

IVI-IPO 2006 ATTORNEY GENERAL QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 1

DATE: July 10, 2006 **PARTY:** Democrat

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CAMPAIGN MANAGER: Chris Dunn

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED: 10,000 **NUMBER REQUIRED:** 5,000

*Please use an additional sheet to complete the following background information: **PLEASE SEE ATTACHED SHEET.***

- A) Elective or appointive public or party offices previously held including dates.
- B) Other elective offices for which you have been a candidate.
- C) What is your primary occupation?
- D) Briefly list your civic activities of the past ten years.
- E) What subjects have you studied and what experience have you had which will be most helpful to you in the office you seek?
- F) What candidates have you supported? Please be specific in describing your role in each campaign.
- G) Please list all endorsements you have received so far.
- 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) What is your campaign budget? How much have you raised to date?
- J) How many people are on your campaign staff? How many volunteers are on your list?

IVI-IPO 2006 ATTORNEY GENERAL QUESTIONNAIRE

Background Information

- A) Elective or appointive public or party offices previously held including dates.

Since 2002, I have been the Illinois Attorney General. Before that, I served as Illinois State Senator, representing the 17th Legislative district, from 1998 until 2002.

- B) Other elected offices for which you have been a candidate.

State Senate, 17th Legislative District.

- C) What is your primary occupation?

Attorney General for the State of Illinois.

- D) Briefly list your civic activities of the past ten years.

Please see the attached biography.

- E) What subjects have you studied and what experience have you had which will be most helpful to you in the office you seek?

Please see the attached biography.

- F) What candidates have you supported? Please be specific in describing your role in each campaign.

Early in my career, I worked for U.S. Senator Paul Simon. In recent years, I have worked to elect progressive women to public office through my active involvement with organizations including Women's Voices, Women's Votes, Illinois Democratic Women, and the Illinois Women's Institute for Leadership.

- G) Please list all endorsements you have received so far.

Although I was uncontested in the primary election, which meant many organizations declined to offer any endorsement, the following organizations endorsed my candidacy:

Citizen Action

Illinois AFL-CIO

Chicago Fire Fighters Union

Personal PAC

Illinois Planned Parenthood

Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters

Democratic Party of the 49th Ward

Indo-American Democratic Organization

United Hellenic Voters of America

Proviso Township Regular Democratic Organization

SEIU Illinois Council
Effingham County Democrats

In the general election, my candidacy has been endorsed thus far by the Illinois Education Association and Personal PAC.

- 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 sought the office of Attorney General in 2002 because I believed that it offered the greatest opportunity to advocate for and protect the people of Illinois. Throughout my term as Attorney General, I have put that belief into action and have served as an aggressive and independent advocate, in and out of court, for the people. As a result, I have established a solid track record of standing up for our communities and families. By aggressively taking action in court and by working closely with legislators of both parties to draft and fight for new legislation, I have worked hard to protect consumers from unfair and predatory practices, shield seniors from scams and abuse, help consumers prevent identity theft, protect women and children from sexual assault and domestic violence, and safeguard our environment. I have demonstrated that I am the best candidate to be an independent legal advocate on behalf of the people of Illinois.

- I)** What is your campaign budget? How much have you raised to date?

It is unclear how expensive the general election will be. I anticipate spending no less than \$2 million, but the circumstances of the race will determine the total budget for the campaign. As required by law, a detailed disclosure of my campaign contributions and expenditures will be filed with the State Board of Elections and available for public review.

- J)** How many people are on your campaign staff? How many volunteers are on your list?

I have 9 people working in various capacities on my campaign staff. My campaign is focused on grassroots outreach to people all over the state and, as a result, I have attracted volunteers from every area of my life and every corner of Illinois. Our current volunteer list includes over 3,000 people with varying levels of involvement in my campaign.

IVI-IPO 2006 ATTORNEY GENERAL QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 2

1. Will you accept or have you accepted campaign donations from current or potential suppliers, employees or outside contractors?

