

## IVI-IPO 2006 CONGRESSIONAL QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 1

DATE 8/5/06 DISTRICT: IL-8th PARTY: Moderate

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CAMPAIGN MANAGER: Brenda Balin

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED: 14,500 NUMBER REQUIRED: 13,950

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

A) Elective or appointive public or party offices previously held including dates. None

B) Other elective offices for which you have been a candidate. U.S. House; IL Assembly

C) What is your primary occupation? Editor / Publisher

D) Briefly list your civic activities of the past ten years. Dozens of activist and service groups, such as Human Rights First, P.A.D.S., Fellowship of Reconciliation, Amnesty International, The PeaceMajority Report, and others. Co-Founder of VotersForPeace.US.

E) What subjects have you studied and what experience have you had which will be most helpful to you in the office you seek? I have degrees in religious studies and law, and have been a lay minister, an attorney, a technology entrepreneur, and a writer. My businesses have employed dozens of people, always providing complete healthcare coverage. I am a lifelong learner in a wide range of topics.

F) What candidates have you supported? Please be specific in describing your role in each campaign. I played minor local organizing roles in the Howard Dean, and then Dennis Kucinich, campaigns. I was a legal poll monitor in Ohio in 2004.

G) Please list all endorsements you have received so far. Harper College Democrats; Progressive Democrats of Illinois (local PDA chapter); also received maximum contributions from these unions: IMAAW; Teamsters; USW-Steelworkers; SEIU; UNITE.

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? The other candidates represent the same corporate and wealthy interests, and would vote the same way on nearly every substantive piece of legislation. I am the only candidate who will: protect the needs of working families; rebuild our national security on peace; fix our broken healthcare system; balance the budget.

I) What is your campaign budget? How much have you raised to date? \$300,000 budget; \$50,000 raised. We have not yet begun serious fundraising, because we had to spend 100 days on an intense petition drive simply to get on the ballot. We have extensive national support from leading progressive individuals and groups.

J) How many people are on your campaign staff? How many volunteers are on your list? 1 staff; 200 volunteers.

**IVI-IPO 2006 CONGRESSIONAL QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 2**

<b>Foreign and Military</b>			
1.	ESSAY	What should be the US role in multi-national alliances such as the UN, NATO and the International Criminal Court?	
2.	ESSAY	What should be the policy of the IMF and World Bank toward countries that are essentially bankrupt?	
3.	ESSAY	What should be Congress' role in formulating foreign policy?	
	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Should the US adopt a timetable for withdrawal of our troops from Iraq?
	ESSAY	If so, within what timeframe? immediate	
4.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Should the US wage war without a declaration from Congress?
5.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Would you support legislation giving Governors veto power over deployment of their National Guard units overseas?
6.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Do you agree with the current proposed level of funding for the military?
	ESSAY	If you agree, explain. If you disagree, how would you distribute the funds?	
7.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support funding to assist conversion of the defense industry to civilian applications?
8.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Do you support continued funding for WHISC (the re-named Army School of the Americas)?
9.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Do you support the way the drug war is being carried on, both abroad and at home?
	ESSAY	What would you change?	
			Do you support
10.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	normalization of relations with Cuba?
11.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	the Helms-Burton Act?
<b>Energy &amp; Environment</b>			
12.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Do you support oil drilling in Alaska and other protected wilderness?
13.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Do you support pollution credit schemes?
14.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support legislation establishing a national Energy Efficiency Resource Standard to set energy-saving targets for utilities?
15.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support the Clean Water Authority Restoration Act of 2005?

	YES	NO	
16.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Do you support legislation to increase revenue sources by removing federal land use regulations from federal land claims?
<b>Transportation</b>			
			Should the federal government have primary funding responsibility for
17.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	infrastructure improvements? interstate only
18.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	highways? interstate only
19.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	mass transit?
20.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	high-speed rail?
21.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Amtrak?
22.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Air transportation?
	ESSAY		Please explain your answers
<b>Taxes and Economic Policy</b>			
			Do you favor
23.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	a more progressive income tax?
24.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	a flat tax?
25.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	a national sales tax?
26.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	reduction of the capital gains tax?
27.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	reduction or elimination of the estate tax?
28.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	elimination of the corporate alternative tax?
29.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	tax cuts on stock dividends?
30.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	any other changes in our tax structure?
	ESSAY		Please explain.
31.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you favor a roll-back of the Bush tax cuts?
32.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Do you support cutbacks in discretionary spending to fund Katrina rebuilding efforts?
33.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Do you support any privatization of the Social Security fund?
	ESSAY		Please explain.
34.	ESSAY		What is your position on federal deficit spending vs. balanced budget?
35.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Would you support legislation that prevents federal contractors and federally funded state agencies from using offshore facilities in the execution of a contract?
<b>Consumer Rights</b>			
			Do you support
36.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	banning the use of Social Security numbers as identification in consumer transactions?
37.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	federal legislation to cap interest rates on consumer loans?
38.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	federal legislation to regulate ATM fees and service charges on credit cards and other consumer loans?
39.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	allowing states to enact consumer laws which go beyond the protection of federal legislation?

