

IVI-IPO 2009 10TH DISTRICT COUNTY COMMISSIONER QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 1

NAME: Jay Paul Deratany

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Please use an additional sheet to complete the following background information:

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

B) Other elective offices for which you have been a candidate. *I ran against Joe Berrios for Commissioner, Cook County Board of Review (2008)*

C) What is your primary occupation? *Civil Rights and Trial Attorney.*

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

I founded my law firm, the Deratany Firm, to help people combat injustice and subjugation by big business. My devotion to social justice and helping people extends into my personal life. I have performed extensive volunteer work as a past board member of the [Perspectives Charter School](#). My work included chairing their benefit committee, speaking at the school and helping in the budgetary process which allowed the school to expand to other locations.

I am also a past member of the [Chicago House Board](#). With the Rev. Stan Sloan and others I started a private/public corporation which helps employ individuals who have been deemed "unhirable" such as people with HIV and those who have been homeless. This corporation is currently operating successfully and sells baked goods from its factory. The corporation is known as "Sweet Mis-Givings." I have also served as legal counsel for Chicago House, providing pro bono services for the organization over the years.

In addition to serving on their Board, I performed extensive pro-Bono legal work for [Community Support Services](#) and earned the organization's solo-recipient Ekroth Award for community service in helping children and adults with developmental disabilities and their families. I won a federal settlement of a suit against the Village of Summit because of their discriminatory practices against several women with disabilities, opening the way for CSS to build a group disabled access home for these women.

I was one of the lawyers in the late 1980's and early 1990's to volunteer with AIDS organizations to provide pro bono legal services to those dying of AIDS. I went to individuals' homes and helped with "end of life" legal issues to provide them with some sense of solace during difficult times.

I am currently on the Howard Brown Health Center Board of Directors. Howard Brown Health Center serves Chicagoans with HIV/AIDS and also provides excellent care for women, including breast cancer screenings and consultations.

Currently I am the Chair of the Benefit committee for Cabrini Green Legal Aid. I continue to serve as a volunteer lawyer providing legal services for CGLA clients.

I wrote a play entitled "Haram Iran" which is based upon the true story of two teenaged boys who were hanged for allegedly being gay. After the successful run at Aetheneaum Theater, I have been asked to bring this play to Center on Halsted. All of the proceeds for the four day run will be given to the "Anti violence" project for Center on Halsted.

I am a frequent charitable giver and supporter of many causes, including Community Support Services, Chicago House, Howard Brown, Greenpeace, Oxfam, CURE (Research for epilepsy) and several human rights organizations.

E) What subjects have you studied and what experience have you had which will be most helpful to you in the office you seek? *My legal education (De Paul School of Law), my widely acclaimed legal work (I have been voted one of Chicago's Best*

Lawyers for three consecutive years) and my well-researched campaign for Cook County Board of Review in 2008 gave me a thorough grounding in the inner-workings of Cook County government and the overwhelming need for reform. I see how Cook County government fails the residents it purports to serve, and I know the remedies that can change the system so that it finally works for both taxpayers and vulnerable members of our community. Being on several boards, and having been part of the cooperative budgeting process for many organizations, I certainly understand the difficult responsibility that the next Commissioner will have in balancing the budget to ensure services for our most underserved and not increase taxes.

F) What candidates have you supported in the past? Please be specific in describing your role in each campaign. *I have supported a wide array of progressive and independent Democratic candidates including Forrest Claypool, Mike Quigley, Jim Houlihan, Tom Tunney, Jan Schakowsky, Melissa Bean, Debra Shore, Barack Obama and Dawn Clark Netsch. I backed each candidate with contributions and political support.*

G) What goals for the office you seek are most important to you personally?

