



IVI-IPO *Action Bulletin*

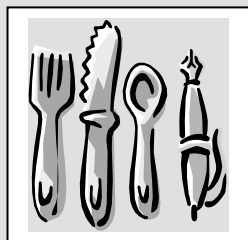
Summer 2004

Summer Reminders:

- **Independents' Day Dinner July 19th**
- **Endorsement sessions coming in August**

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Independent Voters of Illinois-Independent Precinct Organization (312) 939-5105

IVI-IPO 60th Anniversary Independents' Day Dinner

By Aviva Patt

Our 60th Anniversary Independents' Day Dinner will be held:

Monday, July 19, 2004 at the Hot House,
31 East Balbo, Chicago, from 6:00– 8:00 p.m.

There will be a buffet dinner and cash bar, silent auction, entertainment circa 1944, capped by awards presentations and lively anecdotes from some of our organization's founders.

This year's awardees are:

- Legal Eagle Award: Patricia Logue and Paul Smith
- Leon Despres Award: Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky
- Barbara Merrill-Rudy Lozano Labor Award: HERE Local #1, Henry Tamarin, President
- Harold Washington Award:
 - ♦ Illinois Coalition for Immigrants & Refugee Rights
 - ♦ Chicagoans Against War and Injustice
- Kit Pfau Award: State Representative Robin Kelly
- Saul Mendelson Award: Carol Steele

This will be a fun event where you can mingle with independent activists. Meet and greet office holders/public servants, other IVI-IPO members, and fellow travelers. One thing everybody likes about the annual IVI-IPO get-togethers is that each one is different—with different speakers, themes, and awards.

This year we have invited Ab Mikva, Studs Terkel, Dick Simpson and other founders to share their memories and anecdotes of our early years.

Come enjoy good food and big band music, meet old and new friends, and get in some quality networking. Don't miss this opportunity to get organized for the key November elections and have fun at the same time!

In honor of our 60th anniversary, tickets are \$60, a reduction from recent years. Order your tickets now by calling the office at 312-939-5105.

Still Making History

By Ann Nelson, IVI-IPO Administrative Director

In the early 1940s, a group of volunteer campaign workers, who had worked on the 1940 Franklin Roosevelt and 1942 Paul Douglas campaigns, banded together to form the Independent Voters League of Illinois. While short lived, it paved the way for Voters for Victory, which later was followed, finally, by the Independent Voters of Illinois.

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Formally chartered in 1944, IVI was born into a state of affluence, which has yet to be duplicated. In the early years, IVI published materials, including 250,000 copies "How Hitler Can Lose the War Yet Win the Peace" and "The Kohn Report", a classic summary of crime and politics in Chicago that many credited with spurring reform in the police department. IVI also regularly came out with its newsletter, entitled "The Bell Ringer." We also sponsored political radio broadcasts by Studs Terkel. Also, in 1954, IVI produced a documentary film called, "You Can Win Elections" starring Leon Despres.

In addition, from 1947 until the 1980s, IVI was the Illinois ADA [Americans for Democratic Action] affiliate.

The 1950s were a tumultuous time for IVI. Not only did the organization not have an office or staff at one point, but the Board was split on the mayoral endorsement of Robert Merriam over Richard J. Daley. IVI's first state chair, Leo Lerner (founder of the Lerner newspapers) quit the Board over the endorsement of Merriam, a Republican. However, as Daley solidified his power in Chicago, IVI began to focus its attention on opposing him.

In 1961, IVI's proposed map to redistrict Chicago wards helped bring about the first council redistricting in 14 years. IVI also aided in a revival of independence in the City Council by helping to elect or re-elect several independent aldermen, including Leon Despres, John Hoellen, Jack Sperling, and Nicholas Bohling.

Also in the 1960s, a group of young political enthusiasts, including IPO founder Dick Simpson, seasoned in the 1968 McCarthy campaign, formed the Independent Precinct Organization (IPO). They founded a year round, permanent precinct-based organization in order to contest each election.

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Lee Snyder**

**Designer
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In the early 1970s, IVI had over 3000 members, a growth spurt spurred on by the 1970 Constitutional Convention election. However, after the death of Richard J. Daley in 1976, IVI found it harder to define itself with the loss of its longtime adversary.

Combined with the defeat of several independent legislators in 1976, members of IVI and IPO started discussing a merger. It was felt that if IVI and IPO merged, they would be better able to organize, elect, and help keep independents in office. In November 1978, they merged and became IVI-IPO.

