

IVI-IPO 2006 COUNTY BOARD PRESIDENT QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 1

DATE August 17, 2006 DISTRICT: N/A PARTY: Democrat

NAME: Todd H. Stroger

VOTING ADDRESS: 8534 S Blackstone Ave., Chicago, IL 60619

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CAMPAIGN MANAGER: Mike Noonan

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED: N/A NUMBER REQUIRED: N/A

Please use an additional sheet to complete the following background information:

- 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?

Background Information Questions
IVI-IPO 2006 County Board President Questionnaire

I. Introduction

Less than one month ago, on July 18, 2006, the Cook County Democratic Central Committee selected Todd H. Stroger to fill the then-existing ballot vacancy for Democratic nominee for Cook County Board President. Stroger, presently Alderman of the 8th Ward of the City of Chicago, received 77 percent of the weighted vote; the unsuccessful candidate, U.S. Rep. Donny Davis (D-Ill.), immediately endorsed Todd Stroger upon his selection.

Included here for the informational benefit of IVI-IPO members are Todd Stroger's remarks to the Central Committee on July 18, 2006.

II. IVI-IPO Background Questions

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

Alderman, 8 th Ward Chicago City Council	2001-2006
State Representative Illinois General Assembly	1992-2001
Delegate Democratic National Convention	1996 and 2000

During his General Assembly tenure, Todd Stroger served as Chairman, House Local Government Committee; Chairman, House Labor Committee; Trustee, Illinois General Assembly Retirement System; Member, Joint Committee on Administration Rules; and Treasurer, Illinois Legislative Black Caucus. Todd Stroger also has served on numerous committees of the Chicago City Council and Illinois House of Representatives.

Todd Stroger's previous public employment experience includes service as Administrative Aide to the General Superintendent of Finance and General Services, Chicago Park District (1991-1994); and Jury Supervisor, Cook County Jury Commission (1991).

B. *Other elective offices for which you have been a candidate.*

None.

C. *What is your primary occupation?*

Todd Stroger is a full-time Alderman of the 8th Ward, Chicago City Council.

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

Todd Stroger has long been concerned about quality health care in his community, and has served on the Board of Directors of two hospitals: South Shore Hospital and Jackson Park Hospital.

He has also been concerned with promoting opportunities for public service within the African-American community, serving as Treasurer of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus and engaging in major fundraising for the United Negro College Fund.

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

Todd Stroger graduated with a B.A. in History and a minor in Math from Xavier University in New Orleans in 1988. He also completed course work in computer training from DePaul University in 1991.

In addition to a wealth of public sector experience Todd Stroger worked as an investment banker from 1994 to 2001 with the firm SBK-Brooks Investment Company.

As reflected in his remarks to the Central Committee below, Todd Stroger's experiences have well prepared him for the many facets of the Office of Cook County Board President.

On the budget-related aspects of the office, Stroger's experience as an investment banker, pension fund trustee, legislator and alderman will be most helpful, as will his educational background.

His service as Chairman of the Illinois House Committee on Local Government gives him keen insight into the policy issues that confront the Office of Cook County Board President. Similar insights derive from his service as Chairman of the Illinois House Committee on Labor relative to labor-management issues.

His elective service in Springfield and Chicago, together with his practical experience as a director of two hospitals, affords Todd Stroger insights into the public health aspects of the office he seeks.

Todd Stroger's experience with Chicago Park District is relevant to the mission of maintaining public recreational assets at the Cook County Forest Preserve District, an important responsibility for the Cook County Board President.

His background as a Jury Supervisor, as well as his brief tenure as a statistician in the Office of the Chief Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County, provides Stroger with some practical exposure to our civil and criminal court system.

Stroger's tenure as Trustee of the Illinois General Assembly Retirement System serves as practical background for the role that the Cook County Board President plays in helping ensure a stable, well-funded Cook County Employees Annuity and Benefit Fund.

The practical experience of serving constituents on a daily basis for 15 years, first as State Representative and then as Alderman, is especially important background for potential service as Cook County Board President.

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

Todd Stroger, through Young Democrats, as a delegate to two Democratic National Conventions, as an active member of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus, and as a State Representative and Alderman, has supported numerous candidates for public office – many of whom have received the endorsement of IVI-IPO. During the 1996 and 2000 national elections, for example, Todd Stroger supported Bill Clinton and Al Gore for President. Other examples include Lisa Madigan, in her primary and general election campaign for Illinois attorney General, Barack Obama, in his general election campaign for U.S. Senate, and Marlow Colvin, in his various races for Illinois State Representative.

