

IVI-IPO 2006 CONGRESSIONAL QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 1

DATE 7/20/2006 DISTRICT: 9 PARTY: Republican

NAME: Michael P. Shannon

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CAMPAIGN MANAGER: Sean Sullivan

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED: 850 NUMBER REQUIRED: ~404

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

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

Director, Maine Township Regular Republican Organization (2006)

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

N/A

C) What is your primary occupation?

Negotiation Specialist/Support Professional

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

Volunteer Speaker, Concord Coalition, 2003-present
Contributor, American Red Cross, 2005
Contributor, Americans United for the Separation of Church and State, 2005
Contributor, Campaign for Innocent Victims of Conflict, 2005
Contributor, Families of Fallen United States Servicemen, 2005
Contributor, Youth Service Bureau of Rock Island County, 2005

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

Mutual Gain/Principled Negotiations (8 years experience)

Bachelors of Science in Finance, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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

Driver, Bob Kustra, Illinois Lt. Governor/Bob Kustra for U.S. Senate (1996)

Logistics Manager, Al Salvi for U.S. Senate (1996)

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

Chicago Tribune (Primary Election)

Chicago Sun Times (Primary Election)

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 choice between the incumbent's candidacy and my candidacy is a choice between continued stalemate at the expense of future generations and a new nonpartisan thought process for progress...between rooting for America to fail in 21st century conflicts and a new nonpartisan thought process for movement toward success...between one of the country's top fundraisers and someone who rejects the current electoral process and deems it flawed.

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

I have refused to accept campaign contributions in dissent of the current electoral process. I spent a total of ~\$450 between December 2005 through the Primary Election on March 21 (~\$.04 per vote). I encourage you to contrast that amount with the over \$50-\$100 per vote spent by in the 6th and 8th District nominees, respectively. My primary marketing tool is word-of-mouth.

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

My campaign has zero paid staff. I have a full-time career, so my campaign time is limited to nights and weekends. My family has accompanied me in many parades. I have a handful of active volunteers but a growing number of networking/word-of-mouth supporters that I expect to crest around the November 7 General Election.

IVI-IPO 2006 CONGRESSIONAL QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 2

Opening Statement

I am a champion for younger and future Americans.

I submit to the IVI-IPO that the U.S. House of Representatives has strayed from its intended purpose of:

- A. Being nonpartisan
- B. Being close to the people
- C. Having a high rate of turnover

The House of Representatives today engineers a near zero turnover rate by drawing legislative districts with a predetermined outcome. They're *fixed*. There are two legitimate races in Illinois (6th and 8th), and the other states have comparable gerrymandering. In the few legitimate races across the country, the fundamentals of a successful political campaign are the opposite of the fundamentals of problem-solving. The way to get elected (in a legitimate race) is to distract voters from the problems that we face as a nation, raise as much money as you can, and then air as many negative ads about your opponent(s) as possible. Unfortunately, that approach has proven to be effective. As a result, the politicians that are emerging from our current electoral process may be adept at getting elected and re-elected but are increasingly incapable of working with others

to make progress toward solving problems.

Admittedly, my candidacy is unconventional. To support my campaign is to share the belief that our electoral process is broken and that no progress will be made toward solving any of the problems our nation faces until we transform our Democracy to produce a different breed of representatives.

During this...my own little science experiment with our Democracy, I have attempted to apply the fundamentals of successful negotiation (pioneered by Harvard Law professors and mentioned above) to a political campaign. In short, those principles are:

1. Control your emotions. When attacked, don't attack back but reframe the attack to let the other party know that you understand their perspective and that you're willing to work together as long as your interests are satisfied.
2. Build a relationship with your counterpart by practicing trust/objectivity
3. Evaluate the power (alternatives) of each party involved
4. Focus on the problem, not the people involved in the problem
5. Don't take positions, express your interests and ask questions that prompt your counterpart to invent solutions that may satisfy your interests.

These principles are obviously counterintuitive when applied to a democratic election. However, the fact that I have been able to capture one of the two major political party nominations while spending virtually no money only illustrates my hypothesis: that our system is broken.

I have multiple interests:

1. To educate the public about the insurmountable debt burden that future generations are inheriting from current generations, as we inflate our own standard of living at the expense of the standard of living of younger/future Americans
2. A national discussion about how to produce politicians who can focus on problems rather than demonizing others and who possess the skills necessary to make progress toward solving those problems
3. A discussion about the role of money given to politicians in the form of campaign cash, the influence of television on the process, and reversing the flow of the river of corruption that flows from our election process directly into our government.

To best accomplish my objective, I have resolved to run a campaign for the U.S. House of Representatives without accepting direct campaign contributions. If any supporter writes me a check, I will tear it up. Recognize my candidacy for what it is: an act of civil disobedience in dissent of the current process/results.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the endorsement process. I look forward to meeting you.