The 1980s brought both wins and losses for IVI-IPO. There was the unsuccessful fight against the Legislative Cutback Amendment. The amendment eliminated three-member districts with cumulative voting rights and caused the loss of one-third of the Illinois House of Representatives and many moderate Republicans and some of our "Best Legislators."

Perhaps the biggest independent victory came with the successful election of Mayor Harold Washington. It was the successful culmination of IVI-IPO's mission, to have a coalition with minority communities to elect an independent candidate.

The 1990s brought an infusion of new political activists and members who were involved in the 1992 Bill Clinton presidential race and the Carol Moseley Braun campaign. The election of the first female African-American to the U.S. Senate was an incredible victory for IVI-IPO, which joined forces with the African-American and feminist communities in order to help ensure success.

In the new millennium, IVI-IPO has achieved success in new areas. We have helped to elect independents in areas outside of the liberal lakefront community, including Rey Colón in the 35th Ward, State Representatives Cynthia Soto and Willy Delgado from the Northwest side, and from the south suburbs—David Miller, Will Davis, Robin Kelly and James Meeks.

Through all our ups and downs, victories and defeats, IVI-IPO continues to make history.

National Affairs Committee Report

By Charlie Paidock, Chair, National Affairs Committee

The week of May 10th, IVI-IPO's National Affairs Committee visited the Washington, DC offices of all twenty-one members of the Illinois delegation to the 108th U.S. Congress. The National Affairs Committee prepared the policy summary below to review IVI-IPO's positions on important pending legislation with the entire Illinois delegation.

Trade Policy WTO / NAFTA / FTAA / CAFTA: IVI-IPO opposes fast-track authority to negotiate trade agreements, the expansion of NAFTA, as well as adoption of CAFTA and FTAA. These agreements prioritize the profits of international corporations over labor rights, environmental protections, traditional lifestyles, and national sovereignty, and include unprecedented investor protections which allow challenges or suits to national, state and/or local government legislation. <http://www.citizenstrade.org>

International Affairs: IVI-IPO favors full monetary support of the United Nations and U.S. participation in the International Criminal Court for the advancement of human rights. IVI-IPO opposes all "first strike" weapons and any appropriation for "Star Wars" missile defense systems. IVI-IPO opposes covert military actions and encourages the U.S. to pursue "collective security" through the UN and multi-national alliances rather than engage in unilateral actions to counter terrorism. <http://www.globalsolutions.org>

Public Transit / Amtrak / High Speed Rail: IVI-IPO favors increased funding for mass transit (TEA-21 reauthorization), full funding for operation, and long overdue maintenance of a nationwide, long-distance passenger rail system without division among states, and development of high-speed rail network connecting Midwestern cities. <http://www.CTAriders.org>

U.S.A PATRIOT Acts I and II: IVI-IPO favors repeal of the Patriot Act and opposes government spying on voluntary and private organizations, whether civic, social, religious or political. IVI-IPO opposes electronic eavesdropping and consensual monitoring for law enforcement purposes without a warrant based on probable cause. IVI-IPO opposes legislation that would abrogate the civil rights of immigrants. <http://www.bordc.org>

National Health Care: IVI-IPO favors a universal, single-payer health plan. IVI-IPO favors increased funding for AIDS research, education, voluntary and confidential testing, and patient care. Essential drugs for HIV/AIDS should be licensed and distributed in the U.S., Africa, Asia, and elsewhere.

Energy: IVI-IPO supports the U.S. participation in the Kyoto Treaty to curb global warming. The proposed federal energy bill should be completely revised to encourage use of renewable energy sources and not constitute a license for or simply be concessions to oil drilling interests. IVI-IPO is opposed to expansion of nuclear energy.

Environment: IVI-IPO supports a national energy policy stressing environmentally safe and renewable sources, control of toxic substances, and toxic landfills. IVI-IPO favors strong powers for federal and state EPA, land-use legislation, protection of water resources, purchase of land to extend the National Park System and mandatory recycling.

