

IVI-IPO's endorsed candidates for the February 25, 2003

Chicago Municipal Election

February 4, 2003 Press Conference

PAUL JAKES, Mayor

IVI-IPO proudly supports Paul Jakes' campaign to "return government and power to the citizens." Jakes pledges to open the budget process and TIF program decision-making to the public and hold community hearings on the final budget. He will oppose corporate welfare, no-bid contracts and sweetheart deals and reign in spending on big ticket items like Millennium Park, which do not generate new economic growth. Jakes' economic development plans will focus on creating small businesses to provide additional jobs and new tax revenue for the City.

Most impressive to us is Jakes' commitment to those who have not shared in the economic prosperity of the past decade. He supports affordable housing being built throughout the city, through set-asides mandated by the new zoning ordinance. He supports one-for-one replacement of demolished public housing units and opposes use of tax dollars to underwrite the cost of luxury private market units. Jakes would insist that TIF districts be used for their intended purpose, to spur commercial development in blighted neighborhoods and not to subsidize developers in and near downtown and other economically thriving areas.

Providing for the educational needs of the existing school population would take precedence over building new schools in middle and upper income areas. New neighborhood schools would be built to reduce overcrowding and magnet schools would be created in more low-income areas to provide enhanced opportunities to the children most in need. Jakes will end the City's power grab of the school system and return control to the parents, teachers and community who are best able to ascertain the needs of their local schools. He will reinstitute a community nomination system to select School Board members.

Paul Jakes will be a mayor for all the people, not just the well-to-do and the well-connected.

WILLIAM WALLS, Clerk

A former assistant to Mayor Harold Washington, William Walls would bring a wealth of administrative experience and knowledge of Chicago government to the Clerk's office. He supports IVI-IPO's council reforms, such as numbering proposed ordinances and enabling the public to track legislation and voting records through the Clerk's website. Walls also has some intriguing ideas to stimulate commerce and the local economy, specifically a "Buy Chicago" program which he would promote through the Clerk's office.

MANNY FLORES, 1st Ward

An Assistant States Attorney with both civil and criminal prosecutorial experience, Manny Flores' first priority is public safety. His campaign calls for reorganization of police beats to ensure that high crime areas have adequate police coverage and involvement of neighborhood residents in developing a crime prevention and community safety plan. Flores' other goals are to bring more infrastructure improvements to the ward and to hold the line on property tax increases through better management of the City's budget.

MADLINE HAITHCOCK, 2nd Ward

Madeline Haithcock's priorities as alderman have been creating jobs, reducing crime, building more affordable housing and bringing new business interests into the ward. She has also worked to improve neighborhood schools, through lobbying the state for additional funding and by contacting corporations to obtain funding to supplement school services.

PATRICIA DOWELL, 3rd Ward

Patricia Dowell is an urban planner, community activist and business leader. As Executive Director of the Mid South Planning and Development Council, she helped to save several significant buildings from demolition and successfully convert them to useful assets to the Grand Boulevard neighborhood. Dowell has a vision and a plan for revitalizing the 3rd Ward, which she maintains is "under-represented, under-developed and under-appreciated for its cultural gems and historic richness."

TONI PRECKWINKLE, 4th Ward

Twelve years ago, Toni Preckwinkle promised to bring commitment, service and action to the Alderman's office and she has delivered on that promise. She has created a responsive service office and involves local school councils, park advisory councils and other constituents in planning and decision making in their neighborhood. Residential and commercial development are critical issues in the 4th Ward and Preckwinkle has worked with local groups to bring a new shopping center and mixed income housing to the community. Preckwinkle continues to be a leader in the city-wide campaign for a Living Wage.

LESLIE HAIRSTON, 5th Ward

Completing her first term in office, Leslie Hairston has successfully reestablished the community involvement and outreach that had long been a hallmark of the 5th Ward Aldermanic office. She has worked with neighborhood residents to improve parks and schools and has solicited input from key business leaders to bring new companies and services to the ward. Hairston's plans for the coming term include obtaining social services to assist seniors on an as-needed basis to maintain their property or, if they prefer, to relocate to more easily accessible housing.

FREDDRENNA LYLE, 6th Ward

Freddrenna Lyle has been a dedicated, committed and effective representative for the 6th Ward since appointment to the office in 1998. Her top priorities include revitalizing and stabilizing existing housing, providing new housing in Englewood and improving police response time to emergency calls. Lyle proposes redeveloping business districts throughout the ward by establishing business clusters and replacing abandoned storefronts with housing or institutional uses.

