

**IVI-IPO's endorsed candidates for the March 21, 2006 Primary Election  
February 6, 2006 Press Conference**

Governor (D)

**Rod R. Blagojevich**

As a state legislator, Congressman and Governor, Rod Blagojevich has been a stalwart supporter of individual liberty and human rights. He has defended women's reproductive freedom by guaranteeing their right to obtain contraception and signed into law a ban on discrimination based on sexual orientation. Blagojevich also led the successful effort to increase the paltry minimum wage, ensuring that Illinois workers would be able to keep better pace with inflation. That, along with his initiatives to increase health care and prescription drug coverage for the most vulnerable of Illinoisans – our children and elderly – reflects his commitment to providing a social safety net at the state level to replace that which has been yanked away by the federal government. Finally, we applaud Blagojevich's tough stance on consumer protection, especially in his attempt to appoint a genuine consumer advocate to the ICC. It is encouraging to see government support people over profits and recognize which constituency it really serves.

Governor (R)

**Judy Baar Topinka**

For over twenty five years, Judy Baar Topinka has served the people of Illinois with refreshing honesty, integrity and candor. Few elected officials can claim a comparable level of public trust and confidence. She has been a tough guardian of the state's finances, scrutinizing and questioning contracts and procurement policies and establishing a loan oversight committee to review investments. Topinka has successfully leveraged state funds to provide support for local community development, create new jobs in the technology industry, and assist Illinois farms in maintaining a competitive edge in the global economy. She also has established programs to help families save for their children's college educations and assist people with less than perfect credit to buy and retain their homes. A staunch supporter of equal rights, Topinka was the first constitutional officer to implement a ban on discrimination based on sexual orientation for employees in her office and has been a strong voice for political moderation within her party.

Lt. Governor (R)

**Steven J. Rauschenberger**

Throughout his legislative career, Steve Rauschenberger has been the preeminent champion of electoral and ethics reform in Illinois. He has fought valiantly to eliminate special interest money that pollutes the electoral process and his personal integrity is unquestioned. Across party lines, Rauschenberger is renowned as a voice of reason and applauded for his willingness to hear out those he disagrees with and attempt to find common ground. His fiscal restraint is legendary, yet he has used his budget expertise in response to advocacy groups' pleas for help and found funds for much needed social service programs. Rauschenberger is a true independent and has demonstrated the ability to bridge the partisan divide in Springfield.

Treasurer (D)

**Alexander Giannoulis**

Alexi Giannoulis brings a background of economics, law and financial management to his campaign for Treasurer of Illinois. He is a strong supporter of community investment and would leverage state funds to invest in small businesses throughout the state and specifically provide venture capital in impoverished areas. Giannoulis also has pledged to use the Treasurer's office as a bully pulpit for consumer protection, to oppose payday loans and other predatory lending practices and to advocate for reasonable interest rates on credit cards and other consumer loans.

President of the Cook County Board (D)

**Forrest Claypool**

As governments at all levels struggle with the competing demands of constituent service delivery and reduced revenues to pay for those services, Cook County lumbers on as a dinosaur from another era, oblivious to the need to restructure for the modern world. Patronage, nepotism and political favoritism reign, while innovation and practical solutions are routinely silenced in debate and disappear into committees from which they never again emerge. Forrest Claypool will change that. He promises an end to cronyism and mismanagement and has pledged to appoint both an inspector general and an internal audit team to ferret out patronage, corruption and waste. He will seek input from and work with all commissioners to develop Board policy and to increase government efficiency with the revenue already available. Claypool also pledges to reduce the waiting time for doctor appointments and prescriptions and remove the artificial caps on abortion services at Stroger Hospital. He has received a rare and coveted "Membership Endorsement" from IVI-IPO.

Cook County Sheriff (D)

**Thomas J. Dart**

Tom Dart's first priority as Sheriff would be a staffing study of the entire office, from court deputies and patrol officers to janitors and clerical workers, looking for duplicative or unnecessary functions. IVI-IPO applauds this all too rare dedication to cutting waste in County government. We also approve Dart's proposal to install video surveillance cameras throughout the jail to monitor the conduct of officers as a good first step in reducing brutality against inmates. Especially welcome is his suggestion to employ non-invasive devices, such as Ion detectors, to search female detainees, thus ending the incumbent's deplorable practice of strip-searching women detained for minor violations. Dart also won a "Membership Endorsement."

