

# IVI-IPO 2009 CONGRESSIONAL QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 1

DATE: 3/6/2009

DISTRICT: 5<sup>th</sup> District

PARTY: Green Party

NAME: Matt Reichel

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CAMPAIGN MANAGER: August Grebinski

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED: 90 NUMBER REQUIRED: 30

A) Elective or appointive public or party offices previously held including dates. **None.**

B) Other elective offices for which you have been a candidate. **None.**

C) What is your primary occupation? **Matt Reichel for Congress**

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

**Field outreach coordinator; Peace Action, 2000-2004**

**Campaign worker; Dennis Kucinich for President 2004,2008**

**Campaign Worker, Dennis Kucinich for Congress 2008**

E) 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 International relations and diplomacy in Paris, France from 2004-2007. Paris is the historic diplomatic capital of the world: there is no more fitting place to learn to commune with other nations and cultures. I feel that this cultural and academic experience alone makes me more qualified for the position of congressman than the vast majority of those currently serving.**

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

**I supported Dennis Kucinich for president and Congress as a campaign worker (see above). I also publicly supported Carl Estabrook for Congress (IL-15<sup>th</sup>, Green) in 2002 and Ralph Nader for president in 2000 and 2004.**

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

**None**

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 feel that I should specifically receive the endorsement of this organization because I am a “no strings attached” candidate, who emphasizes principles before politics and party. I am as independent and courageous as a political candidate could possibly be: a cursory review of the numerous articles I have published online will reveal this fact quite clearly. I feel that the injustices committed by my country and my government are far too grave for movements for change to be bogged down by partisan bickering and special interest politics. We need leaders that are willing to stick their neck out, put themselves on the line and speak out against the terrors perpetuated by our government and the big businesses that own our political system.

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

My budget for the primary campaign is \$2,000, of which \$1,605 has been raised. I will probably surpass my projected budget for the primary campaign with an eye towards the general election. During the general election period, I project a budget of around \$10,000, though the potential to pass that many times over exists if the Green party nationally will throw resources and energy behind this campaign.

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

6, around 20

## IVI-IPO 2009 CONGRESSIONAL QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 2

<b>Foreign and Military</b>		
1.	ESSAY	<p>What should be the US role in multi-national alliances such as the UN, NATO and the International Criminal Court?</p> <p><b>Firstly, the U.S. should recognize that the ICC exists, and emphasize the importance of having an international body to try suspects for high crimes against humanity.</b></p> <p><b>The United States must catch up on its dues to the United Nations, and our leadership must re-affirm the importance of being a member of the international community, by taking on a larger role within the United Nations. Furthermore, I propose a \$5 billion/year fund to be invested in schools of diplomacy and negotiation, so that we can begin to replace our military presence in foreign lands with a genuine diplomatic presence.</b></p> <p><b>One thing I learned during my stay abroad is that there is much resentment worldwide over the fact that Americans send military personnel rather than diplomats to foreign lands. We must invest in a change from this doomed policy, lest we rapidly wither away into irrelevance.</b></p>
2.	ESSAY	<p>What should be the policy of the IMF and World Bank toward countries that are essentially bankrupt?</p> <p><b>I am for the abolition of the IMF and World Bank and replacing these neo-liberal organs with new international commercial institutions that are rooted in workers’</b></p>

