

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

DATE March 2,2009 CANDIDATE FOR Northfield Township Clerk

NAME Laura Fine

VOTING ADDRESS 1700 Constitution Drive, Glenview, Il 60026

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

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CAMPAIGN MANAGER Andy Chusid

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED 0 NUMBER REQUIRED 0

WEBSITE: www.northfielddems.org

Please provide the following background information:

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

Election Judge Coordinator April 2007-Present

Other elective offices for which you have been a candidate.

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

1999-Present: Instructor, Political Science Department Northeastern Illinois University

2008: Illinois Women's Institute for Leadership

2008-Present: Volunteer. Northfield Township Food Pantry

2008-Present: Cubs Scout Pack 559, Events Coordinator

2002-Present: Parent Teacher Association

1995-2000: Writer WBBM Radio

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

From the years 1989 to 2000, I worked at various media outlets. My positions have included: producer for primetime newscasts at an ABC affiliate station in Wisconsin; morning news anchor and reporter at a CBS affiliate in Minnesota; host of public affairs programming at an affiliate television station in Chicago; and newswriter at WBBM radio in Chicago. During that time, I also worked as a freelance producer and writer, researching, producing and organizing teleconferences for associations and stories for a Public Broadcasting Station.

These experiences will help me in the job of clerk, as reporting minutes from the meetings and making information available to the public are key aspects of the position.

Activities for other candidates. Please be specific.

In past elections, I have volunteered on a number of campaigns. In the 2008 elections, I went door to door and made phone calls for Dan Seals.

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 and 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?

I should be endorsed so that I can work to increase transparency in township government and provide accurate records for members of the public to review. The Township government provides so many important safety nets for residents of our community, however most people are unaware of what the Township has to offer. My experience in the fields of communication and broadcasting will help me bridge this information gap between the public and the township government.

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

The budget for the democratic slate of 7 candidates is \$25,000. We have raised \$15,000 so far. We have a fundraiser scheduled with Attorney General Lisa Madigan on March 23 where 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?

The slate has one staff member and a list of over 100 volunteers.

1. What are your top priorities for this office?

My top priority as Clerk is to improve the quality and availability of township records. Current Township meeting minutes are vague and brief, often times acknowledging lengthy debate only as “there was some discussion.” I will work to create clear and concise records of township meetings. I would also like to make these detailed minutes available online to create more transparency in township government.

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

I will work to reduce the costs to the township by coordinating services with other units of local government to prevent duplication of services, track and publish overtime allowances, and work to identify wasteful spending within the township.

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

We need to hire people based on their qualifications. The public deserves the best value for their dollar and we will end the practice of handing out government jobs to friends and family members who may not be the most qualified applicants.

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

The township needs to accept contracts that will perform the best quality, economical, and efficient job so that taxpayers receive the best value for their dollars.

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 needs services like outside audits, legal counsel, and engineering, there should be public notice to find the best contractors available. To make sure there is no appearance of impropriety, family members and political donors should be excluded from the pool of candidates. As clerk, I will work to check proposed contracts for any conflicts of interest and report my findings to the board.

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.