

IVI-IPO 2012 WARD COMMITTEEMAN QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 1

DATE 12/06/2011 WARD: 31st PARTY: Democratic party

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NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED: 800 NUMBER REQUIRED: 800

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? I am a proud Reference Librarian.

D) Briefly list your civic activities of the past ten years. I have been a proud active board member and former State Chair of the IVI-IPO, volunteered for the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, and served on a Chicago local school council and local park advisory board.

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 graduated with a Bachelor degree in accounting with a minor in political science and obtained a Master's degree in Library and Information Science.

F) What candidates have you supported? Please be specific in describing your role in each campaign. I have supported dozens of candidates in the past 10 years through the IVI-IPO and on my own. Among the candidates that I have volunteered for are Miguel Del Valle, Scott Waguespack, John Arena, Toni Preckwinkle. President Obama, Iris Martinez, Marty Castro, Joe Moreno, and Willie Delgado.

G) Please list all endorsements you have received so far. I have received the endorsement and adoption of the Northside Democracy for America.

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 believe the strength of my commitment to my ward can help 31st Ward democrats find common ground and build a stronger, more effective ward organization. As the 31st Ward Democratic Committeeman, I will make the office accessible to all the residents of the ward, create the first interactive ward website to facilitate communications between residents and the representatives they elected, and create an inclusive organization that will support reform-minded, progressive candidates and involve all our residents in the democratic process.

I) What is your campaign budget? How much have you raised to date? Our campaign budget is \$10,000. We have raised \$2,200.

J) How many people are on your campaign staff? How many volunteers are on your list? There is one staffer on our campaign. We have dozens of volunteers within the 31st Ward.

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? The present signature requirement for a Committeeman's nominating petition should not be changed. A serious candidate to office will have no problem meeting the signature requirements as they stand.
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? No, there should not be a law for replacing a ward or township committeeman.
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 will encourage my party to seek more community input for this endorsement process.
4. Should the party finance the campaigns of selected candidates in contested primary elections or non-partisan elections (such as aldermanic elections)? No. Candidates should be responsible for raising their own funds from a variety of sources.
5. Does a committeeman have a responsibility to support the party's candidates after they have been selected in a primary election? To a certain point yes. The Committeeman's job description is to be the party's local campaign coordinator. But exceptions should be allowed if a party candidate could be hurtful to the party or to the interests of my ward.
6. Do you feel it is appropriate for elected officials to hold a party office? Please explain your position. I do not feel that it is appropriate for elected officials to hold a party office. An elected official (non-party official) should represent all of his constituents and not just those of his party.
7. Have you or would you send letters to government officials soliciting jobs or promotions for individuals? I would not send letters to government officials soliciting jobs or promotions for certain individuals.
8. Have you formed or would you form a ward-wide organization? Discuss structure, meetings, membership, staff and budget. This is a key element to my commitment to 31st Ward Democrats. I will establish a modern Democratic Ward organization in which membership is open to the full spectrum of Democratic voters and students of the 31st Ward.

9. How do you propose to finance your ward operations? Activities will be funded by ward-wide fundraising activities.
10. What plans do you have to enhance voter registration and voter turn out in your ward? The key to increased voter registration and voter turnout is voter education. I will make available a variety of governmental and political information at all ward events and work with organization such as IVI and Mikva to coordinate voter registration drives.
11. Does your organization have/or will have members? If so how does one become a member? My organization will have members. Membership will be free and an application will be available on our ward website and email newsletter.
12. Should members of a ward organization have a role in determining endorsements? Yes, members of a ward organization should play some role in determining endorsements.
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? As Democratic Ward Committeeman, I will have a professional website created for the 31st Ward and an email list sending regular messages. Residents and activists will have a direct line of communication with myself and with our ward organization.
14. What idea do you have to finding and retaining high quality election judges? I will hold various panel discussions in several ward locations open to the community so that residents can get to know qualified judicial candidates.
15. What strategies will you employ to engage the residents in your ward and increase voter participation with emphasis on how you will attract younger voters? As a younger voter, I felt as if my current Ward Organization was not reaching out to voters like me. All of the Ward events were geared towards voters of a particular age range and neglected many other potential voters. I plan to engage voters by recruiting year round precinct captains of all ages that will organize precincts in a way that hasn't been done before. A 31st Ward Young Democrats group will also be formed to attract young voters and their families.

I will also use the internet to engage ALL residents and open a line of communication with sites like EveryBlock and Facebook. I also will have my volunteers teach quarterly workshops (couponing, email, online auctions, job hunting) in every precinct. These classes will be free, open to all residents, and in various languages when needed.

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? When a vacancy occurs, our ward organization will reach out to the community via email, internet, or flyers and inform residents of the vacancy and seek their input and ideas. Their input will strongly influence my decisions when it comes to voting on those vacancies.
17. Question for Incumbent: What have you done to involve more people in the political process? What further steps will you take?
18. Will you follow the Cook County judicial retention “vote Yes” campaign? No.
19. **For Republicans**: What actions will you take to make the GOP more competitive in Cook County races?