Sincerely,

Michael P. Shannon

Foreign and Military

1.	ESSAY	What should be the US role in multi-national alliances such as the UN, NATO and the International Criminal Court?
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The United States should develop a competency launching, entering, and influencing the ever-changing

landscape of multi-national alliances. Unfortunately, the skills required to get elected may be the exact opposite of the skills required to successfully navigate such multi-faceted negotiations. I have proposed recasting the “War on Terror” as a negotiation between the Western world and countries of the Arab/Muslim world. You can read an extensive essay that I have written about the topic at <http://www.shannonforcongress.com/problemsolving/negotiationwarabmuslim.html>.

“War” may be a description that has been applied in haste to the situation due to the involvement/deployment of military forces. Military force is but one of our alternatives in such conflicts. If the U.S. labeled these conflicts a *negotiation* rather than a “war,” it could expand the scope of the dialogue to include stakeholder countries/communities that may be able to help satisfy U.S. interests. You can’t just expand a “war” so easily. Additionally, it would take the focus off of terror and decrease the perception that the War on Terror is really a war on Islam.

It is my belief that we must transform the way we elect our representatives before any progress will be made toward our collective interests. Success in any negotiation is achieved by the simultaneous pursuit of credibility and leverage. Republicans may tend to pursue leverage and neglect credibility, while Democrats appear to pursue credibility at the expense of leverage. Both are essential for progress.

As I mentioned, the current electoral process is producing politicians from both political parties with the exact wrong skill sets. Assets of the political game (self-righteousness, divisiveness, and attack skills) are liabilities in a negotiation.

2.	ESSAY	What should be the policy of the IMF and World Bank toward countries that are essentially bankrupt?
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The U.S. should tread lightly when discussing the merits of debt relief for bankrupt countries, particularly because the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank may be discussing the merits of debt relief for America by mid-century.

The truth is that if the U.S. Congress had to follow the same financial reporting rules that it requires corporations to follow, America would be bankrupt today. A corporation is required (by E.R.I.S.A. laws of 1974) to disclose future liabilities associated with retirement/legacy costs on its balance sheet. That way, investors can best evaluate the company’s future costs. If such unfunded future legacy costs/liabilities as Social Security and Medicare were amortized in present value and disclosed, the fact that America is insolvent in the long-term would be evident.

Some foreign countries have found themselves in an economic debacle as a result of borrowing money from foreign creditors in a currency other than their own. They may have chosen to borrow U.S. Dollars, for example, at 8% interest rather than their home currency at 20% interest but not recognizing the inherent risk of inflation. After a currency crisis, they then find that it will take a ridiculous amount of money from their own economy to pay back the U.S. Dollars that they borrowed.

My interest would be to stabilize any given foreign economy to help build confidence in the local currency and reduce volatility of private business risks. In the near-term, America can help enable and encourage third-world countries to enter the global economy, which in the long-term will be the best defense against the growth of competing ideologies based on destruction.

The U.S. must also come to terms with its long-term financial challenges. 80% of the electorate will be dead by the time the legacy costs drown the American economy.

3.	ESSAY	What should be Congress’ role in formulating foreign policy?
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Again, I believe that no progress will be made toward resolving the conflict(s) that America faces until we

modify the process by which we elect our representatives.

In fact, for every problem (foreign & domestic) that America is facing, I propose the use of a proven private-sector process:

- 1) Assemble a cross-functional team of ordinary Americans (perhaps with conflicting interests)
- 2) Charge that team with the responsibility of making a consensus recommendation
- 3) Lead the team through a principled negotiation approach while providing factual research and support

Then, I propose giving Congress a promotion from its current role into executive review/endorsement board to accept the consensus recommendation of the dedicated team.

Iraq is good example of the dysfunction of Congress. Rather than relying on expert intelligence within the CIA, countless levels of government bureaucracy in both the executive and legislative branches were involve in “worst casing” the threat and “best casing” the outcome.

My candidacy offers voters a chance to vote “No Confidence” in the United States Congress.

	YES	NO	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Should the US adopt a timetable for withdrawal of our troops from Iraq?
ESSAY			<p>If so, within what timeframe?</p> <p>Know that in a negotiation, the shortest distance between two points is not a straight line. What I mean is that we must pursue a joint decision between the Arab/Muslim world and the Western World that American soldiers should exit. Deciding unilaterally that we should withdraw troops will be received with as much disdain as the unilateral decision to invade.</p> <p><i>With respect, I believe such yes/no questions contribute to the polarizing stalemate of Congress.</i> I have a box at home full of questionnaires about abortion, guns, gays, and taxes from every possible interest group that you could imagine. Each questionnaire attempts to lock candidates into their own “positions,” contributing to Congress rendering itself <i>obsolete</i> (see the principles of problem-solving above).</p> <p>A position is only one solution to any problem. For example, a customer may say to a supplier, “You must occupy the vacant building next door.” In that scenario, the customer has solved the problem of where to store inventory.</p> <p>The <i>interest</i> of the customer in this example is on-time delivery. There are many ways to satisfy on-time delivery.</p> <p>Recognizing that declaring positions is in direct contradiction to the principles of problem-solving, I will attempt to assign interests to your yes/no questions for the remainder of the IVI-IPO questionnaire.</p> <p>Our interests in 21st century conflicts are safety, stability, commerce, free and open societies, energy, and human rights. Expressing those interests in a multi-lateral negotiation where Arab/Muslim states can participate in drafting a solution will be the most effective (and the quickest) way to achieving a joint consensus decision that America should withdraw.</p>

