

IVI-IPO 2006 GENERAL ASSEMBLY QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 1

DATE 7/21/06 DISTRICT: 46 PARTY: Democratic
NAME: JOE VOSICKY
VOTING ADDRESS: 345 ELM PARK, ELMHURST, ILLINOIS 60126
HOME PHONE: 630-530-1542 BUSINESS PHONE: 312-332-0116

CAMPAIGN ADDRESS: 105 MAPLE, ELMHURST, IL 60126
CAMPAIGN PHONE: 630-758-0100 (*312-332-0116) FAX: 630-758-0101
EMAIL: vosickvjf@aol.com WEBSITE: www.joevosicky.com

CAMPAIGN MANAGER: ROBERT PEICKERT

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED: 926 NUMBER REQUIRED: 500

*(Business – 312-332-0116)

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

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

IVI-IPO 2006 GENERAL ASSEMBLY QUESTIONNAIRE – SECTION 1

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

N/A

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

State Representative 2004

C) What is your primary occupation?

Attorney

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

Candidate for State Representative 2004

John Marshall Law School/Masaryk University Law School,
Brno, Czech Republic Exchange

Participated in Lawyer/Judge delegations to Prague

Housed 2 law students from Masaryk, each for a semester

Fulbright Visiting Law Professor to Masaryk Law School

Spring Semester 2002

University of Illinois/Champaign 2000 Study on Cumulative Voting
for Illinois General Assembly

John Howard Association Board of Directors and Prison Inspection Volunteer

York High School Neighborhood Committee

Chairman, Constitutional Law Committee of Chicago Bar Association

Confirmation Teacher St. Procopius Church, 18th & Allport, Chicago

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

Law School Graduate

Member of Former Illinois Commission on Children

Governor's Com. 1970 White House Conference on Children & Youth

Chairman, State Study on Age of Majority

Above activities and practice of law (25 years)

Arbitrator, Court Annexed Arbitration

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

Lt. Governor Pat Quinn

Senators Richard Durbin and Barack Obama

Contributor and Endorser

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

Lt. Governor Pat Quinn
AFL-CIO
Chicago Sun-Times Newspaper 2004

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 have experience in the military (USAF); commerce while working for the Northern Trust Co. (5 years); law – as full-time practitioner for 25 years, including trial work, educator at Masaryk University Law School (Fulbright Grant), John Marshall Law School and Roosevelt University; and many community civic activities.

Goals: Working out better school funding program to provide better basic education to all students; real estate property tax relief; provide access to reasonably priced medical care services; improve access to jobs and pension security.

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

\$100,000.00; about \$25,000.00 in cash and in-kind contributions.

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

10 staff; 75 volunteers.

IVI-IPO 2006 GENERAL ASSEMBLY QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 2

	YES	NO	Elections & Ethics
			Do you support:
1.		X	moving the primary election date?
	ESSAY		If so, to what month?
2.	X		keeping voters' political party preferences in the primary elections secret?
3.		X	reestablishing straight party voting in general elections?
4.	X		any other changes in Illinois' election laws?
	ESSAY		Please explain.
I support cumulative voting for the General Assembly.			
5.	X		Do you support restoration of cumulative voting for the Illinois House of Representatives?
	ESSAY		If so, please describe the plan you support.
I favor the return to cumulative voting for the General Assembly, such as it was prior to 1980, in the previous Illinois Constitution.			
6.		X	Should Illinois institute instant run-off voting?
7.	X		Do you support changes in the way judges are selected?
	ESSAY		If so, please give a brief description of the system you support.
<p>Judicial selection in most Illinois counties is not the problem; it is in Cook County in particular, then the collar counties of Chicago, but less so. The Associate Judge system for 40% of Circuit Court of Cook County seems to be okay; the fault is with electing so many Circuit Court and Sub-Circuit Court Judges. Staggered elections, staggered terms and off-peak voting might help to reduce the number of judges elected at a specific time.</p> <p>I have participated in various studies for “merit selection” of judges through the Constitutional Law Committee of the Chicago Bar Association, but in 10 years there was no consensus. In fact, Federal District Judge Wayne Anderson stated there is no perfect method because of the vagaries of (a) the process and (b) what it takes to be a good judge – part of “judging” is like teaching – some people/lawyers are just better suited for it temperamentally, emotionally and intellectually than others. Further, Judge Anderson and Federal District Judge Charles Norgle have pointed out how very political the “merit selection” of Federal District Court Judges is.</p> <p>In summary, I would keep the Associate and Circuit Court Judge system but improve upon it by staggering the terms to reduce the number of judges selected. The Chicago Bar Association could also be charged with doing a better job of interviewing would-be judge applicants and retention judges.</p>			
8.		X	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.