Water Reclamation District Commissioner (D)

**Dean T. Maragos**

In recent years, the MWRD Board has transformed from an obscure retirement haven for the politically connected to an active public body of increasingly independent commissioners. Dean Maragos would be a welcome addition to the new, improved Board. A former staff attorney for the MWRD, he is familiar with the District, its finances and its policies. Maragos is also a CPA, and his accounting background would be a valuable asset to the Board.

Water Reclamation District Commissioner (D)

**Debra Shore**

Debra Shore is the only candidate for this office with a background in conservation. As a leader in Chicago Wilderness, a regional conservation consortium, she has a broad perspective on issues of water quality and supply, natural resource protection and biodiversity conservation. Shore has a specific agenda for this office – to prompt the District to educate the public and become a leader in water conservation. But her initiatives reach beyond the predictable. Shore also sees the District working with businesses to develop a market for products and services like permeable paving, rainwater collection and green roof installation. We have never seen a candidate who brings so many fresh and innovative ideas to this office, which is no doubt the reason Debra Shore is the only candidate for any office in this election, and the first candidate for any office in over ten years, to win a unanimous “Membership Endorsement” from IVI-IPO.

Water Reclamation District Commissioner (D)

**Terrence J. O'Brien**

An MWRD Commissioner since 1988, O'Brien has been elected President of the Board for five consecutive terms. Under his leadership, the District has successfully controlled costs, maintained fiscal stability and achieved a AAA bond rating. When he stood for re-election six years ago, O'Brien stated as his primary goal the transfer of responsibility for Storm Water Management from Cook County to the MWRD. He followed through, spearheading the introduction and passage of legislation in Springfield to effect the transfer, making possible the environmentally responsible ideas proposed by Debra Shore. IVI-IPO commends O'Brien for this initiative and he also was the recipient of a “Membership Endorsement.”

Water Reclamation District Commissioner (D)

**Lewis W. Powell III**

An attorney, adjunct Law Professor and former President of the Cook County Bar Association, Lewis Powell brings legal expertise, as well as a distinguished record of public service to his candidacy for the MWRD. His particular interest is ensuring that TARP succeeds in reducing flooding in the south suburbs and he proposes additional storm water reservoirs to be built throughout the county, if federal funding can be secured.

1st Congress (D)

**Phillip Jackson**

Phillip Jackson sees the discrepancies of wealth among our neighborhoods and wants to use the power of the Congressional office to connect the 1<sup>st</sup> district to the greater business community. He proposes training programs to connect residents of the district to entrepreneurship, business and new business development. A national leader for community and parental involvement in education, Jackson's top Congressional priority will be raising the performance of district schools, which he describes as “the highest matter of national security.”

3rd Congress (D)

**John P. Sullivan**

Two years ago, in an act of appalling arrogance, the incumbent Congressman resigned his seat after the primary, and engineered the selection of his son, a resident of Tennessee, as his replacement in the general election. The Democratic voters of the 3<sup>rd</sup> district, furious at being denied any say in the decision, now have a champion in John Sullivan, a lifelong resident of the district. Sullivan believes the voters of the 3<sup>rd</sup> district deserve a Congressman from the community who will fight for the community. On the issues, he supports an exit strategy in Iraq based on tangible benchmarks, access to affordable health care for all, and protecting social security and private pensions. IVI-IPO warmly endorses Sullivan and hopes his victory will serve notice upon party bosses that the voters will not be bypassed in the electoral process.

3rd Congress (R)

**Raymond G. Wardingley**

An Air Force veteran and community activist, Ray Wardingley is truly independent, speaking his mind on any issue, not pandering to party lines or special interests. He supports exit goals for the war in Iraq and calls upon Congress to fulfill its oversight role in foreign policy and granting of federal contracts. Wardingley also decries out of control defense spending and supports greater funding for veterans' health care and other needs at home. He is the obvious choice over a neo-Nazi opponent in the Republican primary.

5th Congress (D)

**Rahm Emanuel**

Rahm Emanuel's top priorities are health care, jobs, education, and retirement security. He has worked to help Americans afford their prescription drugs by allowing importation of FDA-approved drugs from other countries and has offered legislation to make education more affordable through increasing the number of Pell Grants available to students and extending the higher education tuition deduction to more families. Emanuel is striving to put together a coalition of Republicans and Democrats from every state bordering the Great Lakes to pass the "Great Lakes Restoration Financing Act," which would help states clean up the lakes and preserve them for future generations.