I have adopted a policy of not accepting campaign contributions from employees of the Office of the Attorney General, their spouses or domestic partners, or from entities that have contracts with the Office.

2. Will you employ or have you employed staff in your office who hold other public sector jobs concurrently?

My Office does not employ staff members who hold other employment in the public sector. However, from time to time, the Office has employed staff members who hold positions with other government bodies. For example, when I took office, one of our staff members was an alderman in the City of Springfield and another staff member is an alderman in Murphysboro, Illinois. Under the Office policies, when a staff member initially seeks such an outside position, he or she must obtain the approval of the Chief of Staff who works with the Ethics Officer to ensure that the outside activity does not raise any ethical concerns based on that staff member's position in the Office.

3. Will you employ or have you employed staff in your office who have either outside employment or contracts with entities which do business with the State of Illinois?

The policies of my Office prevent staff members from engaging in employment with entities that do business with the Office. Additionally, our policies prevent the attorneys employed by the Office from engaging in the practice of law outside the Office.

4. In what circumstances should the Attorney General contract for outside professional services and what criteria would you implement for letting contracts? Please comment on any existing abuses and how you would correct them.

The lawyers within the Office should represent the people of Illinois except in very limited circumstances when a complex case requires particular expertise not available in the Office or when the Attorney General has a conflict of interest. The criteria for hiring outside counsel should be narrow: the expertise and experience the attorneys will bring to the particular case and their cost. As Attorney General, I have sought to limit the hiring of outside counsel unless required by statute or necessitated by the dictates of a particular complex case or ethical rules.

5. Would you support contracting for outside services with companies located outside Illinois? Why or why not?

My Office adheres to all of the laws governing contracting and procurement and seeks to do business, whenever possible, with Illinois companies.

6. Do you support patronage?

I think it is critical that all public offices hire the most qualified people for the job, regardless of political affiliation or personal connections.

7. Do you support Affirmative Action?

I believe that we must create true equality of opportunity for all. We should start by giving those who now have the fewest educational opportunities a chance to learn and excel through quality education.

8. Do you favor restructuring the wage scale of state employees to correct disparities based on gender by instituting equal pay for jobs of comparable worth?

Yes. As a State Senator and as Attorney General, I have strongly supported equal pay initiatives.

9. Do you favor

a. capital punishment?

I support the use of capital punishment for heinous crimes where no doubt of guilt exists. I also have consistently and strongly supported reforms designed to ensure that our criminal system provides justice. As a State Senator, I pushed for legislation to enact significant reforms. As Attorney General, I have repeatedly demonstrated my commitment to work with legislators to enact reforms and to work with law enforcement and prosecutors to implement reforms. Early in my term as Attorney General, for example, my Office created and implemented a comprehensive training program to educate law enforcement and prosecutors on the provisions of a new law requiring electronically recorded interrogations and to teach them how to conduct these interrogations in accordance with the law.

b. criminal prosecution of juveniles as adults?

The ability to prosecute juveniles as adults can be an important and appropriate tool for prosecutors in limited circumstances, such as cases involving serious, violent crimes committed by juveniles close to adulthood.

c. mandatory sentencing?

I believe that mandatory sentencing has an appropriate place as part of a comprehensive sentencing scheme which ensures that violent offenders and especially repeat, violent offenders, such as child sexual predators, are sufficiently punished.

d. work release, home monitoring, other alternative sentencing?

I support work release, home monitoring, and other alternative sentencing programs.

e. wiretapping and surveillance of private persons?

I support wiretapping and surveillance conducted by the police in accordance with the dictates of the United States and Illinois Constitutions, all applicable state and federal laws, and as part of an ongoing investigation of criminal activity.

f. roving wiretaps?

I support roving wiretaps when used in accordance with the United States and Illinois Constitutions, all applicable state and federal laws, and as part of an ongoing, substantiated investigation of criminal activity.

g. "stop and frisk" laws?