4.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Should the US wage war without a declaration from Congress?
<p>The U.S. Constitution prohibits it, but America somehow invaded Iraq without a clear-cut declaration of war by Congress, although it overwhelmingly “authorized the use of force” by the President. These are novice negotiators on display.</p> <p>Here is the paradox: democracy has been touted as a vehicle to drive change toward moderation in the Middle East, but democracy is producing representatives without negotiation training or experience in America. As mentioned, success in the two activities (democracy and negotiations) requires almost 180 degrees opposite skills. To succeed in Democracy, you must demonize your opponent(s). In a negotiation, you strive to get yourself to the same “side of the table” as your counterpart, so you can both focus on the problem on the other side of the table.</p> <p>Recent democratic elections in Arabia confirm this hypothesis. Hamas, Hezbollah, and the President of Iran have all used their ability to demonize others as a path to victory (or representation in the case of Hezbollah) in Democratic elections.</p> <p>President Bush says, “Stay on the Offense.” Is he thinking of football?</p> <p>America needs a whole new mindset. To break the cycle of loss and retaliation, we need to re-examine the entire process by which we select those who negotiate on our behalf. Just like we wouldn’t send the nation’s top boxers to a ballet and say “stay on your toes,” we need to find a way to substitute trained negotiation professionals for America’s politicians.</p> <p>We need the equivalent of the designated hitter in baseball or the tag-team partner in professional wrestling.</p> <p>There may not be an analogy in sports that sufficiently parallels the complexity of the situation. We need the inverse of “stay on the offense.”</p> <p>Wait! What game cannot be won but merely survived, a game in which emotions cause havoc, aggressiveness backfires, and where you only keep score of the damage that results from your own lack of training, judgment, and execution?</p> <p>We’re stuck in the biggest sand trap in the world. Let’s put the Driver back in the golf bag. It’s not going to help us get back into the fairway.</p>			
5.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Would you support legislation giving Governors veto power over deployment of their National Guard units overseas?</p> <p>My interest would be to not divide the states along north/south lines as they once were.</p> <p>My sense is that this is a knee-jerk reaction to the inability of the U.S. Congress to work together effectively. Rather than ask the Governors to intervene on behalf of an increasingly obsolete legislative branch, let’s fix the problem at the source.</p> <p>I have proposed redrawing each legislative district to be exactly 50% Democrat/50% Republican every two years based on the most recent General Election results. In practice, this idea would cause an immediate “about face” of polarizing politicians. All of a sudden, we would have problem solvers, not world class mudslingers we are producing today.</p>

			<p>Additionally, I believe that I have constructed a political campaign as a model of what campaign finance reform (for real this time) could look like. Supporters are free to spend their money on my candidacy, but none of it goes through me or my campaign. This essentially separates the motives for spending money. If it is for corruption/favoritism, then the money is not spent. If the money for conveying genuine beliefs, then the money is spent by supporters on behalf of the message.</p>
6.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Do you agree with the current proposed level of funding for the military?</p> <p>ESSAY</p> <p>If you agree, explain. If you disagree, how would you distribute the funds?</p> <p>Military operations are but one alternative to prosecute the conflicts of the 21st century, and funding levels should be adapted to the situation at the time.</p> <p>Relative to my earlier comments about the importance of credibility in 21st century conflicts, we risk be perceived as fair and objective when our military budget is greater than the rest of the world combined.</p>
7.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Do you support funding to assist conversion of the defense industry to civilian applications?</p> <p>My interest is a contemporary defense capability. As technology plays more and more a role in defense, fresh military recruits are less and less likely to have the skills and training capable of high-tech operations.</p>
8.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Do you support continued funding for WHISC (the re-named Army School of the Americas)?</p> <p>I need to learn more about this issue.</p>
9.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Do you support the way the drug war is being carried on, both abroad and at home?</p> <p>ESSAY</p> <p>What would you change?</p> <p>My interest is the prioritization of law enforcement/incarceration for violent crimes/criminals over non-violent crimes/criminals. Another interest is to give judicial branch the discretion it deserves for sentencing rather than imposing sentencing guidelines. Lastly, a focus on education and treatment for drug abuse is far more logical than prison.</p>
			Do you support
10.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Normalization of relations with Cuba?</p> <p>My interest is the spread of free-market democracies throughout Latin America, and I think Cuba is increasingly harmless.</p>
11.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>the Helms-Burton Act?</p> <p>My interest is the spread of free-market democracies throughout Latin America, and I think Cuba is increasingly harmless. Another interest is to offer individuals in the developing world a chance to participate in the global economy, which will be the best</p>

long-term defense against the growth of ideologies based on destruction.