Employment / Organized Labor: The IVI-IPO supports the right to organize and bargain collectively. Union membership should be available to employees of all agencies in the federal government. Federal employees should be permitted to compete fairly in any OMB Circular A-76 contracting out process. IVI-IPO urges passage of the Employee Free Choice Action for those in the private sector who seek to form unions where they work. <http://www.fedvote.org>

IVI-IPO supports increasing the minimum wage, "living wage" legislation, family and medical leave legislation, guaranteed overtime pay, and protecting the rights of day laborers, farm workers and household employees. Legislation should be passed prohibiting the permanent replacement of strikers and IVI-IPO supports the repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act.

The National Affairs Committee welcomes all members to attend its monthly meetings, the third Monday of each month, from 7:00 to 9:00 PM, at the IVI-IPO Office, 1325 S. Wabash, Chicago. *Note: There will be no meeting July 19th because of IVI-IPO's Independents' Day Dinner that evening.* Please contact the Chair if you would like to receive monthly reminders by mail.

Charles Paidock, Chair cpaidock@hotmail.com

Lessons in Cook County Politics with Larry Suffredin*By Dan Johnson-Weinberger*

Thanks to Herb Ziegeldorf for putting together a really fascinating evening with Larry Suffredin in December 2003: Here's my recap of the evening, for the benefit of those who couldn't make it. You can also find the original on my blog at <http://www.djwinfo.blogspot.com>

"If Cook County were a state, it would be the 15th largest in the Union.

And yet it is the invisible government."

The Sun-Times front-page headline in December "Hell Freezes Over" described the massive political shift on the Cook County Board when, for the first time in at least 50 years, the President's submitted budget was not simply enacted as a matter of course by the Board. The Board finally emerged as a real legislative body, chipping away at the patronage-driven, top-down political style perfected by George Dunne and currently practiced by John Stroger.

Cook County has a budget of \$3 billion. It runs the largest public hospital in the nation (not owned by a state or the federal government). It owns the largest nature preserve—68,000 acres of forest smack dab in the middle of the metropolitan area—in the country that is literally in the midst of urban/suburban development. It runs the largest court system in the nation and a massive jail system that Amnesty International should be monitoring for potential human rights abuses. If Cook County were a state, it would be the 15th largest in the Union.

And yet it is the invisible government. Far more attention is paid to the Chicago City Council (and specifically the Office of the Mayor) than the County Board. Some people have been paying attention, however, and reformers have been steadily making progress for years. The end of 2003 might have been the most dramatic sign of progress, but there have been many steps to bring us this far.

The weight of history settles heavily on the shoulders of the County reformers. Racial divisions and decades of discrimination, real and perceived, color the politics of the county. These same divisions took over our meeting at IVI-IPO, unfortunately cutting short Commissioner Suffredin's presentation, but the unscheduled discussion on race did help to illuminate this powerful but often-unspoken motive in county politics.

The shift to single-member districts in 1990 (previously, 10 commissioners were elected city-wide from Chicago and 7 commissioners were elected suburban-wide from the rest of the county, leading to the predictable Dem sweep in the city and GOP sweep in the suburbs, as cumulative voting rights were not permitted) proved to be the beginning of a more democratic board. Incidentally, Commissioner Suffredin believes that if President Dick Phelan (1990-1994), had stayed on for a second term as President until 1998, he might very well have been governor.

Mike Quigley's arrival in 1998 added the first persistent voice of modernization to the board. Other long-time independent-minded commissioners include South Sider Bobbie Steele, who knocked off an anointed candidate but currently is aligned with President Stroger, and Earlean Collins, long active in West Side politics

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To: Sebastian James

A big thank you for your kind donation of a new computer for the IVI-IPO office!

Thanks also to Michael Nelson for his donation of a computer and for his help in setting up our network!

Got items to donate?

The IVI-IPO office needs printers, a folding machine, office chairs, office supplies etc.

Or call the office at 312-939-5105 to let us know what you have to give and we'll tell you if we can put it to use!

Visit IVI-IPO's website at <http://www.iviipo.org>

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Forrest Claypool who had worked for Pat Quinn and Richard Daley, and Larry Suffredin, an old-school liberal organizer and advocate, came to the board in 2002. A new spirit of reform and modernization came to the board after the November 2002 election, as old-time incumbents lost out. With 17 members, a majority needs 9, and the 'modernizers'—still an amorphous, ambiguous coalition, as many of the newly-elected commissioners had never met—seemed to approach the magic number.

Sensing trouble, President John Stroger (serving since 1994) had the lame-duck County Board approve the 2003 budget a few weeks after the November 2002 election, in order to lock in the budget before the newly-elected commissioners could do anything about it. It would prove to be the last budget the President would submit without any input from the board.