I believe it is appropriate for police officers to stop and frisk individuals when they comply with the law as set forth in *Terry v. Ohio* and subsequent United States Supreme Court and Illinois Supreme Court rulings.

10. Is racial profiling a legitimate tool in law enforcement? Why or why not?

Racial profiling is one of the foremost criminal justice and civil rights problems in our country. I do not believe racial profiling is a legitimate law enforcement tool. In fact, research shows that focusing on racial profiling as a means of identifying criminals prevents law enforcement officers from accurately and effectively recognizing criminals. As a State Senator, I sponsored legislation requiring law enforcement officers to record the race of the motorists stopped and requiring the compilation and study of this data to assist in determining whether a pattern of discrimination exists and how to end this discrimination. As Attorney General, I have continued to support the current program to gather and study this data.

11. Do you favor continuation of the current moratorium on capital punishment in Illinois? If not, how would you address the inequities enumerated in the report of the Commission on the Death Penalty?

The moratorium was put in place to make sure that the death penalty would not be carried out in Illinois until the State enacted significant reforms assuring that this punishment could only be applied in a fair and just manner and to those who are truly guilty. I continue to be committed to working with legislators of both parties, law enforcement, prosecutors and the death penalty reform community to study the current reforms to determine whether they have effectively eliminated some of the significant problems that caused the State and the courts to exonerate numerous defendants and to evaluate, and where necessary advocate for, additional reform measures.

12. Do you support the provisions outlined in the Illinois Comprehensive Anti-Terrorism Act of 2001?

I believe that law enforcement should have the tools necessary to keep our communities safe. The provisions of our current Illinois law allow law enforcement to ensure that Illinoisans are safe from terrorists and prosecute those that perpetrate acts of terrorism. I support these provisions as they are carried out by law enforcement entities in accordance with the protections in the United States and Illinois Constitutions, all applicable state and federal laws, and as part of ongoing investigations of criminal activity.

13. Does the present Illinois prison system serve the long term needs of law enforcement and prisoner rehabilitation in Illinois? Why or why not?

To protect the citizens of Illinois and appropriately punish offenders, we must incarcerate many types of criminals. However, we must constantly evaluate and consider changes to our system to make sure that we are placing an emphasis on rehabilitation and are working to reduce the recidivism rate and increase the chance that many offenders, especially non-violent, first-time criminals, can become productive members of society.

During my first term as Attorney General, I focused significant effort on changing the way that our system approaches sex offenders, who often have the highest recidivism rates. For example, I held public hearings across the State to seek input on how to better manage sex offenders in Illinois. I sought input from victim advocates, law enforcement, criminal justice experts, and treatment providers. As a result of my work, I drafted bills to require treatment of sex offenders, to provide the State with greater options in imposing parole conditions that take into account the specific risks posed by these offenders, and to require that after the most dangerous of these offenders complete their prison sentences, they will be subject to extended terms of probation (potentially for natural life) based on their specific risk. These bills are all now law and give law enforcement greater flexibility to protect women and children in Illinois by addressing the specific risks posed by these dangerous offenders.

14. Please outline the programs you would institute in the Attorney General's office, including any changes in the law that these programs require:

a) Criminal Justice

The 102 county State's Attorneys and the local sheriffs and police departments play the lead role in investigating and prosecuting everyday crimes in Illinois. The primary role of the Attorney General in criminal matters is to provide assistance in investigating and prosecuting crime to local law enforcement. I have made it a priority of my Office to increase the amount and effectiveness of the assistance provided to local law enforcement. Additionally, during my first term as Attorney General, I have