Energy & Environment

12.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Do you support oil drilling in Alaska and other protected wilderness?</p> <p>In my private-sector career as a negotiation consultant, I have negotiated and implemented several multi-million dollar business deals for such diverse products and services as over-the-road Class 7 trucks, mobile hydraulic systems, electronic components, propane fuel, and at-home virtual customer service agents.</p> <p>In each case, finding alternative sources/suppliers has been essential to developing a competitive solution. In my essay about the situation in Iraq and the relationship with the larger Muslim world, I address the role of energy in the conflict and how leverage in a negotiation is achieved by having alternatives. The Harvard Project on Negotiation pioneered this concept, and I highly recommend two books written by its founders: “Getting To Yes” by Roger Fisher and “Getting Past No” by William Ury.</p> <p>Our country’s energy demand is not unlike the dynamics associated with other supplier/customer situations. In the role of customer, America is admittedly too dependent on foreign oil. We have not developed immediately “affordable, reliable, and environmentally sound energy” alternatives to petroleum products.</p> <p>Of course, we all prefer to enter a negotiation with more leverage (alternatives) than our counterpart(s). In the case of U.S. energy needs, America finds itself on the short end of the power equation. Foreign suppliers have alternatives: other customers. Negotiation strategies exist when holding less leverage than other parties, but they are not preferred. The United States should secure alternatives to move toward an equitable relationship with foreign suppliers.</p> <p>From my perspective, the current alternatives we have as Americans are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Consumption Management (conservation) – As telecommunications continue to advance, we could leverage our connectivity to control consumption. The Bush Administration used to mock the idea of conservation, but President Bush has recently embraced and encouraged it.2) Efficient-Use Fuel Economy Technology – We could invest in technology development to enhance the performance and efficiency of petroleum-based products.3) Alternative Fuel Development – We could enable alternative fuel development; however, the energy consumption market is enormous, and we must not assume that such alternative fuels can so easily or adequately compete with petroleum products. If alternative fuels could be easily substituted and sold at a competitive price, private investors would have done it already. There are many factors, including refueling options and the adaptation of automobiles and mobile construction equipment.4) Domestic Oil Sources <p>Taking <i>positions</i> about which ideas I prefer would prompt arguments and postpone the process of working together with Democrats and with stakeholder groups to satisfy our various interests. I have simply identified what I believe to be our four primary sources</p>
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			<p>of leverage. There may be others.</p> <p>My interest concerning energy needs is this: pursue and secure alternatives to current levels of foreign oil consumption to enhance America's global leverage; strengthened relationships with international oil-producing regions; and incentives for concurrent alternative technology investments from related industries.</p> <p>Obvious stakeholders of the energy issue include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - oil producing countries - oil pipelines - oil shipping companies - refineries - transportation industry - construction equipment manufacturers - energy retail outlets (gas stations) - consumers - auto industry - airlines - federal government - environmental protection interests <p>I propose a cross-functional team comprised of members that represent each of the stakeholder groups above to present consensus recommendations to Congress.</p>
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13.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Do you support pollution credit schemes?</p> <p>My interest is clean air.</p>
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14.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Do you support legislation establishing a national Energy Efficiency Resource Standard to set energy-saving targets for utilities?</p> <p>Again, conservation is one alternative to gain leverage over foreign energy sources.</p>
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15.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Do you support the Clean Water Authority Restoration Act of 2005?</p> <p>In principle, my interest is clean water, but I need to learn more about this issue.</p>
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	YES	NO	
16.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Do you support legislation to increase revenue sources by removing federal land use regulations from federal land claims?</p> <p>I need to learn more about this topic.</p>

Transportation

			Should the federal government have primary funding responsibility for
17.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	infrastructure improvements?
18.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	highways?
19.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	mass transit?

20.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	high-speed rail?
21.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Amtrak?
22.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Air transportation?
	ESSAY		<p>Please explain your answers</p> <p>Unfortunately, federal monies are doled out to Congressmen and their respective districts for playing along in the system that is bankrupting our nation, figuratively and literally. The federal government should play a role in maintaining interstate travel infrastructure; however, the process of “earmark” or “pork barrel” spending is absolutely out of control, with legislators sneaking amendments that fund their pet projects into unrelated legislation in the middle of the night before a vote. It’s a disgrace.</p> <p>There needs to be a balance between what projects are the responsibility of local governments (municipal, county, state) and what projects are the responsibility of the federal government.</p> <p>For pork projects, I propose simply taking individual vote on such localized spending, so if a Congressman wants to spend \$75 Million of federal money to build monument in his hometown that is named after him, then bring it to the House floor and let’s vote on it. Don’t sneak it into a bill that is primarily for body armor for Iraq soldiers.</p>

Taxes and Economic Policy

			Do you favor
23.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	a more progressive income tax?
24.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	a flat tax?
25.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	a national sales tax?
26.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	reduction of the capital gains tax?
27.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	reduction or elimination of the estate tax?
28.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	elimination of the corporate alternative tax?
29.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	tax cuts on stock dividends?
30.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	any other changes in our tax structure?

