

IVI-IPO 2009 SUBURBAN TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS & MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS (CLERK OR TREASURER) QUESTIONNAIRE

DATE March 4, 2009 CANDIDATE FOR Northfield Township Trustee

NAME Carol Blustein

VOTING ADDRESS 2502 Asbury Road, Northbrook, IL 60062

HOME PHONE 847-559-1778 BUSINESS PHONE (cell) 847-372-1567

CAMPAIGN ADDRESS 1926 Waukegan Road, Suite 310, Glenview, IL 60025

CAMPAIGN PHONE 847-272-516 FAX 847-486-0230

CAMPAIGN MANAGER Andrew Chusid

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED Slated by caucus NUMBER REQUIRED Slated by caucus

WEBSITE: northfielddems.org

Please provide the following background information:

Elective or appointive public and/or party offices previously held including dates.

November 2005 to current - secretary and vice-president of North Shore Mosquito Abatement District (NSMAD)

Other elective offices for which you have been a candidate.

Principal business, educational, professional and civic activities of the past ten years.

High school special education instructor – retired

Northfield Township Food Pantry volunteer

Member of the American Friends of Israel War Disabled Foundation – I serve on a committee to plan veterans' activities while they visit our community and host a veteran in my home for a two-week period.

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

I studied special education in school and hold a BA in Special Education from Illinois State University, a MFA in Special Education from Northeastern Illinois University, and over 60 hours of related graduate work including a certificate in English as a Second Language. As a special education instructor, I understand the challenges of the disabled and the impact on their families, especially when young adults complete their schooling and look for meaningful employment. In these difficult economic times, there has been added stress on families, and it's especially important to support programs for at-risk youth.

Activities for other candidates. Please be specific.

Northfield Township co-coordinator for Dan Seals 10th Congressional District Campaign (2006) – my activities included; sponsoring a coffee in my home; enlarging the volunteer base; fundraising thru phone solicitations; phone and door-to-door

canvassing; co-coordinating a successful coffee where over 100 people attended; emailing township volunteers about all voter outreach activities, and creating a phone bank in my home.

Northfield Township area precinct coordinator for Dan Seals 10th Congressional District Campaign (2008) – my activities included: finding volunteers to cover my area of 7 precincts; participation in the area canvassing; working as an area coordinator on election day, where I supervised and supported volunteers.

Please list all endorsements you have received so far.

I have been endorsed by Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan, State Senators Susan Garrett and Jeff Schoenberg, State Representatives Elaine Nekritz and Karen May.

As concisely as possible, 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?

As a retired special educator, I know the importance of a strong social safety net to support the disabled population. I also understand the importance of supporting agencies that deal with mental health issues, addiction, domestic violence, and a host of other social problems that affect the community.

As the vice-president of NSMAD, I spearheaded the task force to evaluate employee benefits, eliminate unnecessary personnel, and hire people with qualifications to enhance the district's mission. As a trustee, I will examine questionable hiring of family members and overtime billing. As a candidate, I have visited over a quarter of the social service agencies funded by the township. After learning about the funding shortfalls for these agencies, I plan to reduce the township's reserves to levels recommended by Comptroller Dan Hynes, and reinvest in social services to assist those affected by the downturn in the economy.

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

For the Democratic slate of 7 candidates, the budget is \$25,000. Thus far, we have raised \$15,000. On March 23, 2009, we have a fundraiser with Attorney General Lisa Madigan. We are planning to raise a substantial amount of contributions to help fund our campaign.

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

There is one staff member and a list of over 100 volunteers.

1. What are your top priorities for this office?

I plan to work with the other trustees to enact ethics reforms ending the practice of employing family members. I will work so that the board no longer gives the budget a blind stamp of approval; I intend to control the amount of overtime being awarded to employees. I will work to require all elected officials sign ethics statements and release township reserve funds keeping a 3-6 month reserve, as recommended by the state comptroller. The current reserves, which exceed one year's budget, can be put to better use funding social services and programs for seniors, the disabled, and our youth.

2. What changes if any would you propose to the current budget, both revenue and expenses?

The budget can be reduced by coordinating services with other units of local government to prevent duplication. There should be limitations on overtime allowances and reduction in other wasteful township spending. With these actions, it will be possible to reduce the township's tax levy, aiding homeowners in this difficult economy.

3. a. Do you support affirmative action based on race, gender and sexual orientation in establishing criteria for hiring and promoting public employees?

Qualifications should be the number one reason to hire people. We will end the practice of handing out government jobs to friends and family members, who may not be the most qualified. Taxpayers deserve the best value for their hard-earned dollars.

- b. Do you support affirmative action as a criterion in letting contracts?

The township needs to accept contracts that will give taxpayers the highest quality, most economy, and greatest efficiency. These are the standards I follow as trustee for the NSMAD.

4. Do you favor restructuring the wage scale of employees to institute gender-equal pay for jobs of comparable worth? Yes

5. Do you support patronage in hiring and promoting public employees?

No

6. a. Do you support employing municipal/township staff who hold other public sector jobs concurrently?

No

- b. Do you support employing municipal/township staff who have either outside employment or contracts with entities which do business with the municipality/township?

No

7. In what circumstances should the municipality/township contract for outside professional services and what criteria should exist for letting contracts? Please comment on any existing abuses and how you would correct them.

When the township requires services such as outside audits, legal counsel, and engineering, multiple contracts should be solicited. Family members and political donors should be prohibited from these contracts. I believe that, whenever possible, contracts employing residents of the township, taking environmental considerations into account, should receive preference in addition to the bid price. All of these policies are ongoing at the NSMAD.

8. Will you or have you accepted campaign donations from current or potential suppliers or employees?

No, I have not and I will not.

9. Who are your top 5 contributors and how much has each contributed to your campaign?

The top contributions to the slate I am running on include:

\$5,000 – The Democrats of Northfield Township

\$500 – Tenth District Democrats

\$500 – Mary Reynolds

\$500 – Dr. Kathy Barth

\$500 – Tracy McCormick

\$250 – State Senator Susan Garrett

Additionally, we have received several donations from friends and family members averaging \$75 each.