94.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	legislation increasing penalties for illegal resale of weapons?
95.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	legislation permitting the carrying of concealed weapons?
96.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<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"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	capital punishment?
98.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	criminal prosecution of juveniles as adults?
99.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	mandatory sentencing?
100.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	work release, home monitoring, other alternative sentencing?
101.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	admissibility of illegally obtained evidence?
102.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	electronic eavesdropping?
103.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	roving wiretaps?
104.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Life sentences for juvenile offenders?