	ESSAY		<p>Please explain.</p> <p>My tax reform interest: a simple, efficient, progressive tax code that produces adequate revenue with balanced incentives for growth, investment, personal savings and consumption for all Americans, regardless of income/asset levels.</p>
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31.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Do you favor a roll-back of the Bush tax cuts?</p> <p>My interest is for current generations to sacrifice on behalf of future generations, not vice-versa. For long-term fiscal viability, that is going to mean a combination of higher taxes and lower retirement benefits for each generation, starting with and including the Baby Boomers and everyone after it...not just everyone after it.</p>
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32.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Do you support cutbacks in discretionary spending to fund Katrina rebuilding efforts?</p> <p>My interest: assist former residents of New Orleans who were displaced to other cities improve their lives by becoming rooted, accepted members of those communities; an infrastructure that attracts former residents,</p>
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new residents, and private-sector investment; owners of destroyed property compensated; lastly, protect New-New Orleans against another flood.

33. Do you support any privatization of the Social Security fund?

ESSAY

Please explain.

If the U.S. Congress had to follow the same financial reporting rules (Sarbanes/Oxley) that it requires corporations to follow, America would officially be bankrupt. This is the truth. The situation is worse than the finances of United Airlines, Delta Airlines, or General Motors. Perhaps only Enron's finances were more poorly managed than our country's fiscal policy. Unlike Enron, the U.S. Congress does not consider borrowed money to be "revenue" but simply cash to spend.

Here is the challenge. There are about 77 million people born between years 1946-1964. These people will begin to retire in 2008. At that point, a demographical imbalance dramatically reduces the worker-to-retiree ratio, which is the foundation of Social Security and Medicare. Our nation's unfunded liabilities (which a business would be required to account for under Sarbanes/Oxley) will, along with interest on the national debt, consume our *entire* federal budget.

I am a volunteer speaker for the Concord Coalition, a nonpartisan organization dedicated to educating the public about America's looming fiscal crisis (www.concordcoalition.org). For a detailed explanation of the situation, I highly recommend the book "Running on Empty, How the Democratic and Republican Parties Are Bankrupting Our Future and What Americans Can Do About It." by Peter G. Peterson. The book was the primary inspiration for my hypothesis and for my candidacy.

No other topic is clearer evidence that our electoral system may be broken. Democrats and Republicans are in a deadly game of "chicken" with our nation's financial viability. Democrats hope Republicans will fold and raise taxes. Republicans hope Democrats will give in and reduce entitlement benefits for retirees. The tragedy is that neither party's politicians have the fortitude to address the issue after they check a public opinion poll. In that regard, we citizens are accomplices in fleecing the future. If politicians from either side of the aisle compromise, their constituents will vote them out. Thus, we drift closer to financial ruin in a state of paralysis.

The writing President Franklin Roosevelt's history is not complete. Roosevelt steered through The Great Depression, and he helped America save the world from Nazism, but we now face an unprecedented cash flow shortage in the wake of Roosevelt's New Deal social programs.

What most American families wouldn't do to their own children (rack up a giant credit card debt and pass it on to the kids), we are all collectively doing to younger and future Americans by not preparing in advance for the inevitable erosion of the worker-to-retiree ratio.

Those who will shoulder the burden of our collective irresponsibility do not vote or are not yet old enough to vote. Older Americans and taxpayers vote in droves, but they will not be here for the consequences of having deferred fiscal responsibility. By the

time younger and future citizens realize what they have inherited, they will not care who was a Democrat or who was Republican. They will only ask us all how we let this happen.

Unfortunately, voters are apt to believe and elect candidates who discount the severity of the problem. Politicians who say we can grow our way out of this situation simply do not understand the enormity of the unfunded future deficits. Even if our economy magically grew beyond our wildest dreams, Social Security liabilities would grow along with it because the benefits are tied to wages. The deficit would remain. Taxing our way out of the situation is an equally flawed plan, because Social Security is funded by payroll taxes, which would disproportionately burden lower-income workers. Other politicians claim that immigration will “solve” the problem. This is equally naïve and irresponsible.

I believe Congress can continue down the current path of paralysis for about another 6 or so years before the financial markets punish us. It could be sooner. Built into financial market assumptions is *some* degree of confidence that Congress can address the issue. If we do nothing, foreign central banks (primarily China) will eventually seek alternative investments for their capital and stop buying U.S. treasury bonds (essentially loaning the U.S. money). The bond market will radically adjust, the value of the U.S. dollar will plunge, and inflation will rule. As recently as Thursday, January 5th, 2006 China subtly alluded to diversifying its assets away from U.S. dollar-based investments, though it subsequently explained away the announcement as a misunderstanding.

China’s economy is dependent upon exports. China’s near-term economic fate is diametrically linked to its willingness to artificially inflate the U.S. dollar. This is accomplished by pegging the Chinese currency (yuan) to the USD (or floating within a tightly controlled range) and continually underwriting the U.S. debt load. If Congress sabotages its own financial health by failing to address the Social Security/Medicare issue, America will take the entire global economy with us. Republicans must ask ourselves: is this approach conservative?

To solve this massive, unyielding problem, we need problem solvers, not name-callers. We need representatives who are willing to put their country’s future ahead of their political party. We need citizens willing to put others ahead of themselves. We need Republicans who can facilitate a discussion with Democrats. We need Democrats who can work together with Republicans. We need dramatically increased household savings/investment rates. Top economists agree that Americans do not and will not save for themselves unless it is required.

