

IVI-IPO 2012 WARD COMMITTEEMAN QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 1

DATE Dec. 27, 2011 **WARD:** 6th **PARTY:** Democratic

NAME: Richard A. Wooten

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CAMPAIGN MANAGER: Teresa Walton

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED: 2348 **NUMBER REQUIRED:** 870

A) Elective or appointive public or party offices previously held including dates. None.

B) Other elective offices for which you have been a candidate. 6th Ward Alderman City of Chicago.

C) What is your primary occupation? 18 year veteran Chicago Police Officer.

D) Briefly list your civic activities of the past ten years. I served my country honorably for 10 years in the U.S. Army, worked at Olive Branch Mission helping and servicing the homeless and less fortunate for several years, Founded Gathering Point Ministries now known as Gathering Point Community Council serving at- risk youth and their parents through counseling and supportive services, I currently provide employment and training for Chicago Public Schools Safe Passages program, I worked in the Chicago Police Dept. 6th dist. CAPS office as the community liaison bringing participation to second place in the city within 4 years out of 25 police districts, I am a proud 6th ward small business owner so I understand budget and operations, and finally I am currently an 18 year veteran Chicago Police Officer serving and protecting people and communities while counseling individuals through very challenging situations as it relates to life and death. Fraternal Order of Police Lodge No. 7 member, Member of the Illinois Farm Bureau, Chaplain of Nu Pi Chapter, Joliet, IL., of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Worshipful Master King David Lodge 100 of Prince Hall Free and Accepted Masons. I am currently the Associate Pastor of Faith Walk Church International where I minister the word of God counsel parishioners and feed the homeless at the Door of Hope Homeless Shelter faithfully.

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 studied Law Enforcement Management, I served my country honorably for 10 years in the U.S. Army, worked at Olive Branch Mission helping and servicing the homeless and less fortunate for several years, Founded Gathering Point Ministries now known as Gathering Point Community Council serving at- risk youth and their parents through counseling and supportive services, I currently provide employment and training for Chicago Public Schools Safe Passages program, I worked in the Chicago Police Dept. 6th dist. CAPS office as the community liaison bringing participation to second place in the city within 4 years out of 25 police districts, I am a proud 6th ward small business owner so I understand budget and operations, and finally I am currently an 18 year veteran Chicago Police Officer serving and protecting people and communities while counseling individuals through very challenging situations as it relates to life and death. I am currently the Associate Pastor of Faith Walk Church International where I minister the word of God counsel parishioners and feed the homeless at the Door of Hope Homeless Shelter faithfully.

F) What candidates have you supported? Please be specific in describing your role in each campaign. As a former aldermanic candidate receiving approximately 3000 votes, I supported and endorsed the current 6th ward Alderman Roderick Sawyer in his run off election against then Alderman Fredrena Lyle.

G) Please list all endorsements you have received so far. I recently responded and submitted several request for endorsements. However, none of the PAC's nor organizations have made a decision as of yet.

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 will continue to be a humble servant with a passion and commitment to do everything possible within my power to help transform lives and communities for the better through the resources that God has blessed me with. When elected, It will be my primary goal and mission to expand upon the work that I have already been doing for more than twenty years by engaging individuals with new ideas and new organizations that have been locked out of the political process and never being recognized for there work when it comes to connecting solutions to the many problems that exist in communities that make up the 6th ward. I will be a voice to organize, educate people and communities politically as I seek to represent the people and their agenda to he democratic party. I will seek to expand access to local, state, and federal resources that educate and empower people. I will create new partnerships through the democratic party locally and nationally. I will create political social education forums through e-mail, social media, and other forums to maximize participation and community outreach efforts. Finally, I am not part of the old guard and I represent the possibility of Restoring Value, Balancing The Power, & Getting The Job Done!

I) What is your campaign budget? Our budget is currently \$40,000 dollars. How much have you raised to date? \$25,000 which is being self funded.

J) How many people are on your campaign staff? I have 4 staff people. How many volunteers are on your list? I have a volunteer list of 100 committed people.

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? I have no issue with it personally.
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? It is my belief that the people who elected them to public office in the first place, should have a say in who replaces them by vote or referendum through a special election process.
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? I believe that the people should have a say by way of vote and who represents them at any point in time. However, it would be my duty to participate on behalf of the people so for that reason I would do so but through a process that engages them transparently.
4. Should the party finance the campaigns of selected candidates in contested primary elections or non-partisan elections (such as aldermanic elections)? I think the party should support the slated candidate.
5. Does a committeeman have a responsibility to support the party's candidates after they have been selected in a primary election? Yes. However, the people will be the deciding factor in our organization.

6. Do you feel it is appropriate for elected officials to hold a party office? Please explain your position. I have no issues with an elected official holding a party office if he or she ran for office and the people voted them in. In the end if represented correctly and transparent the constituents they represent will benefit in a great way.
7. Have you or would you send letters to government officials soliciting jobs or promotions for individuals? No
8. Have you formed or would you form a ward-wide organization? Discuss structure, meetings, membership, staff and budget. We would have a board of Directors, hold monthly meetings, host membership drives, raise funding through member dues, fundraisers, national, state, and local party contributions. As well, we would explore other legal funding opportunities through private sector partnerships.
9. How do you propose to finance your ward operations? We would have a board of Directors, hold monthly meetings, host membership drives, raise funding through member dues, fundraisers, national, state, and local party contributions. As well, we would explore other legal funding opportunities through private sector partnerships.
10. What plans do you have to enhance voter registration and voter turn out in your ward? I plan to host community partnership forums to educate constituents on the importance of the political process and why they should be active registered voters in their community. Our engagement efforts will consist of the following campaigns social media, e-mail, text messaging, block clubs, community events, clergy institutions, high schools, colleges, universities and all other community based organizations that directly serve the 6th ward.
11. Does your organization have/or will have members? If so how does one become a member? We are in the process of structuring and we will have a membership process that will be open to all interested persons.
12. Should members of a ward organization have a role in determining endorsements? It is my belief that every member should have a say in the endorsement process through a organized voting structure.
13. Does or will your ward organization communicate openly with residents and activists? Yes. Will you have a website to convey current information and volunteer opportunities? Yes.

14. What idea do you have to finding and retaining high quality election judges? It is my belief that the very people that they want to vote for them be involved in the selection process through an open community interview forum that all are welcome to attend.
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? I plan to host community partnership forums to educate constituents on the importance of the political process and why they should be active registered voters in their community. Our engagement efforts will consist of the following campaigns social media, e-mail, text messaging, block clubs, community events, clergy institutions, high schools, colleges, universities and all other community based organizations that directly serve the 6th ward. We will have a youth leadership committee to explore ways to engage the young people of the 6th ward.
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? It is my belief that the people who elected them to public office in the first place, should have a say in who replaces them by vote or referendum through a special election process.
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? If the process is a open and honest way for voters to review judicial candidates in a fair transparent venue I will support it.
19. **For Republicans:** What actions will you take to make the GOP more competitive in Cook County races? N / A