My chief goals are

- *Reforming County government and ending waste, fraud, and abuse. This includes putting an end to the patronage system of hiring. Please see my answers to essay questions on this topic.*
- *Reducing unemployment and improving the economy through policies such as the development of "Green Enterprise Zones" (see below)*
- *Reforming the tax system and reducing taxes for lower and middle income residents. We must recalibrate the system, which is currently tilted in favor of big business. I brought many of these issues, specifically inequality in our property tax system, to the attention of the voters in my run for Board of Review. We cannot continue to allow taxes to increase on homeowners while giving large tax breaks to corporations.*
- *Supporting health care reform. I would like to see smaller county clinics in our neighborhoods and the implementation of "Cook County Clinics on Wheels." These would be motorized Clinics complete with a nurse and physician. The clinic would serve one neighborhood each week. Education campaigns would be conducted so residents know when and where the clinic will be located. Additionally, I would work to address the fact that prison hospitals are woefully inadequate. I would require a review of our health care contracts with the private care contractors and would require the implementation of specific hospital policies. Many of the prisons have no or inadequate policies governing patient care. We need specific patient care guidelines for physicians and health care providers to follow.*
- *Creating "Green Enterprise Zones." There are several blighted areas in Cook County which can be used to build wind turbines to provide wind power for our electric grid. This will create jobs, and provide economic opportunity for new green business. We also should actively pursue bringing a solar power manufacturing plant to one of these special Green Enterprise Zones.*
- *Fighting for equal marriage rights and fairness for LGBT residents. I would like to pass resolutions promoting marriage equality legislation in the Illinois General Assembly and calling for reversal of the "don't ask don't tell policy" in our military. I also very much want to continue Commissioner Quigley's policies of ensuring the County does not do business with entities that discriminate against members of the LGBT community.*

H) Please list all endorsements you have received so far. *Among the community leaders supporting my candidacy are Reverend Stan Sloan (see civic activities section detailing my work with Chicago House) Michael Cook (see civic activities section on my work with Howard Brown Health Center), Diana Shulla-Cose (CEO of Perspectives Charter Schools), Rob Acton (CEO of Cabrini Green Legal Aid) and many others who have privately and publicly supported my candidacy.*

IVI-IPO 2009 10TH DISTRICT COUNTY COMMISSIONER QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 2

	YES	NO	
1.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support removing the cap on the number of abortions performed at Stroger Hospital?
2.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Is the distribution of County funded health facilities sufficient?
3.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does your district need additional health care facilities?
	ESSAY		<p>Yes, though many perceive the 10th County Commissioner District as universally affluent, we have a large population of low-income, medically underserved and minority residents with critical health care needs. For example, the Uptown neighborhood, which I would represent if selected to serve as County Commissioner, is the most diverse in the city and also an area struggling with chronic poverty. The Asian and African immigrant community is also prominent in the 10th County Commissioner District, particularly in the Edgewater neighborhood. They have a large unmet need for culturally sensitive health services (including mental health care) that must be addressed. I would work on a micro level to identify gaps in the health care delivery system for targeted populations and fight to use County resources, when appropriate, to fill those gaps.</p> <p>I support the utilization of more mobile health care facilities (such as a Cook County Clinic on Wheels program, as described above) for county residents, with distribution based on income levels. This will cost much less than the acquisition of new buildings for care. I also support changing immunity statutes so that <i>failure to diagnose</i> can become grounds for legal action by patients, as well as <i>failure to treat</i>. This will protect the rights of the most vulnerable residents who depend on the County health care system. A failure to properly diagnose a critical medical condition can be just as life threatening as a failure to treat it.</p>
4.	ESSAY		<p>How would you solve the budget gap while still ensuring that health and other basic human services would continue to be provided?</p> <p>There is an enormous amount of work that must be done to end the culture of chronic “band-aid” budget solutions, structural deficits, tax increases, waste, fraud, abuse and patronage. The budget situation in the next fiscal year could very well be much worse because of the sliding economy. We must begin identifying areas for cuts and reform right now so that we are not caught unprepared during the next budget season. We should not again be in the position of making untargeted “across the board” cuts that do not take into account the performance of specific departments.</p> <p>As Commissioner Quigley rightly points out, the proper enactment of reform measures early on could have saved enough money to negate any purported need for the one percent sales tax increase.</p> <p>Here are specific proposals that I support to save taxpayer dollars, promote reform and balance the budget while still ensuring that health and other basic human services are provided. Many of these cost-saving concepts have been proposed and thoroughly researched by Commissioner Quigley and reform groups including the Civic Federation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working to change the law to require Cook County to submit audited financial statements within six months of the close of the fiscal year to the State Comptroller. This will increase accountability and transparency. • Establishing a policy of voting ‘no’ on any budget that borrows funds for operating expenses. This practice burdens the County with ever increasing debt. • Merging the offices of Cook County Clerk and Cook County Recorder of Deeds. • Consolidating the Assessor’s and Treasurer’s offices. • Folding select special district governments into the County and eliminating redundant boards, commissions and districts.

