

IVI-IPO 2012 GENERAL ASSEMBLY QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 1

DATE 12/7/2011 DISTRICT: State Rep, 14 PARTY: Democrat

NAME: Kelly Cassidy

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CAMPAIGN MANAGER: Lauren Peters

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED: 1,500 NUMBER REQUIRED: 1,500

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

Steering committee, 48th Ward Democrats 2008-Present. Steering committee, 49th Ward Democrats 2009-Present, 1996 Democratic Convention, Alternate Delegate, 2004 Democratic Convention, Delegate

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

None

C) What is your primary occupation?

State representative, District 14

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

I have been active in Chicago since moving here over 20 years ago and serving as the legislative director for the Chicago office of the National Organization of Women where I empowered women to advocate on their own behalf to legislators and understand the inner-workings of government.

I've also been an advocate for LGBT rights in Chicago and have been involved in nearly every piece of pro-LGBT legislation in Illinois and Chicago.

Serving on both the 48th Ward and 49th Ward Democratic Steering committee, I've had the fortunate role to be active in many campaigns to support progressive candidates from working phone banks to canvassing with my three young sons.

During my tenure at the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago and the Chicago Recovery Alliance. They had previously unsuccessful efforts to engage the law enforcement community in efforts to pass politically vexing AIDS prevention legislation which included access to sterile needles. My criminal justice relationships brought disparate groups together to build a coalition to secure passage of this vital legislation that helped control the spread of HIV. In addition, I served as a lead budget negotiator for the office, helping to craft the office's 95 million budget.

Prior to my appointment as State Representative, I was responsible for development and management of the \$20 million in grant funded programs in the State's Attorney's office. I played a crucial role in creating programs for domestic violence victims, hate crimes victims and victims of human trafficking, as well as programs to address mortgage fraud, support community justice centers and enhance the use of DNA evidence.

Before making Rogers Park my home this last year, I lived in Andersonville for 17 years and served on East Andersonville Residents Council. I'm also an active member of Temple Shalom.

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

My career and experiences have shaped me into the most effective state legislator I can be. Serving as the legislative director of Chicago NOW, I helped women learn the inner-workings of government and helped our members understand that they can have a voice in politics; that they don't need to be rich or politically connected. This experience gave me the wisdom and the drive to make sure that everyone I represent knows that my door is open to them and that they have a voice in my office.

I was recently selected as one of thirty five legislators around the country for a fellowship in early childhood learning by the National Council on State Legislatures. We will spend the year exploring promising practices, hearing from leading researchers and developing policy initiatives to work towards advancement in this critically important area of education.

With my role in Senator Cullerton's office, I used my experience from Chicago NOW to seek out constituents and simply ask them what they would like to see from their state legislature and from there, legislation was drafted. They experienced first hand how government could work for them. This is also something that I continue to hold true as State Representative.

And lastly, my budget experience in the State's Attorney's office has taught me multiple lessons on how to negotiate and get creative to run an efficient government and still fund the necessary programs to protect the people we are responsible for representing. Over the years, I have built strong relationships with other elected officials in city, county, state and federal government to find necessary funding to help our constituents with crucial programs and assistance.

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

I've been active in politics since making Chicago my home over 20 years ago.

Serving as the legislative director for the NOW's Chicago branch, I supported and assisted many campaigns including at the time State Senator Carol Ronen, Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky, Judy Erwin, and Carol Mosely Braun for US Senate.

I served as Senator Cullerton's legislative aide and also served as his deputy campaign manager when he ran for congress in 1994.

I also served as State Representative Larry McKeon's Campaign Manager when he first ran in 1998

I was a volunteer advisor to State's Attorney Dick Devine in 1996. That same year, I also served as the Illinois Statewide LGBT coordinator for President Clinton's re-election campaign.

After that, I served as an active volunteer for many campaigns including Senator Heather Steans, State Representative Greg Harris, State Representative Harry Osterman, Alderman Mary Ann Smith, Commissioner Larry Suffredin, Congressmen Mike Quigley for both Commissioner and Congress, Commissioner Forest Claypool and supported his run for Cook County Assessor and Rahm Emanuel for Congress and his run for Mayor of Chicago.

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

Senator Dick Durbin, Mayor Rahm Emanuel, Congressman Mike Quigley, Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky, State Senator Heather Steans, Senator John Cullerton, State Representative Deb Mell, State Representative Lou Lang, State Representative Barbara Flynn Currie, Committeewoman Carol Ronen, Committeeman David Fagus, Alderman Harry Osterman, Alderman Joe Moore, Alderman James Cappleman, Commissioner Deb Shore, Commissioner Mike Alvarez, Commissioner Larry Suffredin, Commissioner Bridget Gainer, Alderman Pat O'Connor, Honorable Dawn Clark Netsch and State Central Committeeman Billy Manovitz

Personal PAC, Planned Parenthood, Equality Illinois PAC, The Civil Rights Agenda Fund,

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 combination of non-profit, state and local government experience has given me a unique perspective in Springfield, but has also provided me the expertise and understanding one needs to best represent the 14th District.

After taking office in May, I joined the General Assembly at a critical juncture, and because of my experience, I was able to hit the ground running with tough votes. My understanding of the legislative process, experience building bipartisan coalitions and a deep commitment to progressive values provides me with an excellent foundation to serve the 14th district with a forceful voice.