Not necessarily, because review panels are also political: who selects the panel? Although, a review of potential nominees is good and has been done for some time – like many years. DuPage County (18th Judicial Circuit) does a fairly good job in selecting judges. And with the split Associate Judge/Circuit Judge system, some attorneys can petition to run in an election for full Circuit Judge. See answer to Number 7 above.

There was also a blue ballot in approximately 1962, which system was re-adopted in the 1970 Illinois Constitution. Before changing, we should take a reasoned look at those debates and improve what we have, but not start all over. Consider staggering the terms of Circuit Court Judges.

			Do you support:
9.	X		public financing of election campaigns?
10.	X		limits on campaign contributions and political committee transfers?
11.	X		restricting campaign fundraising during legislative sessions?
12.	X		limiting contributions to political campaigns by dollar amount or source?
			Do you support
13.	X		legislation to prohibit incumbency and political affiliation as criteria in the mapping process for Congressional, Legislative and local government electoral districts?
14.	X		creation of a non-partisan Commission to draw maps instead of the General Assembly?
15.		X	Do you support permitting state employees to hold other public sector jobs concurrently?
16.			Do you support patronage?
	ESSAY		Please explain your position.

The favored answer is probably “no.” The realistic answer is “yes,” but to what extent. Government is partly a “tone” established by the elected officials, just like decorum in a courtroom is set by the judge. Look at the hiring practices at banks, industry, corporations.

Illinois should be a laboratory for good government. University of Illinois, University of Chicago, Northwestern University, University of Illinois Chicago, Loyola, DePaul, College of DuPage, Elmhurst College have Political Science Departments, strong professors, like Sam Gove and James Nowlan at University of Illinois/Champaign. Implement some of their considered ideas, especially as to the budget and quality of education for all Illinois students. If the Milton Friedman economic theory can privatize the former planned economy of Czechoslovakia, we should look to some of our sages to improve our own State of Illinois.

Taxes and Economic Policy

			Do you support:
17.	X		instituting a graduated income tax?
18.			increasing income taxes to relieve or replace local property taxes and increase state funding of education?
19.		X	maintaining the current corporate/individual ratio in income taxes?
20.		X	Do you support casino gambling in Cook County?
	YES	NO	
21.	X		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?
<p>I do not support increasing Illinois gambling and I believe the laws should be changed so that no person can gamble on credit of any kind.</p>		
		Do you support legislation to
22.	X	prohibit confession of judgment clauses in consumer contracts?
23.	X	allow expanded private rights of action?
24.	X	allow expanded rights of litigation?
25.	X	mandate attorney fees to be awarded to successful plaintiffs?
26.	X	provide for any other changes? Please specify.
<p>Court-annexed arbitration in civil actions under \$50,000 should be strengthened. The amount necessary to reject an award should be increased from \$200 to either \$500 or \$1,000, depending upon the amount of damages sought. Attorneys fees should be awarded to successful plaintiffs where the jury verdict is the same as or more than the panel's award at arbitration.</p>		
		Do you support legislation
27.	X	banning Pay Day loans?
28.	X	banning or restricting ATM fees?
29.	X	capping credit card interest rates?
Education		
30.	X	Will you vote to increase state funding to at least 50% of public education costs?
31.	X	Do you support vouchers or other means of public funding for private or parochial schools?
32.	X	Do you support public funding of charter or contract schools?
	ESSAY	Please explain your position.
<p>Educating our children may be the most important public function. Children are our most important natural resource and they are dependent neither Republican nor Democratic. Our nation is built on quality public education. As important as our parochial and private schools are, they are optional and usually take the most affluent or gifted students and do not deal with the breadth of issues in public schools.</p> <p>The "foundation level" of student funding must be raised. There should be less dependence on real estate property taxes so that all Illinois students have the same and better base funding level and opportunities. Local school districts like York, New Trier, Hinsdale, LaGrange, Evanston, Glen Ellyn . . . can increase funding to continue to provide the quality education, but even in those communities the State should provide at least 50% of the funding.</p> <p>Inner-city and rural schools need more funds. Those students will also be part of our economy and deserve a better start on life than they now receive. Just look at how the windows are boarded up at the schools in Maywood, Toulon and Wyoming, Illinois and Chicago Vocational High School.</p>		
Civil Rights & Civil Liberties		
33.	X	Do you support Affirmative Action?