In my opinion, it would be more ethical to project *actual* Social Security and Medicare benefits to future recipients rather than best-case scenario or theoretical amounts, so people can plan for reality.

On the other hand, I believe America should protect a *need-based* safety net for its elderly. Retirement security and healthcare for needy elderly are responsible, compassionate goals of our society.

Two other legacies are at stake here. One is the Baby Boom Generation. The other is Generation X.

Boomers risk overshadowing their valuable contributions to culture, economic growth, and civil rights by becoming a huge burden in their golden years on generations X, Y, and (presumably) Z. A *third* of Boomers have zero retirement savings. My generation (X) has lost faith in government and the political process, but our mass civic inaction in order to assign blame for society's failure exclusively to Boomers only harms us.

Baby Boomers are faced with a moral dilemma:

- 1) Take what they can for themselves while there is still time and, in the process, encumber America's future on their behalf...
- 2) Engage the problem and find ways to *sacrifice*!

Generation X faces a cultural dilemma:

- 1) Continue, at the risk of our own detriment, to create distance between us and the problem by ignoring or poking fun at those who may fail without our input...
- 2) Engage the broken system and *change* it!

To be clear, I alone cannot foster an environment in Congress conducive to solving this problem nor others. My candidacy's purpose is to highlight the electoral system itself, which is an obstacle to addressing the nation's problems. At the minimum, endorsing my candidacy would send a message to the bureaucrats on both sides of the aisle: *it is time for a new breed of politician.*

My interest: An honest budget with Social Security surplus/deficits on the books; projected burdens on younger workers Social Security contributions prioritized for distribution on a needs basis; increased household savings; comparable, equitable ratio of contributions and subsequent benefits between generations; reining in Social Security from growing continually more generous each year, even as there are fewer workers to contribute; the wise use of affordable healthcare services; eliminating unnecessary care; a nationally coordinated best practices clinical accreditation; reduced opportunities for malpractice suits; simpler Medicare pay out formulas; younger and future Americans provided the same financial freedoms and opportunities for self-determination as those who have come before them;

"Today, too many of our country's key economic decisions are being made with an eye to the next election rather than to the next generation." – Warren Buffet

34.	ESSAY	What is your position on federal deficit spending vs. balanced budget?
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Our concern should not be the current deficit (the \$300 Billion for this year) but future deficit levels, which are projected to soar.

The current budget deficit of approximately \$300+ Billion is about 3% of GDP, which is historically tame and would be manageable if it at stayed around that range. However, the budget deficit is projected to reach 25% of GDP by 2040, about when federal interest payments will consume more than *half* of all revenue. How out of control would your personal finances be if 50% of your total income were consumed by interest payments?

In my opinion, it is shortsighted to only discuss near term budget deficits without examining the effects of long-term unfunded liabilities of Social Security and Medicare.

I believe Republicans have lost ground in Illinois and nationwide among those who can differentiate

between real conservatism and “big-government conservatism.” George W. Bush, with a Republican run Congress, has presided over the largest spending increase in history. Yes, there was a recession, a stock market decline, and the attacks of 9/11.

Some promoted tax cuts for economic recovery. However, a tax cut without a spending cut is not a tax cut at all. It is a tax deferment to future generations. Combining tax cuts with spending increases *guarantees* future tax increases.

My budget reform interest: an objective, fact-based accounting/reporting system that provides a high level, graphical, and a transparent view for ordinary Americans into the true state of the union’s finances; incentives for current generations to pay our own way; long-term real interest rate management via savings, investment and deficit control; lastly, a cap on federal aggregate borrowing (including the budget deficit, current account (trade) deficit, unfunded liabilities, and net foreign investment in America (us to them minus them to us).

35.	<input 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?
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I need to learn more about this issue.

Consumer Rights

36.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support banning the use of Social Security numbers as identification in consumer transactions?
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My interest is the protection of consumer identity and privacy.

37.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	federal legislation to cap interest rates on consumer loans?
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My interest is to protect consumers from themselves as they acquire too much consumer debt.

38.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	federal legislation to regulate ATM fees and service charges on credit cards and other consumer loans?
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My interest is substantial incentives for private enterprise yet ample competition to ensure that the consumer is not gouged.

39.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	allowing states to enact consumer laws which go beyond the protection of federal legislation?
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I need to learn more about this topic.

Government and Ethics

	YES	NO	
40.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support term limits?

My interest is a House of Representatives close to the people and with high turnover.