The President of the County Board personally controls 27,000 county jobs. While there is a civil service system in the county, all 27,000 officeholders ultimately report directly to the President. Even the staff of the other commissioners can be summarily dismissed by the President at any time. This is the source of the President's power, and in patronage-driven organizations, it is an awesome office to control. It is, of course, remarkably corrupting, as the many of the 27,000 county employees can feel compelled to volunteer on behalf of the political candidates that the President supports, dramatically (and artificially) increasing the support of the chosen candidate and perpetuating the power of the patronage-driven organizations to the direct detriment of taxpayers and independent voters. It also leads to remarkably inefficient government, as employees need not do their county jobs well in order to keep their paychecks so much as do the bidding of the President's ward organization well.

When George Dunne served as President, the 42nd Ward organization (located in the near North Side) hired a ridiculous amount of county employees and played a disproportionate role in county and state politics. Now, John Stroger's South Side 8th Ward organization hires a huge number of county employees and plays a huge role in deciding which candidates win elections, because of its patronage army of campaign workers.

The need of the machine for ever-more patronage workers and the need of taxpayers and voters for an efficient government and affordable tax burden are in direct conflict, and the first showdown in 50 years to try to weaken the machine is over the Cook County budget. The county has been running a \$220 million surplus for the last three years, overtaxing residents, and has also kept 2000 jobs—funded every year—vacant. This year, the county faces a potential deficit. President Stroger submitted a machine budget to keep those vacant jobs intact and with new taxes: a lease tax of 4% that will surely drive every suburban car dealer into other counties and a sales tax increase that will further erode the purchasing power of lower-income residents—bad public policy, but good for the machine.

Would the modernizers get nine votes to block the budget? The five Republicans were against the new taxes. The three North Siders—Quigley, Claypool and Suffredin—were united against the new taxes. But where was the ninth vote?

Joan Murphy and Deborah Sims, the two new south suburbanites, aligned with Stroger. John Daley and Jerry "Iceman" Butler stuck with Stroger, as did the two Latinos, Joseph Moreno and Roberto Maldonado. Stroger was the seventh vote. And Bobbie Steele decided to stick with Stroger.

But Earlean Collins, former state senator and West Side advocate, wouldn't go with Stroger. She believed that far too many county jobs were going to Stroger's South Side 8th Ward organization, and told Stroger she wouldn't vote for his submitted budget. She was the ninth vote, and sent shockwaves through the machine.

President Stroger, sensing defeat, cancelled the board meeting in December and simply refused to call another meeting.

While there is a civil service system in the county, all 27,000 officeholders ultimately report directly to the President. Even the staff of the other commissioners can be summarily dismissed by the President at any time. This is the source of the President's power, and in patronage-driven organizations, it is an awesome office to control.

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At this point, the obvious racial divisions manifested themselves at the IVI-IPO meeting. The three African-American members there leapt to Stroger's defense, essentially asking why eight white commissioners and one African-American commissioner should disrespect the African-American President of the Board, when no similar rebellion ever surfaces against the white Mayor of Chicago.

And while our members agreed that Stroger was a machine politician, the fact that Stroger appeared to be singled-out for this political backlash when other similarly-imperious political leaders (notably Mayor Daley) did not suffer the indignity of political defeat, it felt like racism to them—not any personal racism from any commissioners, but a nagging sense of unfair treatment of a high-profile African-American leader that no white leader has had to endure.

This is one of our progressive dilemmas: crusading against patronage and the inherent waste, apathy and lost opportunities for raising living standards for everyone that inherently accompanies patronage while recognizing that some of the beneficiaries of the wasteful government jobs, at least in Cook County, are disproportionately African-American. There is certainly white patronage (just ask Tom Hynes or Michael Madigan), but a large number of those jobs go to African-American workers.

The conversation remained civil and Commissioner Suffredin was remarkably patient with losing the last half of his time to an unscheduled talk on racism. It taught me that white progressives must reach out to African-Americans and Latinos who share our values but do not share the white privilege of not having to think about race. (It reminds me of when I spent a week in Japan, and as the only non-Japanese face whenever I left my college group, I was constantly thinking about race). Since African-Americans and Latinos would disproportionately benefit from a better county government, as they would use the services of a better county hospital more than more affluent whites, minority communities and their leaders are our natural allies. Many of them are still stuck in patronage-driven distribution of government benefits (as President Stroger certainly is), and we need to continue to attack wasteful government spending without triggering the ever-present suspicions of racial bias. And I do believe the burden is on white progressives to make the extra effort, because we're the fortunate ones who enjoy white privilege (which manifests itself in not getting pulled over as much, in being trusted more by people in power and lots of other little ways).