- Moving the Department of Corrections from the Sheriff's Office to the Bureau of Public Safety.
- Transferring responsibility for municipal-level services (police patrols, highways, liquor control, animal control, and building and zoning regulation) in unincorporated areas to adjacent municipalities.
- Folding select special district governments into the County.
- Merging municipal health departments with the County Department of Public Health.
- Creating one county-wide Board of Election Commissioners, thus merging the Chicago Board of Elections (which has redundant services) into the County Board of Elections.
- Creating a permanent Innovation and Efficiency Commission to advise county agencies and policy-makers.
- Establishing by ordinance a formal budget stabilization policy and fund (a rainy day fund)
- Developing a formal long-term financial planning process
- Adopting a formal budget approval process and budget document for the Health System
- Requiring a return on investment report for all information technology contracts to assess costs and benefits.
- Removing the "multiple vote" power of the President of the Board. Preventing the President from concurrently serving as both President and a Commissioner.
- Taking bold and specific actions to reduce governmental spending inclusive of returning to the 2007 budget levels and reversing the 1% sales tax increase:
- Implementing a salary freeze for higher officers/board members until we can return to the 2007 tax rate.
- Reverse the 1% sales tax increase. It was promised as a means to fund health care, but in fact only 12% of the increase has gone for medical services. This is not what the taxpayers were promised.
- Eliminate or cap "overtime" payments to employees to no more than 5 hours in any given week (unless required for medical services)
- Cut funding to the Recorder of Deeds by 33% with the goal of eventually merging the Recorder of Deeds office under the Clerks office.
- Reverse increases in funding of the Offices under the President.
- Reverse Board of Review budget to 2008 levels, saving over \$500,000. There is no demonstrable reason for recent increases in Board of Review spending. The office is extremely beauracatic and can be significantly streamlined with online appeals and decisions.
- Adopting the recommendations of the Hospital Board. I do not support cuts to Hospital services.

5.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you favor a freeze in the property tax rate?
6.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support renewing the 7% property tax cap?
	ESSAY		
7.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Should County Board approval be required prior to the creation of TIF districts in Cook County?
8.	ESSAY		<p>What should be done by the County Board to foster affordable housing, including subsidized housing?</p> <p>I have a deep personal commitment, demonstrated throughout my legal career and my years of volunteer work, to helping low-income residents stand up for their rights. I believe strongly that those in subsidized housing deserve an advocate in government who will personally stand with them when they attempt to stay in their homes. For example, when I believe that the owner of a section 8 building is acting unfairly, either by not maintaining a building properly or by trying to force residents out by not renewing a contract, I will work with both parties to develop a solution that allows tenants to stay in their homes at a rent they can afford. I also support the development of improved mediation systems to handle disputes. Low-income residents deserve a vigorous ally on the Cook County Board when they face landlords who invariably have more resources and legal expertise than they do.</p> <p>Additionally, I will lobby hard, particularly in Springfield, for capital funding to create more affordable housing units. I will support organizations and residents of my district in their efforts to advocate for funds from every level of government.</p> <p>On the Cook County board I will support lowering assessments on qualified affordable, multi-family rental housing so that we can preserve affordable rental housing and incentivize the creation of new units. With all of the County's giveaways to wealthy, well-connected developers, the least it can do is attempt to provide more tax relief geared towards helping low-income renters.</p> <p>I also believe Cook County should increase its commitment to strengthening the County's affordable housing base by leveraging its funds and equity in partnership with other private and public agencies. The County can create new affordable housing developments by using dollars from its annual allocation of federal housing funds.</p> <p>I believe the County must engage in more innovative strategies – in partnership with municipalities, other government agencies and not-for-profits – that encourage priority housing and community and economic development initiatives. In these tough budgetary times we must work together with other entities to pool our resources and, in so doing, achieve more than we can achieve alone to create affordable housing units. I support greater cooperation between the County and HACC (the Housing Authority of Cook County) to support affordable housing in the suburbs.</p> <p>I also support using the County's revenue bonding capacity to help slow the loss of rental units. And with affordable rental housing units often being difficult, complicated and expensive to build and finance, I believe the County Board must work aggressively with developers to help them understand how government programs at every level can be combined and utilized to create new projects. The Cook County Board must look 'outside the box' at every possible opportunity to create affordable housing units in these tough economic times.</p>
9.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you support equitable geographic distribution of affordable housing throughout the county?
			Will you support an amendment to the County Human Rights Ordinance to protect Section 8 voucher holders from discrimination in housing
10.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	in buildings of any size without exemptions?
11.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	if owner occupied buildings of 6 or fewer units were exempted?