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

Todd Stroger's campaign is now in its early stages, and a great many organizations have reached out to offer help and support. At the juncture, less than one month into his campaign, endorsements are in the formative shape.

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 sincerely believe that I am better suited to build on past successes, and to bring needed efficiencies and modernizations to Cook County government, than my general election opponent.”

“My style of working collaboratively with others and building consensus, I believe, will yield better results for the citizens of Cook County than the combative style of my opponent.

“My immediate priorities include: finding efficiencies throughout Cook County government, bringing modern technologies and processes to County government wherever they are now lacking, and bringing in professionals with relevant backgrounds to manage the functions under the Office of Cook County Board president. To enact the changes that are needed, while preserving the mission of county government to provide critical services, will require political support from the county board – something I sincerely believe I will be able to develop more consistently than my opponent.

“I intend to be a full-time Cook County Board President, without any outside employment or interests, and I will not have the potential distractions and conflicts that may arise from simultaneously serving as a Commissioner.”

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

With the campaign now less than a month old, campaign fundraising is in its earliest of stages. Todd Stroger intends to raise and spend that amount sufficient to be successful in November.

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

The campaign staff, presently in its formative stages, has both paid and volunteer people, and the campaign is now developing extensive volunteer support from numerous organizations that support candidacy of Todd Stroger.

III. Remarks to Central Committee on July 18, 2006

Chairman Madigan and members of the Cook County Democratic Central Committee, good morning. I am grateful for this opportunity to address you.

Unusual and unforeseen events have brought us together today. Let me first acknowledge, and express appreciation for, the many kindnesses so many of you have extended to the Stroger family throughout the past several months. As any family that has dealt with serious illness can attest, heartfelt support from colleagues and friends help both patient and family move through the uncertainties and challenges presented by recovery. Thank you.

To the important task before you today, I am privileged and humbled to present myself as a candidate to fill the Democratic party ballot vacancy that now exists for the office of Cook County Board President.

I have known all of you, in varying degrees, through a virtual lifetime of involvement with the Democratic party... through nine years of elective service in the Illinois General Assembly... through five years of elective service on the Chicago City Council... through election as a delegate to two Democratic National Conventions. Like you, I am dedicated to the principles of our great political party. I pledge my ongoing loyalty to the Democratic party and my faithfulness to the citizens I may be elected to serve.

The office I seek is about managing the delivery of basic governmental services, and thereby improving the lives of all Cook County residents. It's about helping ensure public safety through an effective and fair criminal court system; a reliable and secure county jail; and adequately equipped and staffed offices for the Sheriff, State's Attorney and Public Defender. It's about delivering health care to the needy. It's about maintaining an efficient forum for the protection and exercise of our civil rights – namely, our civil court system and the circuit clerk and sheriff functions that support it.

County government is also about maintaining important records for our citizens through the offices of Recorder, County Clerk, Circuit Court Clerk and Treasurer. It's about preserving public recreational assets like our wonderful forest preserves, the so-called "emerald necklace" of Cook County, and the Brookfield Zoo and Chicago Botanical Gardens that proudly sit on forest preserve land.

The office of county board president entails building consensus among commissioners... working collaboratively with the independently elected executive offices of county government... managing resources efficiently for the taxpayers... and faithfully fulfilling the mission of county government to provide basic services to our residents.

I seek this office as an end in itself, with a genuine passion for the mission of County government... and not as a stepping-stone to other political office.

My background and professional experience, I respectfully suggest, have well prepared me for the challenges of running for and serving in this office:

- Fifteen years in elective public office, serving constituents on a daily basis.
- Practical experience in building consensus on local governmental issues as Chairman of the Illinois House Committee on Local Government.
- Longtime exposure to health care issues as a director of two private hospitals, and as a state legislator and alderman.
- Practical experience working with *both* labor and management, in the public arena, as Chairman of the Illinois House Committee on Labor.
- Private sector experience as an investment banker, assisting public and private issuers of debt meet long-term capital needs.
- Practical experience in exercising fiduciary obligations as a trustee of a public pension system, and as an investment banker.
- Experience in maintaining public recreational assets at the Chicago Park District as Administrative Aide to the General Superintendent of Finance and General Services.
- Exposure to the internal workings of our court system as a jury commissioner, and as a statistician for the Chief Judge.
- An appreciation for how governmental regulations are developed and enforced as a member of the Illinois General Assembly Joint Committee on Administrative Rules.
- The long-term interest in County government that goes with being raised a Stroger.
- The blessings of a quality education, which include graduating from St. Ignatius High School and earning a B.A. in History from Xavier University.
- And the grounding experience of having two wonderful children and a wife who never lets me lose sight of life's most important elements.

