

**IVI-IPO 2012 WARD COMMITTEEMAN QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 1**

DATE 12-19-11 WARD: 20 PARTY: DEMOCRATIC

NAME: NAOMI DAVIS

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CAMPAIGN MANAGER: EDGAR LUCAS

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED: 1383 NUMBER REQUIRED: 432

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? Founder & President of BIG: Blacks in Green™

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

<i>20th Ward.Org</i>	<i>Your 20th Ward Community Center ~ East</i>	<i>2012</i>
<i>BIG™ Real Estate Institute</i>	<i>Community-Controlled Development Presentation</i>	<i>2011</i>
<i>BIG™ Green-Village-Building</i>	<i>West Woodlawn Business Directory Research</i>	<i>2011</i>
	<i>Front/Back: Honoring The Standing/The Fallen</i>	<i>2011</i>
	<i>Story Circles To Heal-Bond-Organize</i>	<i>2011</i>
	<i>Migration: The Musical For Economic Development</i>	<i>2011</i>
	<i>What's Your Wish For West Woodlawn Village Survey</i>	<i>2011</i>
	<i>Ol' Time Mississippi Fish Fry &amp; Hip Hop Storytelling Revial</i>	<i>2011</i>
	<i>Majora Carter &amp; The All-Stars: Candidate Education on Sustainability</i>	<i>2011</i>
	<i>3-Semester Course: The 8 Principles of Green-Village Building</i>	<i>2010-11</i>
	<i>GreenFestival – Green Career Fair For CPS High Schools</i>	<i>2010</i>
	<i>Race Class Environment Symposium</i>	<i>2009-10</i>
	<i>First Mondays Stepper Set For The New Green Economy</i>	<i>2009</i>
	<i>Third Friday Environmental Education Networking Socials</i>	<i>2008-09</i>
	<i>GreenFestival ~ Sustainability One Square Mile At A Time</i>	<i>2007-11</i>
	<i>The BIG Show: CAN-TV Sustainability Show</i>	<i>2007</i>
<i>Chicago/Calumet Underground Railroad Effort</i>	<i>President/Advisor</i>	<i>2006-10</i>
<i>Illinois Environmental Protection Agency</i>	<i>Environmental Justice Advisory Group</i>	<i>2007-10</i>
<i>League of Conservation Voters</i>	<i>Board Member</i>	<i>2006-08</i>
<i>Climate Justice Chicago</i>	<i>Steering Committee Member</i>	<i>2006-08</i>
<i>Independent Voters (IVI-IPO)</i>	<i>Board Member</i>	<i>2006-07</i>
<i>Lambda Alpha International/JMLS Chapter</i>	<i>Vice President</i>	<i>2005-07</i>

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

Studied: Metaphysics, Speech & Drama, English, Law, Team Management & Leadership, Property Management, Construction Management, Sustainability

Most Helpful: Sustainability, as in green community economic development, because it combines all of these for a whole-system solution which I use to organize and enable neighbors.

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

Campaign Manager: Joy Virginia Cunningham for District Court and Appellate Court; Candace Fabri for District Court.

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

Che Rhymefest Smith; James Hill; Lonnie Richardson; Linda Austin (former Committeeman Candidate); and a variety of other community activists. No formal endorsements yet sought.

**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?

Why Endorse Me: I have a lifetime record of unpaid service to the community, following in the steps of my mother, an activist from my childhood home of St. Albans Queens, NYC. I was raised to love my community and to care deeply for stewardship of democracy. I have over 20 years professional experience in outreach, engagement, marketing communications and public affairs. I supported James Hill in the production of PE 101, his community class in political education along with Mercedes Mollette. I have already taken the course on Deputy Voter Registration and am committed to reinventing democratic engagement by neighbors through registration, GOTV, superior and impartial Election Judges, non-partisan candidate slating, and high quality community forums that aggressively frame electoral issues to facilitate voter understanding of their self-interests.

Goals: Implementing the Joe Moore models for democratic budgeting and participatory democracy; the Mary Ann Smith model for community-based sustainable development; and using parts of BIG's 8 Principles of Green-Village-Building, to at least double the voter turnout in on or before the end of my term.

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

Budget: \$35,000

Raised To Date: approximately \$2,900

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

Staff: 3

Volunteer List: 50

## **IVI-IPO 2012 WARD COMMITTEEMAN QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 2**

1. Should the present signature requirement for a Committeeman's nominating petition be changed?  
If so, how? No.
2. Should there be a law (like that for replacing an alderman, etc.) for replacing a ward or township Committeeman who leaves office during her/his term? Yes.