41.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support public financing of Congressional campaigns?
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My interests include a relevant Legislative Branch (which I submit is dysfunctional today), gaining a better sense of the will of the people, curbing the influence of cash and lobbyists on legislation, a discussion about the influence of television on the process, less partisanship, more objectivity, more problem solving, less bickering, and

			the fresh ideas and perspective associated with higher turnover.
42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>spending limits?</p> <p>My interest is protecting the free speech of the supporters of any given political movement. For example, supporters are free to spend their hard earned money on my candidacy. I have just removed myself or my campaign from the supply chain of cash. That way, I don't have to enter into any implied contracts for favoritism.</p>
43.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>abolition of PACs?</p> <p>I do advocate the abolition of PAC questionnaires☺; however my interest is to protect the right of free speech and assembly.</p>
44.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Would you support increased Congressional oversight of federal contracting?</p> <p>My interest is the use of best practices from private sector procurement in federal contracting.</p>
	ESSAY		Why or why not?
45.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support patronage?
My interest is a corrupt-free government.			
Health & Human Services			
46.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support comprehensive, universal, single-payer health care?
	ESSAY		<p>If not, how would you address the need for healthcare for the uninsured and underinsured?</p> <p>My interest for healthcare is as follows: an active, diet-conscious population encouraged to lead healthy lifestyles; incentive for private-sector companies to invest in American workers and their health; the wise use of affordable healthcare services; eliminating unnecessary care; a nationally coordinated best practices clinical accreditation; reduced opportunities for malpractice suits; a low-cost safety net for the uninsured; and the option for patients to summon the highest quality diagnosis/treatment available upon short notice.</p>
47.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Should the FDA approve importation of drugs from countries whose manufacturing and safety standards are equal or superior to those in the US?</p> <p>My interest is for Americans to be able to buy prescription drugs at competitive rates.</p>
48.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Do you support increased funding for HIV/AIDS research, education, prevention, and services?</p> <p>My interest is an educated population regarding the transmission/prevention of HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases.</p>
	ESSAY		Please discuss compulsory licensing of essential drugs where needed, in the US, Africa, Asia and elsewhere.

			My interest is to thwart the spread of HIV/AIDS throughout Africa, where in some areas one in four adults is HIV positive.
			Do you support
49.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	federal funding for stem cell research? My interest is to utilize stem cells that are designated for destruction for research.
50.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	legislation prohibiting stem cell research? My interest is to utilize stem cells that are designated for destruction for research.
			Do you support
51.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	the Human Life Amendment? Our interest is to work with pro-life AND pro-choice advocates to continue to minimize the occurrence of rapes, unwanted pregnancies, and abortions.
52.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The Freedom of Choice Act? Our interest is to work with pro-life AND pro-choice advocates to continue to minimize the occurrence of rapes, unwanted pregnancies, and abortions.
53.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	parental or spousal notification or consent to obtain an abortion? Although spousal notification is primarily a state issue, my interest is to offer minors in such a situation the opportunity to speak to a counselor. Another interest is the privacy of the minor; however, when that privacy conflicts with the pursuit by law enforcement relative to alleged sexual assault, my interest is to identify alleged attacker(s). For women over age 18 relative to spousal notification, my interest is their sexual/reproductive freedom.
54.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	restoration of Medicaid coverage of abortion? My interest is to work together with advocates on both sides of this divisive issue to continue to reduce the occurrence of unwanted pregnancies, rapes, and abortions.
55.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	a ban on so-called partial birth abortions? My interest is to help women avoid situations where they feel compelled to abort a pregnancy in the final stages.
56.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	insurance coverage for abortions for federal and military employees and their dependents? My interest is to work together with advocates on both sides of this divisive issue to continue to reduce the occurrence of unwanted pregnancies, rapes, and abortions.

			Do you favor increased funding for:
57.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	supplemental food programs for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)? My interest is a safety-net that provides sufficient nutrition for low income women.
58.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	food stamp allowances? My interest is a safety-net that provides sufficient nutrition for low income women.
59.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Head Start? I believe that 90% of education happens between ages 1-6. My interest is a foundation in young children
60.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	school lunch programs? My interest is a school environment conducive to learning, and that includes kids that are not hungry.
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? While a shared interest should be a safety net for those without work opportunities for some period of time, another shared interest should be avoiding the perceived incentive to not seek/find work.
	YES	NO	
			Do you support
62.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	increased funding to develop affordable housing? My interest is affordable housing.
63.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	restrictions to ensure development of low-income rather than market rate housing? My interest is affordable housing.
64.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<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? My interest is affordable housing.
65.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	protection against housing discrimination for holders of Section 8 housing vouchers? My interest is affordable housing.
			Do you favor
66.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	increased federal aid to public education? My interest is a level playing field between public school districts.
67.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	vouchers, tuition tax-credits or other any direct public support for parochial or private schools? My interest is a level playing field between public school districts, as well as

			comparably racially integrated school districts.
68.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are the provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act the most effective way to advance student achievement? They appear not to be.
	ESSAY		If not, what plan would you propose? My interest is a level playing field between public school districts, as well as comparably racially integrated school districts.
Law, Justice, and Correctional System			
			Do you support:
69.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	admissibility of illegally obtained evidence? My interest is a balance between national security and civil liberty.
70.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	electronic eavesdropping? My interest is a balance between national security and civil liberty.
71.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	roving wiretaps? My interest is a balance between national security and civil liberty.
72.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	capital punishment? While I believe there are acts for which death is an appropriate punishment, I have yet to be convinced in the ability of the judicial branch of government or criminal juries to reach the right verdict. My interest is not to put any innocent people to death.
73.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	criminal prosecution of juveniles as adults?
74.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	mandatory sentencing? My interest is to defer sentencing responsibility to the discretion of the judicial branch.
75.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	criminalization of hate crimes? My interest is objectively consistent punishment for consistent crimes.
76.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support legislation prohibiting racial profiling in law enforcement? My interest is to decrease any racial bias in law enforcement without decreasing the ability of law enforcement officials to do their job.
77.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you favor detention of suspects and material witnesses without charges and/or probable cause? I assume that this question refers to such purported enemy combatant camps as Guantanamo Bay. Recall that the path to success in a negotiation is paved by the joint pursuit of leverage AND credibility. Retaining alleged terrorists without charges and/or probable cause is the pursuit of leverage at the expense of credibility.

