

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

DATE_March 6, 2009_____ CANDIDATE FOR_Northfield Township Trustee_____

NAME_Karen McCormick_____

VOTING ADDRESS_621 Woodland Ln N, Northfield, IL 60093_____

HOME PHONE_847-446-1465_____ BUSINESS PHONE_Cell 847-525-5790_____

CAMPAIGN ADDRESS_1926 Waukegan Rd, Suite 310, Glenview, IL 60025_____

CAMPAIGN PHONE_847-998-1002_____ FAX_847-486-0230_____

CAMPAIGN MANAGER_Andy Chusid_____

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED_0, slated at caucus_ NUMBER REQUIRED_0_____

WEBSITE:_http://www.northfielddems.org_____

Please provide the following background information:

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

Northfield Township Coordinator for Dan Seals for Congress in 2006 and 2008.

Fundraising Chair for Tenth Congressional District Democrats.

Executive Committee Member for Tenth Congressional District Democrats.

Steering Committee Member for the Democrats of Northfield Township.

Precinct Captain.

Other elective offices for which you have been a candidate.

None.

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

Northfield School and Park Board Caucus, Friends of the Library for Winnetka/Northfield, Sunset Ridge PTA Executive Committee, Northfield Community Nursurey School Board Member, League of Women Voters Member, LINKS Volunteer.

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

I graduated from the University of Colorado in Boulder in 1978 with a B.A. in Communications. I have been an active volunteer with many social service agencies which gives me unique perspectives into the needs of local residents.

Politically, I have attended several seminars and lectures through the "Tenth Dems University" program, including The Mystique of Making Laws.

Activities for other candidates. Please be specific.

I have been involved as a volunteer in several emocratic campaigns in my area, including Dan Seals for Congress and Elaine Nekritz for State Representative. I have also been on the slating committees to slate candidates for the Northfield School Board and Northfield Park District.

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 because it is important to push through an ethics ordinance in Northfield Township. It is also important to reduce the excessive reserves to a reasonable level, as reccommended by Comptroller Hynes. Most importantly for the residents of Northfield Township, I will increase social service support to reasonable levels comparable to surrounding townships.

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. I have personally raised over \$4000 due to my substantial contacts in the community.

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 in office will be to find ways to re-allocate funds to social services. Social service agency funding should be a top priority and I will go through each budget line by line to find wasteful spending and duplications of services that can be transferred to fund social services for the residents of Northfield Township. Also among my top priorities are to enact strong ethics reforms that will monitor the amount of overtime awarded and reducing the township's reserves to the level recommended by Comptroller Hynes instead of the year's worth of funds that is held currently.

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

I will go through each budget line by line to find wasteful spending and duplications of services that can be transferred to fund social services for the residents of Northfield Township. I will also work to reduce the amount of overtime awarded, especially within the road district. Through this and increased coordination with municipalities, I believe that a reduction in the tax levy is appropriate.

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.

Services including legal counsel, audits and engineering should be contracted for. I will not support any contracts awarded to elected official's family members or political donors. I will advocate that environmental concerns be accounted for in contracts and prefer that Township contracts employ residents of the township during these difficult economic times.

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 Congressional 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.