

IVI-IPO 2006 GENERAL ASSEMBLY QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 1

DATE August 14, 2006 **DISTRICT:** _17 **PARTY:** Democrat

NAME: Judith-Rae Ross

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CAMPAIGN MANAGER: Dominique Trudel

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED: c. 900 **NUMBER REQUIRED:** 500

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

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

- **Township of Niles Trustee, 1980-2001**

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

- **Skokie Village Trustee, 2001**

C) What is your primary occupation?

- **Lecturer, DePaul University, 1988—.**
- **Hebrew and Jewish History Teacher, Ezra Habonim/Niles Township Jewish Congregation, 2nd – 4th grades, 2006 --.**

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

- **CEDA/Neighbors at Work, 1996 --.**
- **Youth Connection Charter School Advisory Board, 2002--.**
- **Secretary, Community Development Financial Institution, 2004--.**
- **Board Chair, Community Nutrition Network, Senior Services Association of Cook County, 2001-2002.**
- **Vice President, CNNSSA, 2000-2002.**
- **Governing Board, CEDA, 1998-2002.**
- **Chairman, CEDA/Neighbors at Work, Nominating and Rules Committee, 2002--.**
- **NAACP, Lifetime Member, 2004--.**

- **Phi Kappa Phi, Honor Society, President DePaul Chapter, 2003—2005.**
- **Kiwanis Club, 1989-2002.**
- **Rush North Shore, Hospital Women’s Board, 1999--.**

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

- **Ph.D, University of Illinois-Chicago, French Political/Intellectual History, during which I studied how ideas intersected with political opinions to bring about a liberal government in France**
- **I have presented my work since 2002, on Illinois elections in the 9th Congressional District, and how elections were won and lost based on demographics, “the politics of the personal” and the “fun factor”. These papers have been published in proceedings; to be published as a book.**
- **As a teacher, I have developed strategies to improve Illinois’s educational system; as a local public official, I have a unique view of local politics and taxes, and how to create collaborations between the state and local levels.**
- **As a Township Trustee who spearheaded the creation of the Niles Township Community Childcare Center, I’ve learned much about the dynamics of creation of childcare centers and the laws governing their work. As a member of the CEDA Headstart Task Force, I’ve learned much about working for the needs of poorer children.**
- **As an advocate for seniors, I understand senior nutritional and medical needs. This understanding has been enhanced by my award-winning work at the Alden Estates Nursing and Rehab Facility.**

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

- **Skokie Coordinator, State Representative Julie Hamos, 1998 Primary. Devised strategies and scheduled appearances for carrying Skokie during the 1998 Primary. Also acted as area chair on Election Day.**
- **Analyst and Briefer, Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky. Advised coordinators on issues, strategies, and gathered volunteers for the Congresswoman’s successful primary campaign in 1998. Also acted as area chair on Election Day.**
- **Campaign Co-Chair, Renae Byron, (Debbie Alexander and Al Frenzel) Skokie Park District. Worked on position papers, gathering volunteers, and training election chairs for the successful Park District campaign of 1999. Also acted as area chair on Election Day.**
- **Campaign Director and Campaign Chair, Paul Plotnick for Judge in the 9th Sub-Circuit in 1999 and 2000. Set up canvassing and Election Day schedules. Acted as escort to the candidate on Election Day.**
- **Skokie Co-Chair, Cook County Commissioner Larry Suffredin, Primary Campaign, 13th Cook County District, 2002. Devised strategy that cut the plurality of the incumbent committeeman from 85-15 to 60-40, thereby insuring Mr. Suffredin becoming the Democratic candidate.**
- **Surrogate on Senior Issues in 2002, Governor Rod Blagojevich on Senior Issues. Traveled and spoke at nursing homes on the Governor’s behalf.**
- **Canvasser, Attorney General Lisa Madigan. Canvassed areas of Evanston and Skokie during the 2002 election.**
- **Canvasser and Aide, Senator Barack Obama, Primary Campaign, 2004. Complimented by Sen. Obama on number of votes I facilitated.**
- **Skokie Coordinator, Judge Jeanne Cleveland-Bernstein. Devised “Skokie Strategy”, which cut opponent’s pluralities, resulting in Judge Jeanne Cleveland-Bernstein’s victory in 2004.**

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

- **The Hon. Jan D. Schakowsky**

**The Hon. Larry Suffredin
The Hon. Steven Bernstein
The Hon. Jerry Clarito
The Hon. Wilbert Crowley**

- **The Hon. Loren Beth Gash
The Hon. Julie Hamos
The Hon. Richard Krier
The Hon. Lou Lang**

- **The Hon. Elaine Nekritz
The Hon. Joseph Moore
The Hon. Karen L. Nystom
The Hon. Randy Roberts
The Hon. P. Lali Watt,
The Hon. Patricia Vance
Debra Shore
Alexi Giannoulis
Dan Seals
Mike Quigley**

- **Democracy for America Evanston/North Shore Chapter and State of Illinois Chapter**

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 believe I should be endorsed over the other candidate because I will represent my district's interests more closely. This includes all of the social issues, I'll not only support them, but I'll introduce legislation on education, senior citizens and small business development, each of which is very important in the 17th Legislative District. I'll not be tied to a doctrine when it comes to raising or lowering taxes, but acting in a manner that is appropriate and humane.