<b>Government and Ethics</b>			
	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	
40.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support term limits?
			Do you support (subject to 1st Amendment; may require optin/optout system)
41.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	public financing of Congressional campaigns?
42.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	spending limits?
43.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	abolition of PACs?
44.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Would you support increased Congressional oversight of federal contracting?
	ESSAY		Why or why not? One word, Halleburton.
45.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Do you support patronage?
<b>Health &amp; Human Services</b>			
46.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support comprehensive, universal, single-payer health care?
	ESSAY		If not, how would you address the need for healthcare for the uninsured and underinsured?
47.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Should the FDA approve importation of drugs from countries whose manufacturing and safety standards are equal or superior to those in the US?
48.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support increased funding for HIV/AIDS research, education, prevention, and services?
	ESSAY		Please discuss compulsory licensing of essential drugs where needed, in the US, Africa, Asia and elsewhere. I am not able to discuss this issue yet.
			Do you support
49.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	federal funding for stem cell research? (only with discarded embryos)
50.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	legislation prohibiting stem cell research? (unless limiting it to discarded embryos)
			Do you support
51.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	the Human Life Amendment? which one? there are many versions.
52.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Freedom of Choice Act?
53.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	parental or spousal notification or consent to obtain an abortion? spousal no; parental yes, but ONLY with robust court proceedings to protect the minor from abuse.
54.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	restoration of Medicaid coverage of abortion? only for therapeutic use; not as a method of birth control
55.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	a ban on so-called partial birth abortions? only with life/health expections
56.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	insurance coverage for abortions for federal and military employees and their dependents? only for therapeutic use; not as a method of birth control
			Do you favor increased funding for:
57.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	supplemental food programs for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)?
58.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	food stamp allowances?
59.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Head Start?
60.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	school lunch programs?

61.	ESSAY		What services, if any, should be offered to those whose time on Welfare has run out and do not have adequate income to support themselves and their families? you tell me
	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	
			Do you support
62.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	increased funding to develop affordable housing?
63.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	restrictions to ensure development of low-income rather than market rate housing?
64.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	a National Affordable Housing Trust Fund to build, rehabilitate and preserve at least 1.5 million units of primarily rental, primarily deeply targeted housing?
65.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	protection against housing discrimination for holders of Section 8 housing vouchers?
			Do you favor
66.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	increased federal aid to public education? to equalize inequalities & offer opportunities
67.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	vouchers, tuition tax-credits or other any direct public support for parochial or private schools? only in strict circumstances; see essay
68.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Are the provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act the most effective way to advance student achievement?
	ESSAY		If not, what plan would you propose?
<b>Law, Justice, and Correctional System</b>			
			Do you support:
69.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	admissibility of illegally obtained evidence?
70.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	electronic eavesdropping? not without a warrant
71.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	roving wiretaps? but we can have expedited warrant procedures
72.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	capital punishment?
73.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	criminal prosecution of juveniles as adults?
74.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	mandatory sentencing? but I do favor special reviews for fairness patterns
75.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	criminalization of hate crimes?
76.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support legislation prohibiting racial profiling in law enforcement?
77.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Do you favor detention of suspects and material witnesses without charges and/or probable cause?
78.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you favor giving such detainees access to counsel?
79.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Would you support legislation authorizing or prohibiting secret military tribunals?
	ESSAY		Please explain your position. prohibiting, with due process of law for every accused
80.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support legislation banning torture and inhuman treatment of detainees under US control?
			Do you support legislation to ban the manufacture, sale and possession of
81.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	handguns?
82.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	assault weapons?