It's also incumbent on African-American and Latino progressives to elevate their fidelity to progressive principles above brotherhood to machine leaders who share their color but nothing else.

Editor's Note: In late February, the County Board worked out a compromise and a majority of the Board passed a budget. That majority included both President Stroger and Commissioner Suffredin.

Grace Period Voter Registration Needs A Final Push

By Dan Johnson-Weinberger

Thanks to the efforts of Representative Robin Kelly (D-Hazelcrest) and Senator James Meeks (I-Calumet City), both houses of the Illinois General Assembly have passed legislation giving voters an extra two weeks to register to vote past the traditional deadline of 28 days before the election.

Modeled after Washington State's system which has been successfully administered for more than 10 years, the grace period would allow any citizen to register to vote from 28 days to 14 days before the election if they do so in person at the office of the election administrator.

The legislation got caught up in the last-minute breakdown between the two chambers, and neither bill has passed both chambers yet. With the overtime session, there is still time, to implement the grace period for the November 2004 election (and certainly time during the November veto session to implement the grace period for the 2005 municipal races).

SB 2133 is in the House Rules Committee while SB 955 (an omnibus election reform package that includes the grace period provision) is on Second Reading in the Senate.

Representative Kelly earned the Kit Pfau Voting Rights Award from IVI-IPO for her work on this legislation. Representative Kelly not only lobbied her fellow legislators persistently, she sent out letters to all 110 election administrators in the state to seek their input and support for the bill.

Our thanks to the IVI-IPO

60th Independents' Day Dinner Event Committee



Co-Chairs

Prof. Timuel Black

Hon. Leon Despres

Hon. Dick Simpson

Co-Hosts

Hon. Clem Balanoff
Michael Bauer
Bernice Bild
Karen Boehning
Hon. Woody Bowman
Lula Bronson
Hon. Dorothy Brown
Barbara Burchjolla
David Canter
Hon. Rey Colón
Hon. John Cullerton
Hon. Barbara Flynn Currie
Lois Dobry
Hon. Dick Durbin
Hon. Rahm Emanuel
Hon. Sara Feigenholtz
Hilda Frontany
Hon. Leslie A. Hairston
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Norman Lasko
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Hon. Lisa Madigan
C. Betty Magness
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Hon. Bob Mann
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Hon. Abner J. Mikva
Helen Miller
Hon. Joe Moore
Hon. Carol Moseley-Braun
Hon. Ricardo Muñoz

Hon. Elaine Nekritz
Hon. Dawn Clark Netsch
Hon. Barack Obama
Hon. David Orr
Hon. Maria Pappas
Hon. Toni Preckwinkle
Sue Purrington
Hon. Mike Quigley
Hon. Carol Ronen
James Shapiro
Hon. Helen Shiller
Hon. Sonia Silva
Leslie Gryce Sturino
Hon. Larry Suffredin
Alice Tregay
Hon. Tom Tunney
Rich Whitehead
Betty Willhoite
Herb Ziegeldorf

SAVE THE DATE – PRESIDENTIAL AND U.S. SENATE ENDORSEMENTS

IVI-IPO members will meet Wednesday evening, **August 11** to consider endorsements for the top of the ticket in the November election. More information, including time and location will be mailed at the beginning of August. Local endorsements for contested races in districts within chapters also will be held during August. If you live outside of a chapter and there is a contest you would like us to consider, please email office@iviipo.org or call 312-939-5105 with your request as soon as possible so we can be sure to fit it in the schedule.

IVI-IPO Chapters

Downtown – Wards 2, 27, 42, 43
Far North – Wards 39, 40, 48, 49, 50; Evanston and Niles townships
Mid North – Wards 44, 46, 47
Northwest – Wards 1, 26, 30, 31, 32, 33, 35
South – Wards 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 15, 16, 20

JUDICIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

IVI-IPO's Judicial Review Committee will soon begin its work reviewing the 75 candidates for judicial retention in Cook County. We need lots of volunteers – and you don't need to be a lawyer, although familiarity with the court system is helpful. Any member of IVI-IPO, other than a judicial candidate, candidate's staff, campaign officers or relatives to the second degree may serve on this ad hoc committee. Email office@iviipo.org or call 312-939-5105 if you want to volunteer. The committee's first meeting will meet in late July or early August.