My goals for serving the 14th District:

- Smart criminal justice policies
- Open and responsive government
- Maintaining funding for critical social service needs while working towards smarter budgetary processes
- Protecting and increasing human rights (particularly women, children and LGBT rights)

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

At the end of the last filing period, I raised over \$75,000 in just one quarter from over 200 individual donors and organizations. I held off from raising any funds until I was in office to abide by the Hatch Act which I was under because of my role in the State’s Attorney’s office.

We have continued to have great success with fundraising from an array of supporters in the district and other individuals who believe that I’m the best individual for the job.

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

Campaign Manager- Lauren Peters

Field Director –Matt Muir

Fundraiser- Julie Kerouac

I have around 12 individuals on my kitchen cabinet and more than 100 regular volunteers and the list keeps growing

IVI-IPO 2012 GENERAL ASSEMBLY QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 2

Elections & Ethics			
	YES	NO	
1.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support moving the primary election date?
	ESSAY		If so, to what month?
Rather than getting specific on dates, I’m more interested in discussing and looking into ways to make voting more accessible and open to individuals. If we need to move the date back in order to achieve high voter participation, I’m in favor of it.			
	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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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? –I would be open to it as part of full package that enables more diverse political perspectives to be represented in the voting booth.
			Do you support
9.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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?
	ESSAY		If so, please give a brief description of the system you support. I support merit based selection of judges by a bi-partisan panel that is recommended by an independent body nominated by the Governor and confirmed by the Illinois Senate
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?
	ESSAY		Please explain. I support any credible reforms that would enable or empower viable, independent third parties to form and thrive.
			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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	dollar limits on campaign expenditures? –unconstitutional to limit independent voices
19.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	public financing of election campaigns?
20.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Will you accept or have you accepted campaign donations from current or potential suppliers, employees, or outside contractors?
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		
			Will you employ or have you employed staff in your office who
22.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	hold other public sector jobs concurrently?
23.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	have either outside employment or contracts with entities which do business with the state?
			Do you support
24.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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.	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.	X	<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.	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.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	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.	X	<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.	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?
Our pension problems weren't created overnight, nor are they the fault of the majority of employees and pension recipients. We need to continue to work towards reforms that are constitutional and fair while we continue to seek savings in other parts of the budget to fund obligations and programs.			
Consumer Protection			
			Do you support legislation to
39.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Increase electric rates outside of the ICC to build a Smart Grid?
40.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	ban Pay Day loans?
41.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	regulate ATM fees and service charges on credit cards and other consumer loans?
42.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	cap interest rates on credit cards and other consumer loans?
			Do you support legislation to
43.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	prohibit confession of judgment clauses in consumer contracts?
44.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	mandate attorney fees to be awarded to successful plaintiffs? Historically the cost of attorney fees has been used to deny underprivileged people access to the courts and increase their risk of financial ruin. I am in favor of all reasonable measures that prevent deep-pocketed plaintiffs and defendants from using their financial advantage for strategic advantage and intimidation.
47.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Will you support legislation requiring citizen referenda at the state or local level before casino gambling is expanded?
Education			
48.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you vote to increase state funding to at least 50% of public education costs?
49.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	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. While I understand there are legitimate concerns about the proliferation of privately operated charter schools, in our current climate I feel that families need more options for our communities and families to access good education for our children.
51.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support abolition of the General Assembly scholarship fund?
	ESSAY		Please explain your position. I'm a co-sponsor to abolish it and have not awarded them.
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?
			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? –only public safety
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.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support legislation banning the replacement of strikers in private employment?
68.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support family leave legislation for employees of private companies not currently covered by federal law?
			Do you support
69.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	raising the minimum wage to establish a living wage for Illinois workers?
70.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	establishing a lower minimum wage for minors?
71.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	including farm workers and household employees under existing labor laws?
Health & Human Services			
71.	X	<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.	X	<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? In the recent budget veto override process, I was a strong advocate for restoration of funds for community mental health services, transitional housing supports and drug and alcohol abuse treatment.
			Do you support:
74.	X	<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.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Repealing the Illinois 1995 Parental Notice of Abortion Law?
76.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Allowing the government to decide what medical care a physician may provide to patients during pregnancy?
77.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Allowing pharmacies or pharmacists to refuse to fill prescriptions based on their own conscientious objections and send customers away without being served?
78.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support legislation to authorize medically accurate, age-appropriate sex education in public schools? Co-sponsor
79.	X	<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? To help those who do not qualify for TANF or unemployment benefits, I would look into finding assistance through other avenues. Affordable housing is an essential element to those who require assistance, so fighting for access to such housing would be important. If a family is ineligible for TANF or unemployment, I would encourage them to apply for food stamps, as provisions are in place to expedite the application process if they are in dire need. If the program is not helping enough residents who are in need, it may require amending the prerequisites for eligibility.

Housing			
			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? I am an advocate for land banking and other foreclosure reforms that ensure that banks and mortgage holders take responsibility for their assets and maintain them in order to protect the communities and more quickly return properties to the market. I have sponsored legislation that will require banks to continue to pay condominium association fees to lessen the impact of foreclosure on condominiums.
Energy & Environment			
89.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	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.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support funding for high speed rail connecting Illinois Metropolitan areas?
92.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support a comprehensive statewide mass transit plan for Illinois?
Criminal Justice			
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.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	mandatory sentencing? Only in very limited circumstances
100.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	work release, home monitoring, other alternative sentencing?
101.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	admissibility of illegally obtained evidence?
102.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	electronic eavesdropping? Except in very limited circumstances
103.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	roving wiretaps?
104.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Life sentences for juvenile offenders?