THEODORE THOMAS, 15th Ward

Ted Thomas' activist background is reflected in his successful first term as an alderman who works through community groups, planning sessions and town hall meetings to involve residents in neighborhood decisions. He has obtained capital improvements for local schools and parks and supports utilizing TIF districts to create low-income housing, as well as to spur commercial development. Thomas is a leader in the living wage campaign and a sponsor of the set-aside ordinance to distribute affordable housing throughout the City.

LATASHA THOMAS, 17th Ward

Running for her first full term as alderman, Latasha Thomas pledges to secure more resources for school construction, expand available reading specialists in elementary schools and replace abandoned buildings with new in-fill housing, businesses and institutions. She continues to work with community organizations, special constituencies and economic development groups to build consensus for ward projects and initiatives.

LYDIA WATTS, 20th Ward

Lydia Watts is a health care administrator with management and budget experience, program development and infrastructure knowledge and a firm understanding of coalition building. She is also an independent thinker who values community input and direction and will not be afraid to challenge the status quo. Watts advocates a balance of resource allocation between residential projects downtown and in the neighborhoods and plans to develop a community chamber of commerce and community advisory council to review and recommend commercial development in the ward.

LEONARD DEVILLE, 21st Ward

Safer streets was a major issue in Leonard DeVille's campaign four years ago, and he has worked to accomplish that as alderman, through personal involvement with CAPS and outspoken advocacy of handgun control, including the Child Gun Sales Civil Liability Act. Job creation and economic development are also among his primary goals and DeVille has cited a need for a cohesive planning process among neighboring aldermen to ensure that development in one ward does not have an adverse impact on other wards.

DENNIS DEER, 24th Ward

Dennis Deer is a Rehabilitation Counselor with extensive community and civic experience working with disadvantaged populations. His goals for the office include promoting affordable home ownership, fairness in granting city contracts, greater use of technology in government and providing better information regarding City programs and services. Deer pledges to hold monthly planning meetings and revive the community conservation council to educate and involve residents in development and other neighborhood issues.

ANTONIO ZOTTA, 25th Ward

Probation officer and former caseworker Antonio Zotta identifies public safety as one of the top priorities for the 25th Ward. He supports reallocation of police resources to high crime neighborhoods and creation of after school programs to provide alternative activities for at-risk youth. To create a stronger link between schools and the community they serve, Zotta proposes an incentive program to provide low rate mortgages to teachers who move into the neighborhood in which they teach.

BILLY OCASIO, 26th Ward

During Billy Ocasio's ten years as alderman, the 26th ward has received hundreds of new, affordable housing units, established a vocational training center, built new schools and upgraded existing facilities. A comprehensive plan for Humboldt Park, forged by a community summit convened by Ocasio, continues to provide the blueprint for neighborhood development and all proposals must be presented to the community before obtaining aldermanic approval. Ocasio has also been a leading advocate of immigrant rights and economic justice for the working poor throughout Chicago.

WALTER BURNETT, JR., 27th Ward

Walter Burnett is running for reelection as alderman on a record of enhancing business opportunities, sustaining existing industries and fighting for affordable housing for the residents of his ward. Stabilizing the West Humboldt community with new residential and commercial development is a priority for his next term.

MARSHALL HATCH, 29th Ward

A long-time leader of Rainbow/PUSH, Marshall Hatch has been a fighter for social and economic justice for over 20 years. He has helped lead the fight against tax scavengers and predatory lenders in his community and the campaign to curtail suburban dealers from selling guns to neighborhood youths. His major goals as alderman include increasing job opportunities, public health services, affordable housing and after school programs and "ending old boss style politics and replacing it with accessibility, accountability, openness, advocacy and fairness for all." Hatch will be a strong, independent voice in the City Council.

ARIEL REBOYRAS, 30th Ward

Ariel Reboyras is a former Chicago Public Schools teacher, currently the Deputy Commissioner for Chicago Department of General Services. He supports changes in the zoning code to help foster affordable housing and increase open space, as well as creation of transit oriented businesses and long-range planning for the disparate areas of the new 30th ward. Reboyras will create a ward advisory council to work with community organizations and chambers of commerce to ensure that residents are educated on local issues and have their voices heard.