IVI-IPO YAHOO GROUP

Our members-only group carries on lively discussions of politics – national and local—and is a great way to meet fellow members and exchange ideas. You have the option of receiving messages in your mailbox of reading them on the group page, which also includes a calendar of IVI-IPO events and downloaded files that members share with one another. Email iviipo@yahoo.com and be sure to include your name in your request to join. The moderator will add you to the group within 24 hours.

IVI-IPO Welcomes New & Returning Members

Barry Aldridge	Phil Huckelberry	Rich Pope	Derrick Stinson
David Anderson	Matthew Hurd	Dawn Porter	Stacy Stoldt
David Atkins	Elizabeth Jaci	Frank Ptacek, Jr	Michael Alan Strom
Elizabeth Benson	Jennifer Jackson	Nina Puglia	Larry Suffredin
Rhoda & Henry Bernstein	Hanah Jubeh	Jitendra Punjabi	Andy Szekeres
Priscilla Butler	Richard Katz	Sue Purrington	Elliot Vieceli
Marjory Byler	John Kelleher	Harold and Gail Pye	John Viverito
& David Rutschman	Scott Kormis	Mike Radzilowsky	Michael Volini
Theresa Caporelli	Clint & Dale Krislov	Linda Randle	Don Washington
Ann Collins-Dole	Gregory LaNier	Douglas Rappe	Pierre Watkins
Donna Conroy	Kerrie Maloney Laytin	& Victoria Lata	Lydia Watts, MJ
Benjamin Crane	Theresa Lazzarini	Darrel Reynolds	Melissa Whelan
Pamela Cummings	John Leovy	Ellyn Rosen	Josephine White
Susan Darwin	Suzanne Loose	Barrett Rubens	Eduna Wilks
Carol DiCola	Richard Marcus	Renee Schaeffer	Alberta Williams
Tom Doran	Jordan Marsh	Claudia Schneider	Barbara Wilson
James Dunn	Maria Mattheis	Nancy Skinner	Craig Wimberly
Xochitl Flores	James McGovern	Joe Slovinec	Nancy Young
Elizabeth Freidheim	Anne McJanis	Brett Smiley & Ravi Shah	Patricia Young
Jess Garcia	Lizveth Mendez	Anne Smith	Steve Young
Florine Garner	Kathlyn Meyers	Flora Smith	Marjorie Zamora
Lisa Gilchrist	Regis Munio	Linda Somers	Alonzo Edgar Zaragoza
Charlotte Goldman	Sharon Myrick	Paul Somers	Myriam Zreczny
Minna Greene	Mia Park	Sigilfredo & Imelda	
Ulf Henricsson	Ollie Perryman	Souchet	
Laurel Hickman	Sheryl Pethers	Denise Staniec	
John Hopkins	Richard Plescica	Leah Staub	

Not a member yet? Just fill-out and mail-in the form on the opposite page. ⇨

Ballot Access: Amicus Brief

By Bonnie McGrath

The IVI-IPO was recently granted leave to file an amicus brief on behalf of a candidate in a groundbreaking election case currently before the Illinois Supreme Court. The case, *Girov v. Keith*, arose when a candidate for local office in Will County submitted petition forms that allegedly weren't properly bound. The hapless candidate submitted the three petition sheets to the Village Clerk, and found himself being challenged before the local 3-person Electoral Board, one of whose members was the Clerk. The Clerk testified against the candidate, and then voted, in a 2-1 vote, in favor of removing the candidate from the ballot.

In our request to file the brief, the IVI-IPO argued that the ability of local election boards to remove candidates for minor reasons, and in violation of their due process rights, has a chilling effect on ballot access and is anathema to an open, democratic, and pluralistic society. The Election Code and judicial decisions decided thereunder serve, for better or for worse, as the front gate to our democracy. Ordinary citizens who seek ballot access must contend with the arcane, confusing language of the Election Code. These citizens are also forced to confront often hostile, biased Electoral Boards whose interests are best served by limiting choices presented to voters. The case of *Girov v. Keith* can serve to promote ballot access, ensure fundamental fairness, and continue to protect the integrity of the process of elections. The IVI-IPO also argued that the holding of the Appellate Court for the Third District, if upheld by the Illinois Supreme Court, would impede the right of ordinary citizens to more fully participate in public life. It would create a system of incumbency protection that affords those holding office the power to disqualify challengers and vastly increase the costs of such challengers seeking office.