In my 21 years of elected office, I voted AYE or NAY, or abstained in the case of missing a meeting which happened rarely, but I *never* voted "**Present**". I don't wait to see what is the most "politique". I vote the dictates of my constituents, the Constitution, and my conscience.

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

Our campaign budget has a targeted fundraising goal of \$75,000. In total, we have raised over \$30,000, with expectations of several large sums to be coming in from different areas (mailings, coffees, events, etc.)

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

5 full time campaign staffers.

The campaign is in the process of recruiting volunteers from a variety of sources. By September 1st we hope to have enlisted the help of over 50 individuals.

IVI-IPO 2006 GENERAL ASSEMBLY QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 2

	YE S	NO	Elections & Ethics
			Do you support:
1.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	moving the primary election date?
	ESSAY		If so, to what month? I believe we should follow the Wisconsin model and move the primary election to September and keep the general election in November. Placing the elections closer together will keep the voters interested in the election process while making it easier for the candidates and campaign staffs to function effectively.
2.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	keeping voters' political party preferences in the primary elections secret?
3.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	reestablishing straight party voting in general elections?
4.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	any other changes in Illinois' election laws?
	ESSAY		Please explain. 1) In addition to open voting prior to Election Day, I believe there should be multiple Election Days. Sometimes it's just too difficult to get to the polls on one specific day and for whatever reason the voters have not voted in advance. 2) I believe all voting machines should have a paper trail, and if computerized home voting is allowed, that too should be verified by a paper trail. 3) I believe the companies with a stake in particular candidates should be cut out of final coding of voting machines.
5.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support restoration of cumulative voting for the Illinois House of Representatives?
	ESSAY		If so, please describe the plan you support. If we agree then to have more than one State Representative per district and larger districts, then I can support this.
6.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Should Illinois institute instant run-off voting?
7.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support changes in the way judges are selected?
	ESSAY		If so, please give a brief description of the system you support. The voters would elect local panels of highly-qualified legal experts who would select their local judges.
8.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you believe that appointments to judicial vacancies should be based on nominations from local review panels?
	ESSAY		If not, would you recommend any changes in the current system? Please explain.
			Do you support:
9.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	public financing of election campaigns?
10.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	limits on campaign contributions and political committee transfers?
11.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	restricting campaign fundraising during legislative sessions?
12.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	limiting contributions to political campaigns by dollar amount or source?
			Do you support
13.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	legislation to prohibit incumbency and political affiliation as criteria in the mapping process for Congressional, Legislative and local government electoral districts?
14.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	creation of a non-partisan Commission to draw maps instead of the General Assembly?

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15	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Do you support permitting state employees to hold other public sector jobs concurrently?
16	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Do you support patronage?
	ESSAY		Please explain your position. Employment decisions should be based on merit.
Taxes and Economic Policy			
			Do you support:
17	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	instituting a graduated income tax?
18	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	increasing income taxes to relieve or replace local property taxes and increase state funding of education?
19	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	maintaining the current corporate/individual ratio in income taxes? However, for small businesses, pending review, I would support shrinking the ratio.
20	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support casino gambling in Cook County?
	YES	NO	
21	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you support legislation requiring citizen referenda at the state or local level before casino gambling is expanded?
	ESSAY		If so, at which level and why? Referenda should be required on the local level, because the imposition of a gambling casino changes the character of the given area. The people living in that area have the right to decide whether or not they want that change.
			Do you support legislation to
22	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	prohibit confession of judgment clauses in consumer contracts?
23	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	allow expanded private rights of action? NOTE: I need more information before I answer this question..
24	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	allow expanded rights of litigation? NOTE: I need further information before I answer this question.
25	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	mandate attorney fees to be awarded to successful plaintiffs? NOTE: This would be especially helpful in small claim cases.
26	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	provide for any other changes? Please specify.
			Do you support legislation
27	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	banning Pay Day loans?
28	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	banning or restricting ATM fees?
29	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	capping credit card interest rates?

Education			
30	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you vote to increase state funding to at least 50% of public education costs?
31	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Do you support vouchers or other means of public funding for private or parochial schools?
32	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support public funding of charter or contract schools?
	ESSAY		Please explain your position. I support funding of charter schools when they are part of the public school system. They provide an enhancement to education for students with special needs or talents.
Civil Rights & Civil Liberties			
33	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support Affirmative Action?
34	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you vote to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment?
			Do you favor legislation
35	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	legalizing civil marriage between two people of the same gender?
36	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	providing legal recognition of domestic partnerships?
37	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	prohibiting discrimination in housing against unmarried individuals residing together?
38	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Do you support mandatory AIDS testing for insurance or employment?
			Do you support mandatory drug testing
39	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	for public sector employees?
40	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	for private sector employees?
	ESSAY		Under what circumstances? If an employee in either sector has a serious drug problem, it's a disease that requires medical attention, not punishment.
41	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Should state police be allowed to stop vehicle operators to test for DUI on grounds other than probable cause?
42	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Would you support legislation to include data on pedestrian, as well as motor vehicle, stops by police for the purpose of gathering statistics on racial profiling? NOTE: It's necessary to list the races and circumstances in these statistics, but it's not necessary to list names, addresses and phone numbers.
	YES	NO	