			Do you support legislation
	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	
83.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	mandating background checks of purchasers of weapons at gun shows, through the internet and through print advertisements?
84.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	increasing penalties for illegal resale of weapons?
85.	ESSAY		What restrictions, if any, should Congress enact or repeal regarding the scope of federally funded legal services for the poor? I am not yet able to discuss this issue
<b>Civil Liberties and Civil Rights</b>			
	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	
86.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you favor repeal of the Patriot Act or any of its provisions?
87.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support repeal or revision of the Posse Comitatus Act? for border security only
			Do you support
88.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	federal legislation to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation in housing, employment and education?
89.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act?
90.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	a Constitutional amendment prohibiting states from recognizing gay marriage or civil unions?
91.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Would you support legislation allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military?
92.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Do you support prior government restraint of the press?
93.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support NEA funding for controversial artists whose work is considered by a peer-review committee to have artistic merit? i oppose government funding of the arts
			Do you support
94.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	prayer in public schools?
95.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	moment of silence?
			Do you support mandatory drug testing
96.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	in private employment? only if related to job tasks
97.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	in public employment? only if related to job tasks
98.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support mandatory AIDS testing for insurance or employment? life insurance
99.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support legislation to redress inequities in pension benefits for women?
100.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support the Equal Rights Amendment to the US Constitution?
<b>Labor</b>			
101.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act?

	YES	NO	
102.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support a prohibition on permanent replacement of strikers?
103.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you favor giving federal employees the right to strike?
104.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support Affirmative Action with specific goals, targets and timetables for federal employment, grants and contracts?
105.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support legislation to restructure the wage scale of federal employees to correct disparities based on gender by instituting equal pay for jobs of comparable worth?
106.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support a federal living wage law to guarantee that a person working forty hours a week would be able to afford housing, food, utilities, transportation and health care?
107.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support legislation that would require companies to post job openings before filing a request to fill the position with a nonimmigrant H1-B and would recalculate prevailing wages to equal those competed for under EEOC guidelines?
108.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Would you support legislation to prevent labor agencies from outsourcing, leasing or subcontracting H1-Bs as long term temps?

#### ESSAY 1

The U.S. should become an active “good citizen” of the international community. This means working to strengthen and reform, rather than manipulate and undermine, key institutions like the UN and the ICC. We should place less emphasis on military alliances like NATO, and more emphasis on peacebuilding and development organizations.

#### ESSAY 2

The debts of invalid post-colonial or neo-colonial regimes are not legally binding on the people of these countries. Institutions like the IMF and World Bank must expressly recognize this and negotiate settlements between third-party lenders and their state sponsors.

#### ESSAY 3

Congress should provide strong oversight in foreign policy (and every other area) to see that our laws and treaties are being faithfully executed by the administration. Also, our power over the purse strings and our direct representation of the people empowers us with a key role in setting the overall tone, direction, and underlying values for our foreign policy.

#### ESSAY 6

We spend 2/3 of our discretionary funds on war, preparations for war, and consequences of war -- more than the rest of the world combined. Our military spending is spread out in the budgets of Defense, State, Energy, Homeland Security, and others. We need to end our support for excessive, irrelevant, and damaging spending on obsolete Cold War weapons systems that enrich campaign contributors. Our military spending should be focused on our military personnel -- the training, supply, and equipment they need to serve in the new world of risks and opportunities we face as a nation. They should develop special expertise in key peacebuilding operations such as disaster recovery, refugee protection, and multinational stabilization -- to increase our moral standing and good will. This will do more to protect us as a nation than all our force projection capabilities put together.

#### ESSAY 9 (from our website)

##### War on Drugs

The so-called "war on drugs" is a bad idea. It does not work, and only makes things worse.

We tried this before, in the 1920's, with our failed experiment in alcohol prohibition. Then, as now, it led to an explosion in organized crime and gangs.

We have spent hundreds of billions of dollars trying to make America "drug free" in a misguided focus on using the criminal law system for this end. Yet illicit drugs are cheaper and easier to get.

Nearly half a million people are behind bars on drug charges -- more than all of western Europe (with a bigger population) imprisons for all offenses. The war on drugs has become a war on families, on public health, and on our constitutional rights.

Many of the problems the drug war claims to solve are in fact caused by the drug war itself. So-called "drug-related" crime is a direct result of prohibition's distorting laws of supply and demand. Public health problems, like HIV and Hepatitis C, are made worse by laws restricting access to clean needles.

The drug war is not the promoter of family values that some would have us believe. Inmates' children are at a high risk of educational failure, joblessness, addiction, and delinquency. Drug abuse is bad, but the drug war is far worse.