I have had the opportunity to speak with virtually all of you these past couple of weeks, and I share your commitment to winning in the fall. Should this body look favorably on my potential candidacy today, I will campaign aggressively in all areas of our vast county. I will secure the

resources necessary to run a successful race. I will conduct an inclusive campaign that reaches out to all regions and constituencies that comprise Cook County.

I am proud of the Stroger legacy, and I am forever grateful to my dad -- and my mom -- for having taught me the old-fashion virtues of integrity, loyalty, respect for others, and faithfulness to family and community. I am also grateful to them, and to you, for recognizing and embracing the fact that I am my own person. That I must do my personal best, as I see it, to serve the people of Cook County as its chief executive, should you today give me the opportunity to run and should they in November elect me to serve.

I will sincerely look to make county government as efficient and cost-effective as possible, consistent with honoring our obligations to provide those governmental services required by state and federal law, and needed by our citizens.

On a final note, I am an optimistic person. While cognizant of our obligations to taxpayers to be as efficient as possible, I also believe that government has a legitimate and important role to play in improving the lives of the governed – those to whom we ultimately answer in a democratic society.

Throughout history, there have always been those who seek to gain political power through non-stop negative attack and exclusively “anti-government” rhetoric.

But those with anger or intolerance in their hearts rarely inspire, and they rarely succeed in building the coalitions necessary to govern in a pluralistic and democratic society.

I am confident in my ability to work with others to meet the challenges that face Cook County. I am optimistic about our future. And I very deeply care about the quality of life in Cook County.

Chairman Madigan and Committeemen, thank you for your consideration of my potential candidacy as the Democratic party nominee for Cook County Board President.

IVI-IPO 2006 COUNTY BOARD PRESIDENT QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 2

	YES	NO	
1.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Do you support removing the cap on the number of abortions performed at Stroger Hospital?</i>
<p>I support a woman’s right to choose, and I believe that access to lawful medical procedures should not be made conditional on one’s financial circumstances. I am advised that, while there is no numerical “cap” on the number of abortions that may be performed at Stroger Hospital, there are limited resources. Evidently there is some disagreement as to whether those resources can meet growing demand. Simply stated, if resources are in fact inadequate, I would support finding the necessary resources.</p>			
2.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Is the distribution of County funded health facilities sufficient?</i>
<p>In the last ten years, the number of county ambulatory care clinics has more than doubled, with a geographic concentration in the most medically underserved areas of our country. Despite that progress, I believe a need remains unmet in the North and Northwest areas of Cook County. While my immediate priority related to the Bureau of Health will be to find needed efficiencies, in the longer term I intend to address that unmet need.</p>			
3.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Does your district need additional health care facilities?</i>
	<i>ESSAY</i>		<i>Please elaborate.</i>
<p>Not applicable (I am running only for Board President, and not also for Commissioner).</p>			
4.	<i>ESSAY</i>		<i>How would you solve the budget gap while still ensuring that health and other basic human services would continue to be provided?</i>
<p>I have two basic goals: to continue to provide the county services that our residents have come to rely upon, including health and other basic human services, and to find efficiencies to reduce wherever feasible the cost of delivering those county services. In this later regard, I embrace consolidations of administrative functions, such as those within the Bureau of Health. I am similarly open to considering a consolidation of property-tax related functions within the Officer of Treasurer, Assessor and County Clerk. On the revenue side of county finances, I plan to: (i) protect those federal and state funds that Cook County now obtains; and (ii) seek to increase federal and state funding sources where feasible. It is not my intention to seek additional sums from county revenue sources, including property or other taxes.</p>			
5.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Do you favor a freeze in the property tax rate?</i>
<p>As observers of county finance are well aware, over the last decade: (i) the county tax rate has been cut approximately in half, as the <i>total levy</i> has been held constant; and (ii) the reliance on property taxes to fund county government, as a proportion of all county revenues, has declined by more than half. I would strive to continue these trends; accordingly, a freeze on the property tax rate is less aggressive than my goal.</p>			
6.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Do you support extension of the 7% property tax cap beyond the expiration date?</i>
7.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Should County Board approval be required prior to the creation of TIF districts in Cook County?</i>
<p>Presently, the county planning department has a voting representative on TIF review boards. In the exercise of</p>			