6th District (D)

**Christine Cegelis**

After winning over 44% of the vote in the November 2004 election, Christine Cegelis declared her intent to run again in 2006, leading to the incumbent's decision to retire. Now she is energetically campaigning for this open seat, backed by hundreds of indigenous volunteers who are declaring that the people of the 6th district, not PACs and pollsters in Washington, will choose their representative. Cegelis' message is one of sensible fiscal policies that provide growth for American businesses and good paying jobs for American workers. She supports single-payer universal health care, to make American businesses more competitive in the global marketplace, and as a matter of conscience and compassion for the world's richest nation. Cegelis will work for tax justice, cutting the national debt and providing social services for those in need. IVI-IPO enthusiastically endorses her.

7th Congress (D)

**Danny K. Davis**

For five terms in Congress, Danny Davis has been a leader in the fight for economic and social justice and to make quality education and affordable health care accessible to all. He has been a champion of civil liberties and an articulate and passionate spokesperson against the war in Iraq and the human rights abuses that have been uncovered in our military operations abroad. Davis supports reordering our budget priorities to cut the deficit and create good jobs at a living wage. In the past year, he has led efforts to assist ex-offenders to reintegrate into community life, find housing and employment, and resume their roles as productive members of society.

10th Congress (D)

**Zane Smith**

A Park District Commissioner, community activist and Boy Scout leader, Zane Smith brings a passionate commitment to public service to his race for Congress. Smith wants to be a voice for working men and women and also represent the interests of small business owners struggling with providing insurance and other benefits for their employees. He sees both interests as complementary, rather than in conflict, a refreshing perspective. Smith condemns the corrupt influence of moneyed interests in Congress and pledges to be a community leader rather than a corporate puppet.

13th Congress (D)

**Bill Reedy**

Concerned that our federal government is operating in an air of secrecy unprecedented in US history, Bill Reedy is running for Congress to hold the administration accountable for both policy and politics. He condemns the culture of corruption in Washington and would work to restore ethics and integrity to Congress. Reedy will promote the interests of the middle class and the poor whose needs have too long been ignored. His priorities are to establish fiscal discipline, protect retirement security, strengthen the public school system and ensure that quality, affordable healthcare is available to every American.

14th Congress (D)

**Ruben Kanhai Zamora**

A teacher, Ruben Zamora will fight for increased educational opportunities, including higher education, for all Americans. He advocates creating a fairer tax structure and new economic opportunities to benefit those who have been left behind by globalization, corporate downsizing and merger mania. Zamora supports affordable housing, universal health care, privacy in reproductive decisions and defense of our civil liberties. Another priority is the environment, particularly slowing urban sprawl and protecting family farms.

19th Congress (D)

**Danny Stover**

With over thirty years of public service as an educator and in elected office, Stover has fought for balanced budgets and fiscal responsibility while still providing needed social services. He will be a fierce advocate for living wage jobs and affordable housing, universal health care and retirement security. Stover also promotes the use of innovative technology to revitalize the coal industry in Southern Illinois without damaging the environment.

1st State Senate (D)

**Oscar Torres**

Currently president of the 25<sup>th</sup> Ward Independent Democratic Organization, Oscar Torres is one of the new leaders emerging to challenge the dominance of HDO on Chicago's southwest side. He pledges to bring honesty and open communication to his interactions with neighborhood residents and to involve the community in deciding the policies and programs their elected representatives will pursue.

12<sup>th</sup> State Senate (D)

**Eduardo "Eddie" Garza**

Eddie Garza seeks to bring an independent, progressive voice to his district and to Springfield, taking a stand against corruption in government and working to secure a place for educational reform, health care and economic development at the top of the legislative agenda. Educated in Urban Planning and Policy, Garza condemns the HDO and other special interests that plunder the public trust in search of jobs and contracts for their cronies. He is running to establish new leadership in his community that will work for the public interest.

33<sup>rd</sup> State Senate (D)

**Dan Kotowski**

Drawing on his experience in government, private industry and public advocacy, Dan Kotowski brings a unique vantage point for assessing and responding to the needs of his community. As Senator he will focus on common problems that face increasing numbers of people all over Illinois – obtaining quality education, affordable housing and health care, and achieving job security in a vibrant economy.

39<sup>th</sup> State Senate (D)

**Don Harmon**

A winner of IVI-IPO's Best Legislative Voting Record in his first term, Don Harmon has promoted a progressive agenda advocating education, affordable health care, and greater economic opportunity. He is a standard bearer for civil rights and civil liberties, and was a chief sponsor of the successful legislation to add sexual orientation to the Human Rights Act. Harmon is also a strong supporter of election reform and increased opportunities for voter registration and participation, as well as campaign finance and ethics reform.

