

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

DATE March 4, 2009 CANDIDATE FOR Northfield Township Trustee

NAME Mary Reynolds

VOTING ADDRESS 1339 Coventry Lane, Northbrook, IL 60062

HOME PHONE 847-291-1386 BUSINESS PHONE cell 224-558-1660

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

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CAMPAIGN MANAGER Andy Chusid

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED Nominated by caucus

WEBSITE: Democrats of Northfield Township

Please provide the following background information:

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

-none

Other elective offices for which you have been a candidate.

-none

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

I have taught English Literature and Composition as well as English as a Second Language at Highland Park High School, in Highland Park. In the last ten years I was co-chair of the Time and the School Day committee, which researched and implemented a new schedule for the school. Presently I am Instructional Coach at St. Martin de Porres High School, Waukegan. During the last two years I have also been a private language instructor, teaching English to executives and their families for Hansa One and Primera Language companies.

I have volunteered with Omni Youth Center in Wheeling, working in both the after-school program with junior high school youth and in the ESL program, teaching computer skills to adult immigrants. I have also volunteered with the New American Initiative in North Chicago, helping legal applicants for citizenship to fill out their citizenship forms.

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

I have BA and MA degrees in Latin Education, with a minor in English Education. I have an Illinois State Endorsement in English as a Second Language. During the thirty-three years that I taught in a public high school, I attended academic classes or workshops almost every summer, either learning about new methodologies in teaching English or ESL, or simply taking courses that would give me a broader world view. The experiences I have had which would be most helpful to me as a Township Trustee would be my experience as an English as a Second Language teacher, working with immigrant students; the subjects which I studied which would be most helpful would be the two immersion language

experiences I had, studying Spanish in Mexico. Both of these situations strengthened and gave focus to the values and empathy that I had been brought up with since childhood. Helping young people, who had been buffeted by the immigration experience, to learn English, and then attempting to learn Spanish in a sink-or-swim situation myself made concrete for me the difficulties that marginalized people cope with. This made me determined to use my skills – my ability to solve problems, my willingness to be a gadfly and ask the difficult questions, and my deeply ingrained sense of honesty and fairness – to bring change to township government that will benefit residents who need the social services that township government is meant to provide.

Activities for other candidates. Please be specific.

I canvassed in Wisconsin for Russ Feingold in '04, phonebanked in Illinois for John Kerry, as well as wrote numerous batches of postcards for groups like the Sierra Club and MoveOn. In '06 I phonebanked extensively for Dan Seals in the Democratic primary for the 10th Congressional District. During the time of the regular election in '06, I worked to support Democratic candidates in general by working as Intern Coordinator and Volunteer Coordinator for Tenth District Democrats. During the '08 campaign, I worked for Dan Seals, initially by collecting petitions and working on the database, and then after the primary, helping out by phonebanking in the Teacher to Teacher campaign, by general phonebanking (once in Spanish) and by walking two precincts. At the end of the campaign, I worked as an Area Coordinator in the Seals Campaign for Northfield Township, developing a cohort of precinct workers during the last month of the campaign, and managing workers covering election sites on election day.

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 bring about real ethics reform and end the practice of nepotism in the township, reduce the township reserves to levels recommended by Comptroller Dan Hynes, and reinvest in social services to assist those affected by the economy.

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 in office is to initiate a more ethical township government in several ways: first, to require that all elected officials sign ethics statements; second, to develop policy that would forbid the hiring of family members; and third, to oppose budgets that include excessive overtime. My second priority, which is of equal importance, is to use township reserve funds for social services, particularly in the areas of services for seniors, youth and the disabled. My budgetary plan is to keep a 3-6 month reserve as recommended by the state Comptroller, and to use the current excessive reserve immediately. My third priority is to develop a strategic plan, with community input, so that the township board could be truly responsive to the needs of the community.

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

As I stated above, I propose to do away with excessive overtime. I also plan to investigate areas where services could be coordinated with the municipalities, thus saving money. As stated above, I believe that our township reserves should be used for larger grants to our social service agencies, but I also believe that through these reductions I have mentioned here, money can be saved and the township can actually reduce the overall tax levy in the near future.

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.

I am a firm believer in a bidding process that is open and transparent. Family members and political donors should have no opportunity to be part of this bidding process. When applicable, environmental issues should be part of the bidding process. If possible, the township should consider contracting with township residents, if their bids are reasonable.

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.