JAY STONE, 32nd Ward

Campaign finance and zoning reform are Jay Stone's major legislative priorities. He supports a ban on campaign donations from people doing business with the City, a proposal IVI-IPO has long supported to eliminate favoritism and special interest influence in zoning and contracts. Protecting against overdevelopment and involving residents in zoning and planning decisions are Stone's top ward initiatives. He is critical of the abuse of TIF designation in non-blighted areas and the inequities in its application to commercial property at the expense of residential property owners. Stone will be a thoughtful, independent and reform-minded alderman.

REY COLÓN, 35th Ward

"Restoring the public's trust in good government through an open process of local involvement" is the top priority for Rey Colón, a social services manager and former President of the Logan Square Neighborhood Association. He promises to develop a ward wide planning process to help stabilize property values, maintain affordability of housing, promote retail development, increase transportation choices and create more parks and open spaces. Colón will refuse any campaign donations from City vendors and will establish a ward office that serves as a community resource center where residents can obtain information, services and referrals without regard to their political affiliation.

MINERVA OROZCO, 37th Ward

Securing a full-services public library for the 37th ward will be one of Minerva Orozco's first priorities as alderman. The long-time community activist cites other ward needs as well and proposes private/public partnerships to provide low cost medical assistance in the neighborhood and to help students with job training and placement. She supports local school councils and will work with them to increase parental involvement, reduce truancy and increase test scores. Orozco also supports creation of affordable housing in the ward and upgrading recreational centers for youth and seniors.

RICK INGRAM, 44th Ward

As president of Lakeview Action Coalition, Rick Ingram helped lead the successful effort to preserve affordable housing in the community and cites over-development as the most critical issue facing the ward. He will create a ward-wide planning and development board to review proposed developments, prepare a comprehensive plan for future development and open the entire process to community input. Ingram also pledges to be an independent voice in the City Council and to advocate for public input and debate on issues of importance to his constituents and Chicago residents as a whole.

TOM TUNNEY, 44th Ward

Tom Tunney has made a long term investment in the Lakeview community, both as a business owner and a resident and has built relationships across the spectrum with the many diverse groups in the ward. His top priorities are improving city services, reducing crime, improving education and fostering community directed development. He will create a Ward Community Directed Development Committee to hold public forums to debate and vote on zoning issues in the neighborhood. Tunney proposes coordination of the five Chambers of Commerce in the area into one marketing group for Lakeview.

PETE CONWAY, 45th Ward

A financial services manager, Pete Conway's business background is evident in his proposal to institute professional management and customer service in the 45th ward office. He promises to run a responsive office that meets the needs of the community, social and civic groups of the neighborhood. Former President of the Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association, Conway was instrumental in securing funding for the improvement of the local Metra station. He pledges to create a Ward Zoning Advisory Board and develop a strategic plan of economic development.

HELEN SHILLER, 46th Ward

Helen Shiller believes that when you think something is wrong you have a responsibility to do something about it and she has been doing that for sixteen years as dean of the independents of the Chicago City Council. She has established a service office that is a model of efficiency and constituent satisfaction and has not hesitated to speak out on public policy issues, even when she has been the lone voice of dissent. Shiller's priorities include supporting ongoing and new affordable housing initiatives, continuing to facilitate democratic processes for development decisions and pushing for legalization of domestic violence residences.

EUGENE SCHULTER, 47th Ward

Eugene Schulter has worked strenuously to improve schools, parks, library, transit, housing and retail areas of the 47th ward. He has worked to create affordable housing and to retain businesses in the industrial corridors. Through downzoning, he has managed to control density and maintain the neighborhood character of the ward, while surrounding communities are plagued with unsightly and inappropriate overdevelopment. Schulter is a firm believer in community process and collaborations between the public and private sectors and his constituents have greatly benefited from his leadership.

JOE MOORE, 49th Ward

One of the few independent voices on the City Council, Joe Moore has also demonstrated a commitment to constituent democracy as he leads perhaps the most economically and ethnically diverse ward in Chicago. He has been instrumental in obtaining new school and library construction, commercial development and rehabilitation of the Howard CTA station. Maintaining the affordability of the area's rental housing, as well as creating home ownership opportunities for low and moderate income families, continues to be one of his top priorities. IVI-IPO also applauds Moore's sponsorship of the recent anti-war resolution which has encouraged communities throughout the nation to speak out against a multi-billion dollar military adventure which will drain desperately needed funding from social services and local governments.