2<sup>nd</sup> State Representative (D)

**Francisco Rodriguez**

Community activist Francisco Rodriguez is running a joint campaign with Oscar Torres to bring new, responsive, independent leadership to the southwest side. He has previously worked for independent candidates from alderman to the US Senate and aspires to follow the models they have provided. Rodriguez supports election and campaign finance reform and promises to restore integrity to the concept of public service.

7th State Representative (D)

**Karen A. Yarbrough**

A long time independent activist, Karen Yarbrough has continued the fight for open, participatory government through three terms as a state representative. She has worked with diverse interest groups and constituencies, often across party lines, to reach common ground. Yarbrough's priorities include educational opportunities, increased access to health care and economic development. She is the sponsor of a bill to ban discrimination in housing based on source of income and was a winner of IVI-IPO's 2004 Best Legislative Voting Record Award.

25th State Representative (D)

**Barbara Flynn Currie**

Since her election in 1978, Barbara Currie has won IVI-IPO's Best Legislative Voting Record Award every year it has been given. She is unabashedly liberal, proudly independent, and widely respected for her diligence and hard work. Currie authored Illinois' first Freedom of Information Act and sponsored successful measures to reform nursing home care, prohibit sexual harassment in the workplace, protect Illinois ground water, improve child support and initiate state pre-school and full-day kindergarten programs. She is a champion of equal rights and the preminent legislative expert and leader on pay equity. IVI-IPO is proud to endorse Barbara Flynn Currie for her fifteenth term.

26th State Representative (D)

**Louvana S. "Lou" Jones**

Throughout her legislative career, Lou Jones has been a vocal leader on children's issues, women's issues and reforming the state correctional system. In 2004, she helped give non-violent offenders a second chance at a better future by passing a new law providing eligible juveniles with information on the necessary steps to take in order to have their records expunged. Jones has also worked to bring more financial options to inner city residents and has fought for greater protections for consumers.

29th State Representative (D)

**David E. Miller**

Guaranteeing that residents of his district enjoy the same economical growth and viability as in other areas is a major priority for three term incumbent David Miller, who stresses that a strong local economy will help ensure a stable job market, a stable tax base and ultimately a better quality of life. His legislative priorities include initiatives in education, consumer protection and health care. Miller is a strong supporter of election and ethics reform and opponent of patronage and insider deals. He is a winner of IVI-IPO's 2004 Best Legislative Voting Record Award.

33nd State Representative (D)

**Marlow H. Colvin**

In four years in the legislature, Marlow Colvin has established a solid record on consumer protection, affordable energy and transportation issues. He has fought to protect low-income seniors from the effects of inflation, supporting the 7% property tax cap, expansion for the Senior Freeze Exemption and expanding Illinois Cares Rx and circuit breaker programs. Colvin has also sponsored legislation to cap tuition increases at state universities and increase the number of teachers in disadvantaged schools.

52nd State Representative (R)

**Mark H Beaubien, Jr.**

Mark Beaubien is a true independent, following his own conscience, regardless of whether or not his opinions are in sync with those of his party or of any issue group. He is a stalwart supporter of civil liberties and civil rights, defends reproductive freedom and the rights of every person to be protected from discrimination. Beaubien also advocates fiscal responsibility and zero based budgeting, but with the caveat that it can not adversely affect point of service agencies. His is a desperately needed voice of moderation in an often bitterly partisan legislature and IVI-IPO recommends him heartily.

56th State Representative (R)

**Paul Froehlich**

One of the foremost leaders of election reform in the legislature, Paul Froehlich has sponsored legislation to restore cumulative voting for the Illinois House of Representatives, reduce the signature requirements for independents and new parties to qualify for the ballot, and to allow municipalities to adopt instant runoff voting. He is a staunch opponent of patronage and insider contracts and a supporter of campaign finance reform and non-partisan redistricting. Froehlich also supports domestic partnerships and would ban discrimination in housing based on marital status or source of income.

5th County Board (D)

**Dian M. Powell**

Social Worker Dian Powell promises to be a legislator who listens and responds to her constituents, and doesn't blindly support any party or political leader. To insure community involvement, she plans hold quarterly meetings for each township and maintain an open door policy in her district office. Powell's major county-wide priority will be reducing overcrowding and ensuring adequate educational and vocational services at the Juvenile Detention Center.

6<sup>th</sup> County Board (D)

**Robert L. Ryan Jr.**

A staunch independent, former State Representative Robert Ryan correctly identifies patronage in County government to be at the root of numerous problems, including the deplorable situation in the Juvenile Detention Center. He supports strict enforcement of the Shakman Act to end patronage abuse and proper bidding of contracts as a first step to achieving fiscal responsibility and reform. Ryan cites his experience as a bank Examiner and Certified Fraud Examiner as providing him with professional skepticism to think independently and challenge the system. IVI-IPO is relying on Ryan to continue the independent revolution of commissioners of 2002 and we heartily endorse him.