- (1) conducted trainings across the state for law enforcement officers and prosecutors to make sure that they have the tools necessary to combat methamphetamine in their communities,
- (2) successfully argued a case in the United States Supreme Court to protect the ability of law enforcement agencies to reduce the trafficking of illegal drugs through and into Illinois communities,
- (3) drafted several key legislative proposals to strengthen the laws to curb the manufacture, sale and use of methamphetamine,
- (4) drafted a number of new laws to protect our communities from sex offenders,
- (5) implemented new tools for law enforcement to use to protect women and children from the vicious cycle of domestic violence,
- (6) enhanced and streamlined the Office's process for providing assistance to crime victims across the state, and
- (7) strengthened the Office's administration of the Illinois Youth Court Association, which helps steer troubled youth away from the path of delinquency.

b) Gangs and c) Drugs

I have made combating the spread of methamphetamine a key priority during my first term in office. As part of this effort, for example, I have worked with the General Assembly to draft and

push for legislation that revamped the meth-related sections of the Illinois Criminal Code to make the laws simpler to understand and easier for law enforcement and prosecutors to enforce. I have advocated for legislation to increase the penalties for meth makers who endanger children or pollute the environment, and to make it harder for the makers of this deadly drug to purchase the ingredients they need. My Office has awarded grants to organizations that work with Illinois youth to educate them about the dangers of meth, actively prosecuted meth producers in the state, and expanded outreach and training to farmers and law enforcement to help them curb the spread of meth in their communities.

d) Consumer Protection

I believe it is the Attorney General's job to be the State's chief consumer advocate. In this role, I have established a strong track record of fighting for Illinois consumers. As part of this effort, I have focused on strengthening consumer protection laws, increasing education and outreach to the public on consumer issues, taking aggressive court action where necessary to protect Illinois consumers, and making my Office more available to the public by increasing the accessibility of our consumer protection division.

Working with the legislature, I have drafted and advocated for the passage of several important legislative measures to protect consumers. As just an example of these many initiatives, I have worked with consumer advocacy organizations in Illinois to draft and push for the passage of effective reforms to curb predatory lending and unfair payday loan practices and to fight the devastating problem of mortgage fraud.

In addition to legislative action, I have also taken numerous court actions to safeguard consumers from fraud. For example, through legal actions, I have secured millions of dollars in consumer rebates from People's Energy for unfair manipulation of natural gas prices. And I am currently fighting in court to prevent unnecessary and unfair increases in ComEd's and Ameren's electricity rates.

Because of the increasing incidence of crimes and scams that target consumers' privacy, I have made privacy protection a key priority. For example, with identity theft as one of the fastest growing crimes in the nation, I have formed an Identity Theft Complaint Unit with specially-trained attorneys and advocates and an identity theft hotline to assist consumers in preventing this crime and work with victims to restore their credit. Additionally, my staff and I have drafted a number of bills to help consumers protect themselves from identity theft. Also as part of our privacy protection work, my Office was the first in the nation to file suit against companies that illegally obtain and sell consumers' cell phone records.

To increase the accessibility of my Office and the services we provide, I have created a Mobile Community Service Office that visits communities throughout the State to distribute consumer protection information, answer consumer questions, and help people fill out complaint forms. I have also created a bilingual consumer protection line so that Spanish-speaking consumers will be able to get the assistance they need, hired staff members who can provide assistance to Polish-speaking consumers, and translated numerous consumer protection brochures into several languages.

e) Civil Rights

My Office drafted and advocated for passage of legislation to amend the Illinois Human Rights Act to allow the Attorney General to initiate a civil action against anyone who commits repeated violations of civil rights laws. During my tenure as Attorney General, we have expanded the Disability Rights Bureau of the Office and taken aggressive action to advocate for the rights of the disabled. For example, we negotiated the largest-ever settlement of its kind with Walgreens, which will result in greater access to the company's stores for people with disabilities.

15. What should be the role of the Attorney General in enforcing state and local EPA laws and regulations? Please specify and rank your areas of major concern in environmental law enforcement.

I believe that the Attorney General should be an aggressive advocate, working to clean up our environment and protect our natural resources. My Office handles environmental enforcement cases referred to us by the IEPA, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and other state agencies with responsibilities relating to the environmental laws. Additionally, my staff and I can and have used the power and authority of the Office to work with citizens groups and environmental advocacy organizations to protect the public and our environment by pursuing enforcement actions that the IEPA has not identified.