that vote, I would expect the planning department to: (i) consider input from interested Commissioners; and (ii) insure that the proposed TIF is consistent with the policy goals of the TIF program to promote development and create jobs in disadvantaged communities.			
8.	ESSAY	<i>What should be done by the County Board to foster affordable housing, including subsidized housing?</i>	
I support the recently enacted Rental Housing Support Program Act (P.A. 94-0118, effective July 5, 2005), which creates a grant program to foster affordable housing. That program is funded by surcharge on recording fees for real-estate related documents. I would be receptive to considering similar legislative efforts. As Cook County Board President, I would respect the rightful role of cities and villages in making zoning decisions for their respective communities.			
9.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Will you support equitable geographic distribution of affordable housing throughout the county?</i>
My basic philosophy is: (i) to preserve the free choice of involved residents; and (ii) to guard against unlawful housing discrimination.			
		<i>Will you support an amendment to the County Human Rights Ordinance to protect Section 8 voucher holders from discrimination in housing?</i>	
10.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>in buildings of any size without exemptions?</i>
I understand that an amendment of this nature is now pending before a Cook County Board committee, and that a board consensus on that measure has yet to emerge. I would like to see a consensus achieved among Commissioners and stakeholders as a precursor to action.			
11.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>if owner occupied buildings of 6 or more units were exempted?</i>
See answer to Question 10 above.			
12.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Do you support lifting the moratorium on restoration of Forest Preserve land?</i>
I am sympathetic to the goals of Forest Preserve land restoration, but I also believe that immediate community support should first be garnered with respect to any given restoration project.			
13.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Do you support the sale or transfer of forest preserve land to private interests?</i>
The obligation to hold Forest Preserve land in perpetual trust for the benefit of current and future residents of Cook County is one I take most seriously. Should a circumstance ever emerge in which the public interest would be fostered by an isolated land transfer, a broad consensus of support (from both the Citizens Advisory Committee to the Forest Preserve District and the Board of Forest District Commissioners) would need to exist for me to entertain the question.			
14.	ESSAY	<i>What proposals do you support to reduce overcrowding at Cook County Jail and the Juvenile Temporary Detention Center?</i>	
For appropriate offenses and offenders, with input and consensus from stakeholders groups, I support a broad range of alternative sentencing programs (including electronic monitoring, boot camp and community service).			

15.	ESSAY		<i>What should the County Board do to ensure that the Juvenile Temporary Detention Center provides adequate educational and vocational services to detainees?</i>
In my judgment, the county should seek and follow the advice of experts in this field.			
16.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Do you support separating violent from non-violent offenders?</i>
17.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Do you support separating juvenile from adult offenders?</i>
18.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Do you favor work-release, electronic monitoring and other alternative sentencing programs?</i>
19.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Do you support drug testing of potential or current County employees?</i>
For staff in sensitive positions involving law enforcement or public safety, drug testing is generally considered appropriate. Such personnel policies affect terms and conditions of employment, and thus are appropriate subjects for collective bargaining.			
20.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Do you support Affirmative Action?</i>
21.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Do you favor restructuring the wage scale of county employees to correct disparities based on gender by instituting equal pay for jobs of comparable worth?</i>
Where such disparities exist, I believe they should be corrected. It should be noted that the county wage scale is gender-neutral, being based on job grade and years of service.			
22.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Do you support patronage?</i>
23.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Do you favor extending the Civil Service System to replace patronage in County employment?</i>
I do not believe the county should extend the Civil Service System to cover senior and policy-setting positions.			
24.	ESSAY		<i>What should be done to eliminate patronage abuse in county government?</i>
I would support conducting a personnel inventory of exempt positions to determine if any are inappropriately characterized, and should thus be subject to the Civil Service System.			
25.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Do you favor permitting county employees to hold other public sector jobs concurrently?</i>
I support the present county ban on dual employment, which policy provides for a waiver application process on a case-by-case basis. In no event would I support any individual being paid by more that one public entity for the same time period.			
26.	ESSAY		<i>In what circumstances should the County contract for outside professional services?</i>
The following circumstances are appropriate for outside professional services: (i) when necessary to obtain needed expertise in a technical field; or (ii) when more cost efficient for the taxpayers than securing full-time			