43	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Would you support amending current racial profiling legislation to add collection of data on persons of Middle Eastern origin? NOTE: People of Middle Eastern origin are being characterized as terrorists: that's discrimination.
44	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support repeal of legislation that permits employers to eavesdrop on the telephone conversations of their employees?
45	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Do you favor detention of suspects and material witnesses without charges and/or probable cause?
Labor			
46	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you favor restructuring the wage scale of state employees to correct disparities based on gender by instituting equal pay for jobs of comparable worth?
47	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Do you support privatization of state services?
	ESSAY		If so, which services?
48	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Would you support contracting for outside services with companies located outside Illinois? Why or why not? Illinois jobs should stay in Illinois.
49	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support the right of public employees to strike?
50	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support legislation banning the replacement of strikers in private employment?
51	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support family leave legislation for employees of private companies not currently covered by federal law?
			Do you support
52	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	raising the minimum wage to establish a living wage for Illinois workers?
53	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	establishing a lower minimum wage for minors?
54	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	including farm workers and household employees under existing labor laws?
Health & Human Services			
55	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you support a single-payer health plan for Illinois?
	ESSAY		If so, how would Medicaid be incorporated into the program you support? Medicaid should be kept as the component of single payer health care for indigent citizens.
56	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you support sufficient funding to provide community based services for discharged mental health patients?
			Do you support:

57	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	legislation which would guarantee that abortion remains legal in Illinois, to the extent it is currently available, in the event of Roe v. Wade being overturned or diminished?
58	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Medicaid funding for abortions?
59	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	insurance coverage of abortions for state employees?
60	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	parental consent/notification for minors seeking abortions?
61	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	banning so-called partial-birth abortions?
62	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	any other restrictions on abortions? Please specify.
	YES	NO	
63	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support increasing appropriations to the Department of Children and Family Services to increase the number of caseworkers?
64	ESSAY		What services, if any, would you offer to those whose time on Welfare has run out and do not have adequate income to support themselves and their families? Too often, children are penalized for the system's deadlines. Once Welfare benefits have expired, children should receive emergency WIC benefits. In addition, parents could be placed in volunteer work programs while working closely with counselors to determine an appropriate career path. These steps should be assessed after six months.
Housing			
65	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you favor legislation banning housing discrimination against holders of Section 8 vouchers?
			Would you support legislation
66	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	mandating that landlords give tenants notice prior to entering their units?
67	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	assessing penalties against landlords who engage in illegal or retaliatory evictions?
Energy & Environment			
68	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Do you support an elected ICC? Illinois has 693 separate taxing bodies. Another election might not result in a more competent ICC.
69	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Should Illinois institute a Renewable Portfolio Standard requiring all energy providers in Illinois to sell minimum amounts of their energy from renewable sources?
70	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Should Illinois adopt the International Energy Conservation Code for residential buildings?
71	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you support ratification of the Great Lakes Annex Compact if it restricts out-of-basin diversion of Great Lakes waters?
72	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Would you support legislation that would provide state technical assistance funds to local

.			communities to help them prepare and implement comprehensive smart growth plans to avoid the costs of rapid unplanned growth and urban sprawl?
73	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Would you support legislation requiring registration and monitoring of confined feedlot waste treatment/disposal and licensing of third party waste haulers?
			Do you support
74	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	expansion of O'Hare airport?
75	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	expansion of other regional airports? If so, which?
76	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	building a new airport in Peotone?
			Do you support
77	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	inter-city high speed rail?
78	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	the current formula for allocation of funds to CTA, Metra and PACE? NOTE: With our increase in population and increasing environmental problems, good rapid transit system is essential to urban and suburban areas. I would support a review of all mass transit funds with an eye to strengthening mass transit service.
			Criminal Justice
			Do you support state legislation to ban the manufacture, sale and possession of
79	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	handguns? Note: I favor stricter licensing guidelines for the purchase of handguns.
80	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	assault weapons?
	YE S	NO	
			Do you support
81	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	legislation increasing penalties for illegal resale of weapons?
82	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	legislation permitting the licensing of concealed weapons?
83	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	legislation mandating background checks of purchasers of weapons at gun shows, through the internet and through print advertisements?
			Do you support:
84	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	capital punishment?
85	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	criminal prosecution of juveniles as adults?
86	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	mandatory sentencing?
87	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	work release, home monitoring, other alternative sentencing?
88	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	admissibility of illegally obtained evidence?

89 .	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	electronic eavesdropping?
90 .	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	roving wiretaps?
91 .	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you favor continuation of the current moratorium on capital punishment in Illinois?
	ESSAY		If not, how would you address the inequities enumerated in the report of the Commission on the Death Penalty?