			<p><b>rights, indigenous rights and economic and ecological sustainability. The IMF and World Bank are obsolete bodies that cannot effectively be reformed because the prevailing logic (neo-liberalism) will guarantee the continued subjugation of workers' throughout the world. However, in the short term these bodies should grant 100% amnesty to developing nations that are unable to catch up on loan payments.</b></p>
3.	ESSAY		<p>What should be Congress' role in formulating foreign policy?  <b>The Congress is the sole bearer of the right to formulate and execute our nation's foreign policy, and as congressman I will do all I can to rescue this right from our increasingly totalitarian executive branch. Among other things, I will accomplish this end by voting against all resolutions granting war power to the executive, while also pushing for the repeal of the War Powers' Act.</b></p>
	YES	NO	
4.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>If a Timetable for withdrawal from Iraq is not established, will this affect your votes on funding for the Iraq War? Please explain your answer. <b>I will vote against all funding of the Iraq war.</b></p>
5.	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<p>Should the US wage war without a declaration from Congress? <b>Absolutely not.</b></p>
6.	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Would you support legislation giving Governors veto power over deployment of their National Guard units overseas?</p>
7.	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<p>Do you agree with the current proposed level of funding for the military?</p>
8.	ESSAY		<p>If you agree, explain. If you disagree, how would you distribute the funds?  <b>I would propose investing in our New New Deal: cutting the military budget in half so as to re-build the country in order to make it greener. We can potentially create 10 million new jobs by re-building our public transportation system, Amtrak and high speed rail systems, while also thousands of ecologically sustainable wind and solar power plants throughout the country. This is not mere left wing day dreaming: a comprehensive Green Works project of this nature is necessary in order for this nation to survive.</b></p>
9.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<p>Do you support continued funding for WHISC (the re-named Army School of the Americas)?</p>
10.	X		<p>Would you support congressional investigations into government contractors that have participated in Human Rights violations such as the rendition/torture flights</p>
11.	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Would you support legislation banning such activities in the question above?</p>
12.	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Will you support legislation guaranteeing the protections of the Geneva Conventions and the US Constitution to "enemy combatants" or others similarly detained by the US Government anywhere in the world?</p>
13.	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<p>Do you support the way the drug war is being carried on, both abroad and at home?</p>
14.	ESSAY		<p><b>I would vote to de-fund the drug war entirely, and push for greater transparency in our intelligence communities so as to prevent these perpetual proxy wars from occurring. I would also work to de-criminalize marijuana, and end any felony charges for non-violent drug crimes domestically.</b></p>

15.	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	Do you support the way the drug war is being carried on, both abroad and at home?
			Do you support
16.	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	normalization of relations with Cuba?
17.	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	the Helms-Burton Act?

### Energy & Environment

	YES	NO	Do you support:
18.	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	Oil drilling in Alaska and other protected wilderness?
19.	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	Do you support any increased off-shore drilling? Explain
20.	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lower National Carbon emissions goals?
21.	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Energy Efficiency goals?
22.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Coal Liquification?
23.	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	Increasing use of Nuclear power for electric generation?
24.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mountaintop coal strip mining?
25.	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	Increase user fees for grazing, mining and lumbering on Federal lands?
26.	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kyoto Protocols?
27.	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	Biodiesel mixture and agri-biodiesel production tax credits?

### Transportation

			Should the federal government have primary funding responsibility for
28.	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	infrastructure improvements?
29.	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	highways?
30.	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	mass transit?
31.	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	high-speed rail?
32.	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	Amtrak?
33.	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	Air transportation?
34.	ESSAY		<b>As already mentioned, I support scaling back military bloat by half over the course of 5 years so as to open up \$300 billion in funding for an ambitious Green works project wherein we put 10 million Americans to work re-building our public transit systems, national rail and Amtrak systems as well as vastly expanding the output of alternative forms of electricity.</b>

### Taxes and Economic Policy

			Do you favor
35.	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	a more progressive income tax?
36.	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	a flat tax?
37.	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	a national sales tax?
38.	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	reduction of the capital gains tax?
39.	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	taxing capital gains at the same rate as earned income?
40.	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	reduction or elimination of the estate tax?

41.	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	elimination of the corporate alternative tax?
42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	reduction of the tax on stock dividends?
43.	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	taxing dividends at the same rate as earned income?
44.	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	Increasing the Federal Minimum wage?
45.	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	any other changes in our tax structure?
46.	ESSAY		<p>Please explain.</p> <p><b>I will push for a 50% reduction in military spending by creating a task force to weed out corrupt clout from our annual expenditures, while completely ceasing funding of wasteful weapons programs such as second generation tactical nuclear weapons (including the Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator) and the disastrous Star Wars missile shield. With the spending opened up by the massive cuts in military spending, I will invest in Green works projects to re-invigorate the economy by creating sustainable employment for 10 million un- and under-employed Americans. This will include investments in wind and solar energy, public transportation in our urban centers, and a revitalization of our commuter train network.</b></p> <p><b>Furthermore, I will oppose any and all future Wall Street bailouts, and seek to halt disbursement of already approved funds. These handouts to the criminal business class whose greed created our current economic malaise only stand to deepen the core problem. Rather than piling debt upon debt upon debt, we must stop investing in Empire and start investing in our future by creating jobs that are both economically and ecologically sustainable.</b></p>
47.	ESSAY		<b>Social Security should be expanded to cover more comprehensibly people unsuccessfully looking for work, disabled veterans of foreign wars, and people that are physically or mentally debilitated from working.</b>
48.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Will you support “fast track” legislation for trade treaties?
49.	ESSAY		<p>Please discuss your ideas for an economic recovery plan. Please be specific as to what criteria would be necessary for you to support such a plan.</p> <p><b>My economic recovery plan involves, as mentioned twice already, cutting back military spending by half over the course of five years, and re-investing these dollars in an ambitious public works project.</b></p>
50.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Would you support utilizing anti-trust laws against firms that are “too big to let fail?”