The IVI-IPO further requested in its brief the extraordinary remedy that the Illinois Supreme Court order the legislature to amend the Election Code to do away with local Election Boards because of their inherent bias.

A special thanks to 2003 Legal Eagle Award recipient Michael Sturino for his work on the amicus brief.

Independent Voters of Illinois-Independent Precinct Organization

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visit our website at www.ivipo.org

*YES! I want to join Illinois' oldest multi-issue progressive
good government organization.*

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Membership Dues:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 Single | <input type="checkbox"/> \$81.58 Share the Cost (single or joint) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Benefactor (single or joint) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$40 Joint | <input type="checkbox"/> \$125 Contributor (single or joint) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 Life Member (single or joint) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 15 Limited Income (single) | |

Please make checks payable to **IVI-IPO**. You may also charge your membership to your Visa or Master Card.
Contributions to IVI-IPO are not tax-deductible.

Name as it appears on your card _____

Credit Card Number _____

Exp. Date _____ Signature: _____

Please check the following boxes to receive meeting notices to the following committees.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative Action (state) | <input type="checkbox"/> Gay and Lesbian Caucus | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> National Affairs | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter/Website Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Action (local/city council) | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations | <input type="checkbox"/> Office Volunteer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Women's Caucus | | |

UPDATE ON COMMUNITY ACTION/MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

By Lee Snyder and Herb Ziegeldorf, Committee Chair

The CA/MA committee has been working on various issues this year:

- ♦ County issues at the Cook County Board such as the budgeting process
- ♦ Source of income discrimination in housing at the county level
- ♦ Set aside ordinance
- ♦ Proposed living wage campaign of new retail development in Chicago

Committee chair Herb Ziegeldorf and his committee have been busy in both city and county issues. One committee meeting this year featured Cook County Board member Larry Suffredin (see Lessons in Cook County Politics on page 4 of this newsletter). Herb is now working on convening a panel meeting of four commissioners of the Cook County Board to meet with his committee to discuss IVI-IPO concerns.

The set-aside ordinance has two aldermanic sponsors taking a lead at this time: Toni Preckwinkle and Walter Burnette. They are working to improve housing rights and increase affordable housing. At the May 4th City Council meeting, Alderman Preckwinkle and 22 aldermanic co-sponsors introduced the 15% affordable housing set-aside ordinance which was referred to committee. Co-sponsors included Richard Mell, Bernie Stone, and Tom Tunney. In the days before the introduction, the committee sent e-mails to all the aldermen, urging them to support the ordinance, while at the same time expressing our concerns about the reduction from a 25% set-aside and lack of constraints on condo conversion. The committee also visited the ward office of Alderman Stone to lobby on this issue, and contacted Alderman Suarez urging that his City Council committee report out the 15% set-aside to the full City Council.

IVI-IPO

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IVI-IPO is on the Web!
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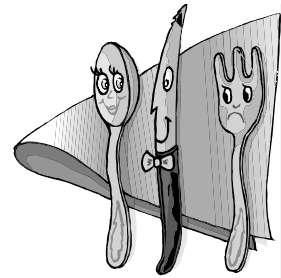
Calendar

7/13/2004 6:45 p.m. Community Action/Municipal Affairs Committee
7/19/2004 6:00 p.m. **60th Anniversary Independents' Day Dinner [IDD]**
7/19/2004 No National Affairs Committee meeting due to IDD
7/22/2004 5:00 p.m. State Board Ballots Due
7/28/2004 6:30 p.m. State Board Meeting
Coming in August—endorsements for the November election [see page 7]
8/10/2004 6:45 p.m. Community Action/Municipal Affairs Committee
8/16/2004 7:00 p.m. National Affairs Committee
8/25/2004 6:30 p.m. State Board Meeting

IVI-IPO Mission: Achieving social justice by electing good government

It's a date: July 19th

Don't delay—Get your tickets for
IVI-IPO's 60th Anniversary
Independents' Day Dinner Today!



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