34.	X		Will you vote to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment?
			Do you favor legislation
35.	X		legalizing civil marriage between two people of the same gender?
36.			providing legal recognition of domestic partnerships? SEE ABOVE
37.	X		prohibiting discrimination in housing against unmarried individuals residing together?
38.		X	Do you support mandatory AIDS testing for insurance or employment?
			Do you support mandatory drug testing
39.	X		for public sector employees?
40.		X	for private sector employees?
	ESSAY		Under what circumstances?
Public sector employees, like air-traffic controllers, bus drivers, motormen and women, train engineers where others' lives are dependent on their actions might be drug tested.			
41.		X	Should state police be allowed to stop vehicle operators to test for DUI on grounds other than probable cause?
42.		X	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? UNCLEAR
	YES	NO	
43.			Would you support amending current racial profiling legislation to add collection of data on persons of Middle Eastern origin? UNCLEAR. WHAT CURRENT LEGISLATION.
44.		X	Do you support repeal of legislation that permits employers to eavesdrop on the telephone conversations of their employees?
45.		X	Do you favor detention of suspects and material witnesses without charges and/or probable cause?
Labor			
46.	X		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.		X	Do you support privatization of state services?
	ESSAY		If so, which services?
48.			Would you support contracting for outside services with companies located outside Illinois? Why or why not?
It depends on whether the service(s) can be obtained in Illinois (where we should look first) and what services and expertise is required.			
49.	X		Do you support the right of public employees to strike?

50.			Do you support legislation banning the replacement of strikers in private employment?
51.	X		Do you support family leave legislation for employees of private companies not currently covered by federal law?
			Do you support
52.	X		raising the minimum wage to establish a living wage for Illinois workers?
53.	X		establishing a lower minimum wage for minors?
54.			including farm workers and household employees under existing labor laws?
Health & Human Services			
55.	X		Will you support a single-payer health plan for Illinois?
	ESSAY		If so, how would Medicaid be incorporated into the program you support?
<p>This is obviously complicated. There should be a bi-partisan committee established including doctors, hospital administrators, lawyers, judges, insurance executives/administrators, welfare administrators, etc. to work out a solution so that all Illinois citizens and residents have access to basic medical care. Currently, the cost of insurance, especially for those buying their own coverage, is too high and uneven; just as medical bills are inflated and sometimes unreasonably high for certain patients and emergency room care.</p>			
56.	X		Will you support sufficient funding to provide community based services for discharged mental health patients?
			Do you support:
57.	X		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	Medicaid funding for abortions?
59.		X	insurance coverage of abortions for state employees?
60.		X	parental consent/notification for minors seeking abortions?
61.		X	banning so-called partial-birth abortions?
62.		X	any other restrictions on abortions? Please specify.
	YES	NO	
63.	X		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?
<p>First, this is why Illinois should increase funding for basic education for all children and raise to 18 the age at which students can drop out. Second, efforts should be taken to help employ those on welfare and provide the necessary training.</p>			
Housing			
65.	X		Do you favor legislation banning housing discrimination against holders of Section 8 vouchers?
			Would you support legislation

66.		X	mandating that landlords give tenants notice prior to entering their units?
67.			assessing penalties against landlords who engage in illegal or retaliatory evictions?
They are there already			
Energy & Environment			
68.	X		Do you support an elected ICC?
69.			Should Illinois institute a Renewable Portfolio Standard requiring all energy providers in Illinois to sell minimum amounts of their energy from renewable sources?
70.			Should Illinois adopt the International Energy Conservation Code for residential buildings?
71.			Will you support ratification of the Great Lakes Annex Compact if it restricts out-of-basin diversion of Great Lakes waters?
72.	X		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.			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.			expansion of O'Hare airport?
75.	X		expansion of other regional airports? If so, which?
76.	X		building a new airport in Peotone?
			Do you support
77.	X		inter-city high speed rail?
78.		X	the current formula for allocation of funds to CTA, Metra and PACE?
Criminal Justice			
			Do you support state legislation to ban the manufacture, sale and possession of
79.		X	handguns?
80.	X		assault weapons?
	YES	NO	
			Do you support
81.	X		legislation increasing penalties for illegal resale of weapons?
82.		X	legislation permitting the licensing of concealed weapons?
83.	X		legislation mandating background checks of purchasers of weapons at gun shows, through the internet and through print advertisements?
			Do you support:
84.		X	capital punishment?
85.		X	criminal prosecution of juveniles as adults?
86.		X	mandatory sentencing?
87.	X		work release, home monitoring, other alternative sentencing?
88.		X	admissibility of illegally obtained evidence?

89.			electronic eavesdropping? WITH OR WITHOUT COURT ORDER?
90.			oving wiretaps? SAME?
91.	X		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?