My strong environmental protection record as Attorney General clearly demonstrates my willingness to take action to go after polluters, to advocate to strengthen state laws protecting the environment, and to stand up to oppose federal efforts to weaken critical provisions in our national environmental protection laws. For example, I have on a number of occasions joined with a handful of other attorneys general to oppose Bush Administration efforts to rollback Clean Air Act provisions that require power plants to devote resources to putting in place the most up-to-date technology to reduce pollution that has devastating health consequences for Illinois residents and our environment.

My areas of concern in environmental law enforcement have been and will continue to be:

- (1) enforcing our clean air laws to ensure that we are developing effective plans to provide a safe and healthy environment for our children;
- (2) enforcing our clean water laws to make sure that our over-taxed rivers, lakes and streams are protected from further degradation; and
- (3) protecting our open spaces and natural areas by advocating for effective growth policies to counter sprawl.

16. Will you establish a tenant ombudsman in your office to protect the rights of tenants throughout the state?

Currently my Office provides all types of consumer protection information and tips, including information to assist tenants and to assist homeowners who struggle with predatory mortgage lending practices and mortgage "rescue" scams. I have been and will continue to be interested in working with consumers, legal aid providers and consumer advocacy organizations to increase the resources available to consumers on all issues, including tenants' rights.

17. What is your legislative agenda and how would you further your agenda for the Attorney General's office?

In each year of my first term as Attorney General, I have pursued an aggressive legislative agenda to protect the people of Illinois. My legislative efforts are detailed on my Office website: www.ag.state.il.us. For example, I have successfully advanced legislative proposals to strengthen the laws to better protect women and children from sexual offenders and domestic violence, safeguard consumers from unfair and predatory practices, shield seniors from scams and abuse, and to preserve our environment. In addition, I drafted, and the legislature approved, important legislation to make it more difficult to buy key ingredients needed in the manufacture of methamphetamine and to crack down on meth manufacturers. I plan to continue working with the legislature to make sure we have the tools necessary to keep our communities safe and protect all the people of Illinois.

18. How will you prevent political and partisan concerns from influencing legal opinions emanating from the Attorney General's office?

I have a strong and clear track record of independence and of basing my judgments and actions on only the facts and the law. I have demonstrated this, for example, in my decisions (a) to reject Governor Blagojevich's proposed deal to mortgage the Thompson Center, (b) to reject Governor Blagojevich's proposal to expand the Illinois Lottery to include keno games, (c) to advise the State Department of Transportation that it does not have the authority, without legislative approval, to convey State-owned land for less than fair market value to groups seeking to build a Peotone Airport, (d) to aggressively pursue revocation of the Emerald casino license and to refuse to agree to efforts to locate the 10th casino in Rosemont, and (e) to vigorously pursue criminal investigations of public corruption throughout the state, including, for example, the indictment, trial and conviction of Democratic State Representative Patricia Bailey.

Additionally, I have worked to prevent political or partisan concerns from influencing Illinois government at all levels by aggressively enforcing the open government laws. Specifically, I have created in my Office the new position of Public Access Counselor and used that position to advise citizens, members of the media and government officials on the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act and the Open Meetings Act. When violations of these laws have come to our attention, the Public Access Counselor has taken action to force government bodies to correct these violations. As part of this work, the Public Access Counselor has responded to well over 1,000 inquiries and has conducted more than 75 training sessions on these laws for citizens, government officials and members of the media throughout the State.

19. How would you balance your roles as attorney for state officials vs. attorney for the people of Illinois?

As Attorney General, I have exercised my power to safeguard the interests of Illinois citizens by bringing many cases to enforce the laws which individuals, due to limited resources, do not have the ability to file. When representing the State in litigation, I have made decisions only after considering the needs of the State government when fulfilling its role on behalf of the people as well as the interests of all of the people of Illinois.