It is time for us to recognize that drug abuse is a public health issue for the surgeon general, not a public safety issue for the attorney general.

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#### resources

- [Drug Policy Alliance](#)
- [The Sentencing Project](#)

#### ESSAY 17-22

We still live in a federal system, where the national government can and must accept primary responsibility for interstate transport infrastructure. However, some things like local roads and mass transit are more of a state, local, or regional concern -- unless they are part of a broader national commitment. I have not seen any such consistent vision for mass transit yet.

#### ESSAY 23-30

I believe in progressive taxation, requiring those with more to pay their fair share. I am especially concerned about the highly regressive nature of our current social security system -- both, in the taxes and in the benefits areas.

#### ESSAY 33

The first thing corrupt and incompetent management does is to raid the employee pension funds. Then, they try to convert from a defined benefits to a defined contributions plan, shifting all risks to the employees. I completely oppose any effort to undermine our social security system with private accounts, or to expose the soundness of our shared safety net to the vagaries of the stock market.

#### ESSAY 34 (from our website)

#### Balance The Budget, Pay Down The Debt

Our government is piling up an endless stream of debt on the "credit cards" of the next generation.

Deficits are taxes. Passed on to someone else. Every dollar of debt is a dollar of tax. To be paid later.

Politicians always say we need more "tax relief" to "stimulate the economy" at this time.

I guess they think the economy will take care of itself for the next generation? What we need is "tax relief for two-year-olds." Let's end these deficits. We owe it to our children and their children.

I will not vote for an imbalanced budget. I will not vote to extend the debt limit. No matter what. No matter which party is in power.

I also support structural change to enforce balanced budgets. History has clearly shown that our Congress and Presidents -- and the Republican and Democratic parties -- all lack the fiscal discipline and integrity to be trusted with our money any other way.

They are too busy giving it away to their corporate sponsors in exchange for [campaign contributions](#). It is a dirty wash cycle, that never comes clean.

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#### resources

- [Taxpayers for Common Sense](#)
- [Citizens for Tax Justice](#)
- [Concord Coalition for Fiscal Responsibility](#)
- [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#)
- [Citizens Against Government Waste](#)

- [OMB Watch](#)
- [Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget](#)

ESSAY 62-68 (from our website)

## Education

The federal government has been moving toward a takeover of public education. In my view, its role should be limited to: helping low and middle-income students and school districts with financial aid; and enforcing equal protection of the law in funding.

I reject the so-called "No Child Left Behind" act as another in a line of unfunded federal mandates.

I support full and equal public funding of education. Fifty years after *Brown vs. Board of Education*, we still have a dual system of "separate but (un)equal" public education funding in this country. I believe this violates the equal protection of the law.

Why should children in Lake Forest and New Trier have greater public educational resources than the same students in Zion-Benton or Round Lake?

I favor statewide funding of public education, with elimination of local property tax financing. Property taxes are too high, and public education is important to the whole state, not just wealthy districts.

I support freedom of school choice, innovation, and school competition. Public funding of education does not mean we need to keep the state monopoly in delivery of educational services. Students, parents, and teaching professionals will be better served with a range of educational choices for their needs.

However, I oppose any measure that directly or indirectly subsidizes private education with public funds. I would not support participation by a school in any voucher program, unless: i) the school has a needs-blind admissions policy; ii) the school agrees to accept the public voucher as full payment for all tuition and other fees; and iii) voucher payments are also available to all public schools on the same terms. This would support an educational system with real student choice and school competition.

I am not aware of any current or proposed voucher program that meets these terms. Existing proposals are merely regressive attempts to undermine public education on behalf of the privileged few -- who can already afford the cost of private schools.

Within these limits, I also support public funding for nonprofit private and religious schools, as well as for home-school families. My only academic requirement is that students must be demonstrating appropriate progress in math literacy, composition, and reading comprehension. Students learn best when they are engaged in something that truly interests them. Let a thousand flowers bloom in our free schools.

Moving away from the "one size fits all" system of state monopoly would actually give us more unity, not less, in our society. Harsh divisions over such matters as intelligent design and evolution, school prayer, and other issues -- take on a whole new, less threatening light, when parents and students are free to choose their own schools.

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## resources

- [National Head Start Association](#)
- [National Education Association](#)
- [American Federation of Teachers](#)
- [Children's Defense Fund](#)
- [Annenberg Institute for School Reform](#)
- [Center on Reinventing Public Education](#)