<b>Consumer Rights</b>			
51.	ESSAY		<b>The most important step needed to ensure an end to this sort of wild speculation is to de-abolish the Glass-Steagall Act and re-affirm the separation of investment and commercial banking.</b>
52.	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support a moratorium on mortgage foreclosures?
	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	Do you support
53.	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	federal legislation to cap interest rates on mortgages?
54.			federal legislation to cap interest rates on credit card interest?
55.	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	federal legislation to regulate ban ATM fees and service charges on credit cards and other consumer loans?
56.	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	allowing states to enact consumer laws which go beyond the protection of federal legislation?
<b>Government and Ethics</b>			
57.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Do you support term limits?
			Do you support
58.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	public financing of Congressional campaigns?
59.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	spending limits?
60.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	abolition of PACs?
61.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Elimination of earmarks?
62.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	All earmarks being made available in a searchable format on the internet?
63.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Would you support increased Congressional oversight of federal contracting?
64.	ESSAY		Why or why not?
65.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Would you support Congressional investigations of wrong-doing under the Bush administration?
66.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Would you support legislation forbidding all Senate, House, and White House staff from engaging in any political activity on government time?
<b>Health &amp; Human Services</b>			
67.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support comprehensive, universal, single-payer health care?
68.	ESSAY		If not, how would you address the need for healthcare for the uninsured and underinsured? HR676
69.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Should the FDA approve importation of drugs from countries whose manufacturing and safety standards are equal or superior to those in the US?
70.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support funding of comprehensive age appropriate sex education programs?
71.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support increased funding for HIV/AIDS research, education, prevention, and services?

72.	ESSAY	
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	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	Do you support
73.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	federal funding for stem cell research?
74.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	legislation prohibiting stem cell research?
			Do you support
75.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	the Human Life Amendment?
76.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The Freedom of Choice Act?
77.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	parental or spousal notification or consent to obtain an abortion?
78.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	restoration of Medicaid coverage of abortion?
79.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	a ban on so-called partial birth abortions?
80.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	insurance coverage for abortions for federal and military employees and their dependents?
			Do you favor increased funding for:
81.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	supplemental food programs for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)?
82.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	food stamp allowances?
83.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Head Start?
84.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	school lunch programs?
85.	ESSAY		<b>Those who are unable to wean off of welfare should be offered job counseling and put to work in one of the many new Green Works job my administration will provide.</b>
			Do you support
86.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Increased funding to develop affordable housing?
87.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	restrictions to ensure development of low-income rather than market rate housing?
88.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	a National Affordable Housing Trust Fund to build, rehabilitate and preserve at least 1.5 million units of housing, 75% of which would be rental housing for households with income below the poverty level?
89.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	protection against housing discrimination for holders of Section 8 housing vouchers?
			Do you favor
90.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Increased federal aid to public education?
91.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	vouchers, tuition tax-credits or other any direct public support for parochial or private schools?
92.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Are the provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act the most effective way to advance student achievement?
93.	ESSAY		<b>I propose increasing our federal investment in public education by \$200 billion, most of which will go to revitalizing urban schools, ending the “teaching towards the test” requirements of NCLB, and offering free public state university education to all Americans, while offering amnesty to any outstanding student loans. This is the least the federal government can do from a human rights perspective.</b>
<b>Law, Justice, and Correctional System</b>			
			Do you support:

94.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	admissibility of illegally obtained evidence?
95.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	electronic eavesdropping?
96.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	roving wiretaps?
97.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	capital punishment?
98.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	criminal prosecution of juveniles as adults?
99.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	mandatory sentencing?
	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	
100.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	criminalization of hate crimes?
101.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Congressional oversight of the NSA?
102.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Real ID program?
103.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Changes to the Military Commissions Act? <b>Repeal</b>
104.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support legislation prohibiting racial profiling in law enforcement?
105.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Do you favor detention of suspects and material witnesses without charges and/or probable cause?
106.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you favor giving such detainees access to counsel?
107.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Would you support legislation authorizing or prohibiting secret military tribunals?
108.	ESSAY		<b>I am outright opposed to these assaults on our civil liberties and promise to be a leader in the house on banning all secret military tribunals, detention camps and other extra-constitutional means of waging the government's "war on terror."</b>
109.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support legislation banning torture and inhumane treatment of detainees under US control?
			Do you support legislation to ban the manufacture, sale and possession of
110.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	handguns?
111.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	assault weapons?
			Do you support legislation
112.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	mandating background checks of purchasers of weapons at gun shows, through the internet and through print advertisements?
113.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	increasing penalties for illegal resale of weapons?
114.	ESSAY		<b>What restrictions, if any, should Congress enact or repeal regarding the scope of federally funded legal services for the poor?</b>
<b>Civil Liberties and Civil Rights</b>			
115.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support DC statehood?
116.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you favor repeal of the Patriot Act or any of its provisions?
117.	ESSAY		<b>The Patriot Act, Military Commissions Act and FISA should all be repealed, and legal action should be taken against the Bush Administration and their enablers in both parties who made these intrusions on our civil liberties possible. Meanwhile, I shall admonish President Obama for his disgusting about face on FISA.</b>

			Do you support
118.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	repeal or revision of the Posse Comitatus Act?
119.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	prioritizing family reunification as criteria in granting visas and processing citizenship and permanent resident applications?
120.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	halting deportations of immigrants until final determination of residency status has been made and appeals have been exhausted?
121.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	amnesty for undocumented immigrants currently in the country?
122.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	building a US-Mexican border fence or “wall”?
123.	ESSAY		<p><b>Illinois’s 5th District is a fitting representation of the American Dream: a place where people from throughout the world could come to escape political persecution and poverty whilst pulling themselves up in a new homeland. The rights of the many immigrants in this district, be they from Poland, Mexico, Serbia, India, Pakistan or elsewhere, need to be defended just as much as the rights of those who were born in the district or elsewhere in the country. First and foremost, I will work to end the visceral scapegoat-ing of immigrants by the outgoing administration and certain members of our society.</b></p> <p><b>I will work to uphold due process of immigrants who have increasingly been prosecuted and imprisoned in extralegal fashion.</b></p> <p><b>I will also recognize that we need to create a path to legality if ever to effectively combat the issue of “illegals.” The current “Temporary Work” program is failing this country by not providing a viable path to permanent residency, while also not protecting immigrants by guaranteeing just wages, enforcement of workers’ rights, and just mobility between the U.S. and their homeland. I will work and actively push the congress towards immigrant reform built upon the concept of protecting immigrant workers’ from persecution by our courts, over-zealous employers and right wing members of our society.</b></p> <p><b>Lastly, I will work to overturn the disastrous “free trade” regime of NAFTA and the WTO, which makes immigration to the states inevitable by locking the developing world into a dependent economic status. I will work to re-negotiate international trade deals built upon the concept of workers’ rights and human dignity: where the goal is growing sustainable employment throughout the globe and not just creating artificial “economic growth” at home.</b></p>
	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	Do you support
124.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	federal legislation to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation in housing, employment and education?
125.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act?
126.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	a Constitutional amendment prohibiting states from recognizing gay marriage or civil unions?
127.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Federal recognition of all state marriages for federal benefit purposes?
128.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Would you support legislation allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military?
129.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Do you support prior government restraint of the press?
			Do you support
130.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	prayer in public schools?
131.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	moment of silence?
132.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	faith-based initiatives?
			Do you support mandatory drug testing
133.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	in private employment?
134.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	in public employment?

135.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Do you support mandatory AIDS testing for insurance or employment?
136.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support legislation to redress inequities in pension benefits for women?
137.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support the Equal Rights Amendment to the US Constitution?
<b>Labor</b>			
			Do you support
138.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act?
139.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	a prohibition on permanent replacement of strikers?
140.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	giving federal employees the right to strike?
141.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	the Employee Freedom of Choice Act?
142.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	a federal public works program to ensure full employment?
143.	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	Do you support Affirmative Action with specific goals, targets and timetables for federal employment, grants and contracts?
144.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support legislation to restructure the wage scale of federal employees to correct disparities based on gender by instituting equal pay for jobs of comparable worth?
145.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support a federal living wage law to guarantee that a person working forty hours a week would be able to afford housing, food, utilities, transportation and health care?