7th County Board (D)

**Leonard "Len" Dominguez**

Educator Len Dominguez will be a voice of reason, responsibility and reform on the County Board. He will work to cut wasteful spending, sweep away corruption and graft, and ensure that the money is spent where people need it most. Dominguez is particularly concerned with increasing the availability of health care and overcoming barriers of language and culture that deny many in his district equal access to county services.

9th County Board (R)

**Peter N. Silvestri**

First elected in 1998, Peter Silvestri's goal for his fourth term is the reform of county government through reorganization of the bureaucracy, professionalism and redirection of the administrative structure, the elimination of politically based hirings and reduction of pin-stripe patronage. He also has several proposals to improve conditions at the Juvenile Detention Center, focusing first on making the facility "liveable" for the young detainees, selecting and training staff to be role models, and creating a more natural school setting to encourage them to pursue education and avoid crime. Silvestri is one of the most thoughtful and practical commissioners and IVI-IPO strongly recommends him.

1st Appellate Court-Hartigan Vacancy (D)

**Kathleen G. Kennedy**

Judge Kennedy has served in the Domestic Relations Division of the Circuit Court for nine years. Previously, she clerked for Appellate Justice Dom Rizzi and federal Judge Joan Lefkow. Kennedy was also a supervising attorney in the Office of the Public Guardian and served as a hearing officer in the Child Protection Division of the Cook County Circuit Court. She has taught Juvenile Law as an adjunct professor at DePaul University College of Law and participated as guest faculty, speaker or moderator for legal seminars and training programs.

1st Appellate Court-Hartman Vacancy (D)

**Joy Virginia Cunningham**

A former Judge of the Circuit Court, Joy Cunningham currently serves as Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary for Northwestern Memorial HealthCare and Northwestern Memorial Hospital. Among her other positions Cunningham has been an Assistant Illinois Attorney General and a Judicial Clerk to Illinois Appellate Justice Glenn Johnson. She has served as President of the Chicago Bar Association, becoming the first African American Woman to lead that organization.

3rd Appellate Court-Slater Vacancy (D)

**Vicki R. Wright**

Judge Wright brings nearly 15 years of judicial experience to this race. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Wright worked first at the State's Attorney's Appellate Service Commission in Ottawa, then as an Assistant State's Attorney in Whiteside County. Her caseload often included adult and child victims of sexual predators and she also did pro bono work for litigants who could not afford legal help with guardianship and mental health issues. Wright's judicial experience and personal commitment to public service recommend her well for advancement to the Appellate Court.

COOK COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

**Ann Collins Dole** - Burr Vacancy (D)

**Jay A. Heller** - Nudelman Vacancy (D)

**Pamela E. Hill Veal** - Schiller Vacancy (D)

**Martha A. Mills** - Travis Vacancy (D)

**Carl Anthony Walker** - 1st Subcircuit Crooks Vacancy (D)

**Michael "Mike" Stuttley** - 2nd Subcircuit - A Vacancy (D)

**D. Ann Marie Stephenson** - 4th Subcircuit - Varga Vacancy (D)

**Stephen Stern** - 5th Subcircuit Greene-Thapedi Vacancy (D)

**Ramon Ocasio III** - 6th Subcircuit - Jorzak Vacancy (D)

**Kenneth K. McNeil** - 7th Subcircuit - A Vacancy (D)

**James Michael McGing** - 10th Subcircuit - Golniewicz Vacancy (D)

**Mary Colleen Roberts** - 11th Subcircuit - A Vacancy (D)

**Don R. Sampen** - 12th Subcircuit - Madden Vacancy (R)

**Darrell Lavon Tarr** - 15th Subcircuit - Nowinski Vacancy (D)

DEMOCRATIC STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

**Ricardo Muñoz** - 4th District

**Nancy Shepherdson** 8th District

**William A. Marovitz** - 9th District

**Alan E. Prochaska** - 10th District

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEEMAN

**Charles G. Hernandez** - Cicero Township (D)

**R. Kent Kirkwood** - Elk Grove Township (D)

**Frederick Joseph Hossfeld** - Hanover Township (D)

**Robert A. Provenzano** – Maine Township (R)

**Karen A. Yarbrough** - Proviso Township (D)

**Paul Froehlich** - Schaumburg Township (R)