3. What are your views on slating, the selection of candidates by the party or party committees prior to a primary or non-partisan elections? If you are opposed to slating, will you participate in slating sessions? As a candidate committed to reforming the Party from within, I support slating generally, yet advocate for a non-partisan process which accommodates inclusion of reform-minded candidates.
4. Should the party finance the campaigns of selected candidates in contested primary elections or non-partisan elections (such as aldermanic elections)? Yes. I support an overhaul of campaign finance laws to level the playing field among candidates so that voters are best able to select candidates on their merits rather than on their glossy, voluminous mail and other media enabling form over substance.
5. Does a committeeman have a responsibility to support the party's candidates after they have been selected in a primary election? A Committeeman has top responsibilities are to conscience and to the input from residents in the Ward. Proper candidate vetting will most often reveal the one best suited to serve the highest ideals of service and the interests of the constituency represented.
6. Do you feel it is appropriate for elected officials to hold a party office? Please explain your position. Professor Dick Simpson and I agree that Aldermanic candidates should not also hold the office of Committeeman: this arrangement vests too much power in the hands of the Alderman, and effectively awards the job of guarding the hen house to the fox.
7. Have you or would you send letters to government officials soliciting jobs or promotions for individuals? I have not, but would, where communications were transparent and merit-based hiring resulted.
8. Have you formed or would you form a ward-wide organization? Discuss structure, meetings, membership, staff and budget. We are presently in the process of establishing a ward-wide organization, recruiting Precinct Captains for each of our 50 precincts, reaching out to all block clubs and CAPS organizations, and doing door-to-door knocking in each of the “walkable villages” of the Ward. We are introducing and advocating for the use of World Café techniques for organizing and action implementation, including story circles for putting the “neighbor” back in the “hood” and creating Advisory Councils in 18 different interest groups we’ve already identified. We will support monthly meetings in each of the 10 walkable villages of the Ward, and would hire Village and Precinct Captains (10 and 50, respectively) with up to 5 part-time coordinators to provide leadership and administrative support and oversight. Our budget would be based on approximately \$15/hr for all workers, with minimum performance requirements and a mutually agreed cap on work hours and mandatory “community service” volunteer hours in addition.

9. How do you propose to finance your ward operations? Through regular community-based fundraisers.
10. What plans do you have to enhance voter registration and voter turn out in your ward? We will design a community education campaign which a) stresses the sacrifices of the ancestors to ensure our rights to vote b) incentivizes voters through fun educational events for the whole family c) regular motor voter drives and special events with traditional voter registration d) ongoing community forums which always have a voter registration component e) improved transportation and senior strategies, etc.
11. Does your organization have/or will have members? If so how does one become a member? It does not now, but will have members.
12. Should members of a ward organization have a role in determining endorsements? Yes.
13. Does or will your ward organization communicate openly with residents and activists? Will you have a website to convey current information and volunteer opportunities? Yes and yes.
14. What idea do you have to finding and retaining high quality election judges? Interviews featuring a specially designed questionnaire would be required of all current judges, as allowed by Chicago election law; records of any past complaints would be reviewed prior to approval/assignment; a ward-wide campaign for new judges would be launched, with a mandatory civics curriculum.
15. What strategies will you employ to engage the residents in you ward and increase voter participation with emphasis on how you will attract younger voters? Ongoing surveying of residents at events with food and family fun: we use story circles and World Café techniques – a proven process for engaging all generations. We have a special youth Democracy Road Show we're designing full of action demonstrations including gaming, martial arts, fashion, and other fun.
16. What should be done to include voters in the decision making process for replacing candidates on the ballot and filling vacancies of elected officials? I would design a ward-wide voting system in concert with a Ward Advisory Committee empanelled to steward that process, the recommendations from which would be ratified by Ward vote. The voting would include internet and in-person balloting, and be supported by Community Forum for candidate presentation/query.
17. Question for Incumbent: What have you done to involve more people in the political process? What further steps will you take? N/A
18. Will you follow the Cook County judicial retention “vote Yes” campaign? No: retention is best handled on a case-by-case basis.

19. **For Republicans:** What actions will you take to make the GOP more competitive in Cook County races? N/A