78.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you favor giving such detainees access to counsel? My interest is leverage AND credibility. Yes, give them access to counsel.
79.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Would you support legislation authorizing or prohibiting secret military tribunals? Leverage AND credibility! As long as we prosecute the situation as a “war” on terror, credibility is an afterthought.
	ESSAY		Please explain your position. Do you know how to tell that it is not a “war” that we’re fighting? If it were a war, we would be winning! This is a <i>negotiation</i> , albeit a complex one that has gone very, very poorly. America’s participation and sanctioning of secret military tribunals aboard severely diminish our credibility.
80.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support legislation banning torture and inhuman treatment of detainees under US control? Yes.
81.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support legislation to ban the manufacture, sale and possession of handguns? My interest is for law enforcement never to be out-gunned.
82.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	assault weapons? My interest is for law enforcement never to be out-gunned.
			Do you support legislation
	YES	NO	
83.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	mandating background checks of purchasers of weapons at gun shows, through the internet and through print advertisements? My interest is for law enforcement professionals never to be out-gunned. Another interest is to explore the role and/or perceived nuisance that gun violence plays in urban areas compared to rural areas.
84.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Increasing penalties for illegal resale of weapons? My interest is for law enforcement never to be out-gunned.
85.	ESSAY		What restrictions, if any, should Congress enact or repeal regarding the scope of federally funded legal services for the poor? My interest is an administrative infrastructure that limits the possibilities of poor people finding themselves in a situation where high-cost legal services are necessary.

Civil Liberties and Civil Rights			
	YES	NO	
86.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you favor repeal of the Patriot Act or any of its provisions? My interest is to enable to protect against our national security being compromised without diminishing civil liberties.
87.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support repeal or revision of the Posse Comitatus Act? I need to learn more about this topic.
88.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support federal legislation to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation in housing, employment and education? My interest is an egalitarian society.
89.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act? My interest is to not discriminate against anyone.
90.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	a Constitutional amendment prohibiting states from recognizing gay marriage or civil unions? My interest is to find a middle ground that both sides of this controversial issue can support, so we can focus on more important topics.
91.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Would you support legislation allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military? My interest is to find a middle ground that both sides of this controversial issue can support, so we can focus on more important topics.
92.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support prior government restraint of the press? My interest is a free press that has a working relationship with government so as not to deliberately compromise national security.
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 need to learn more about this topic.
94.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support prayer in public schools? My interest is the separation of church and state.
95.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	moment of silence? My interest is the separation of church and state.

			Do you support mandatory drug testing
96.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	in private employment? My interest is a productive American workforce without compromising civil liberties; however, there are some jobs that involve the operation of machinery/equipment/motor vehicles that may warrant a clean drug test.
97.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	in public employment? My interest is a productive public workforce without compromising civil liberties.
98.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support mandatory AIDS testing for insurance or employment? My interest is the privacy of American workers.
99.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support legislation to redress inequities in pension benefits for women? My interest is equality.
100.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support the Equal Rights Amendment to the US Constitution? My interest is equality.
Labor			
101.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act? My interest is the ability of labor to organize, but at the same time, workers should be well aware of any and all management alternatives before they disrupt business. To manage toward their interests, I suggest developing a relationship based on trust and then pursuing leverage AND credibility simultaneously.
102.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support a prohibition on permanent replacement of strikers? Leverage in any negotiation is based on having strong or multiple alternatives. What this question really asks is would I support eliminating one alternative of management in the case of a business disruption caused by striking labor. I would have to evaluate such a hypothetical situation on a case by case basis.
	YES	NO	
103.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you favor giving federal employees the right to strike? I need to learn more about this topic.
104.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support Affirmative Action with specific goals, targets and timetables for federal employment, grants and contracts? My interest is a level-playing field and a racially integrated public school system. Until minorities have equal educational opportunities, I support affirmative action in higher education and in private/public employment.

			Ideally, affirmative action could be reduced as minorities have access to equitable educational opportunities.
105.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<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? My interest is equality.
106.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<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? I need to learn more about this issue, but I will state that wages at the bottom of American society have stagnated over the past decade while wages at the upper echelon (Chief level executives) has increased substantially. We should all be aware of the political instability that can arise from such continued disparities.
107.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<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? My interest is for America to participate in the global economy rather than to attempt to protect jobs of the last century. We cannot protect our way to prosperity.
108.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Would you support legislation to prevent labor agencies from outsourcing, leasing or subcontracting H1-Bs as long term temps? My interest is for America to participate in the global economy rather than to attempt to protect jobs of the last century. We cannot protect our way to prosperity.