employees to perform the given task.			
27.	ESSAY	<i>In what circumstances should competitive bidding for contracts be required? Please comment on any existing abuses.</i>	
Competitive bidding should be the norm, a philosophy embraced by the Cook County Purchasing Ordinance. I believe the exceptions are appropriate.			
28.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Would you support contracting for outside services with companies located outside of Cook County? Why or why not?</i>
Cook County now has a "local preference" ordinance that gives local companies bonus points in scoring competitive bids. I would support utilizing vendors located outside Cook County when in the best interests of our taxpayers (e.g., the only, or best qualified, vendor is located outside of Cook County).			
29.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Will you accept or have you accepted campaign contributions from current or potential suppliers, employees or outside contractors?</i>
The County Ethics Ordinance limits the amount that any county employer or vendor may contribute to a candidate for county office, and I fully support that public policy. More importantly, a political contribution may NEVER be the basis for securing or keeping a county job or contract.			
30.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Is the County Ethics Ordinance adequate? Why or why not?</i>
I believe the County Ethics Ordinance represents good public policy. Given the current public concern about government ethics, I nonetheless intend to convene a group of experts to examine whether the existing ordinance may be improved. Indeed, this effort may become an ongoing or periodic one, to help ensure that the County Ethics Ordinance evolves as needed to cover new fact patterns that may emerge.			
31.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Do you support public financing of campaigns for this office?</i>
I do not believe that the taxpayers should be required to finance the campaigns of all who desire public office. Just as evidence of community support is secured by way of the candidate petition process, so too is it made evident through the campaign finance process.			
32.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Do you support a campaign expenditure limit?</i>
My support of this long-term public policy goal envisions across-the-board, equal treatment of all county offices (and probably also all offices).			
33.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Will you be a full-time Commissioner?</i>
Not applicable (running for Board President only, and not also for Commissioner).			
34.	ESSAY	<i>What other employment, if any, do you intend to hold?</i>	
None. I will be a full-time Cook County Board President. I sincerely believe the demands of this office are too great for its occupant to hold outside employment of pursue outside interests. Moreover, as the scope and size of county government has increased and as the position has evolved in importance, I believe a Board President has an obligation to avoid both actual and perceived conflicts that arise through outside employment or			

interests.			
35.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Will you open an office in your district?</i>
Not applicable (running for Board President only, and not also for Commissioner).			
36.	<i>ESSAY</i>		<i>What will you do to ensure community involvement in identifying the concerns of the residents of your district?</i>
I am running only for Board President, and not also for Commissioner; accordingly, questions related to a “district” do not apply. As Board President, it is my intention to foster community involvement through a number of vehicles: transition teams with wide-ranging membership; advisory committees, such as the existing Citizens Advisory Committee to the Cook County Forest Preserve District; public hearing; with opportunities for citizen participation, on the annual budget and other important matters; and periodic public forums throughout the county. I intend to be an accessible Cook County Board President, and one that is regularly out in the various communities that comprise Cook County.			
37.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Should candidates for Board President be prohibited from running concurrently from a district?</i>
Current law allows this “dual office-holding,” and there has been a long history of Board Presidents simultaneously serving as Commissioners; accordingly, I have no criticism of my opponent for simultaneously running for both offices. I have chosen a different path, and outside the politically-charged context of an election contest would be receptive to a thoughtful debate in Springfield of a possible law change in this regard.			
38.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Will you employ or have you employed staff in your office who hold other public sector jobs concurrently?</i>
As State Representative and Alderman, I have not employed staff in my office who have held other public sector jobs concurrently. It is also not my intention to do so within the Office of the President. Regarding departments and offices under the jurisdiction of the Cook County Board President, it is my intention to follow the policies referenced in Question 25 above.			
39.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>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 county?</i>
40.	<i>ESSAY</i>		<i>How will you balance your dual roles as President and as representative of the residents of your district?</i>
I have chosen to run only for the Office of Cook County Board President, and not also for Commissioner, to avoid altogether the potential conflicts and attention distractions that could arise through playing dual roles as President and Commissioner. It is my intention to be a full-time Cook County Board President, and to devote all my professional energies to the demands of that office.			