12.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Do you support the sale or transfer of forest preserve land to private interests?
			Please explain your answer. Absolutely not. This practice is an abomination. Once these lands are transferred to private interests they are lost forever. The environment, and our quality of life, suffers dramatically as a result. I believe in the creation of a separate, elected Forest Preserve Board that will fight strongly and independently for our environment and not be subject to the conflicts of interest that arise when the County Board manages Forest Preserve matters. In fact, I would encourage the acquisition of large tracts of abandoned property to expand our "green areas" and parks.
13.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support separating violent from non-violent offenders in County jail?
14.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support separating juvenile from adult offenders?
15.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you favor work-release, electronic monitoring and other alternative sentencing programs?
16.	X ESSAY		Do you support drug testing of potential or current County employees?
17.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support Affirmative Action?
18.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you favor restructuring the wage scale of county employees to correct disparities based on gender by instituting equal pay for jobs of comparable worth?
19.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Do you support patronage?
20.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you favor extending the Civil Service System to replace patronage in County employment?
21.	ESSAY		<p>What should be done to eliminate patronage abuse in county government? As someone who took on the machine by running against Cook County Democratic Party Chairman and Board of Review Commissioner Joe Berrios, I demonstrated how vigorously I oppose patronage abuse.</p> <p>One of the most important proposals I support is the auditing of <u>all</u> County jobs, not just those in select departments. As Commissioner Quigley has pointed out, Cook County has not done a desk audit of its employees – making sure that job titles and descriptions match employees’ actual duties – in decades. Without a comprehensive desk audit and a precise understanding of which jobs employees perform (or are supposed to perform), it is very difficult to determine who is qualified to perform a job and who is in a position because of an illegal patronage hire. As soon as I take office on the County Board, I will begin fighting for an immediate and comprehensive jobs audit so that we can root out patronage and streamline County government.</p> <p>I believe an equally fundamental tool in the process of rooting out patronage abuse is for the Cook County Board to institute its own oversight over Shakman-exempt employees. As former Cook County Compliance Administrator Julia Nowicki, a former Cook County judge, noted in her recent resignation letter, while President Stroger indeed does have the legal right to hire 500 patronage employees, if those employees aren't qualified or don't do the work of those positions, they can still result in Shakman decree violations as Shakman-exempt employees have to do their own work plus their “patron’s” work. Several county employees were recently awarded cash settlements for such scenarios, further burdening the taxpayers of Cook County. I support Nowicki’s contention that the Board, “insist of stringent minimum qualifications for these important and highly coveted jobs” and “create an oversight committee to review the credentials</p>

		<p>of the exempt employees” and “review their work performance.”</p> <p>Additionally, I support the following proposed Nowicki reforms to eliminate patronage abuse in Cook County government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require meaningful job descriptions. Require that the department personnel or new HR personnel assist the current HR team with the work required. Find and hire qualified personnel to do the work. • Require Job descriptions for all Shakman-Exempt positions. • Reduce the number of shakman exempt positions <u>by at least</u> 50%. This would reduce the number of patronage jobs that President Stroger can hire to 250. The remainder should go through a hiring committee and be evaluated and hired by merit. • Require performance evaluations to root out illegal patronage and mismanagement. Obtain an objective method to evaluate employees and commence discipline where required. • Require accountability from President Stroger and his department heads. Require a monthly report from the President which is compiled from each Department that details the attendance, productivity and need for all employees in each department. • Require that all employees perform the work that is defined by their job description. If the job is no longer required to be done in that department, remove the position. • Require President Stroger to dedicate personnel to the task of substantial compliance. • Articulate a Cook County policy that Shakman-exempt positions require minimum qualifications. • Articulate a Cook County policy that states that employees holding Shakman exempt positions are subject to uniform discipline. • Publically articulate County Board support for eradicating illegal patronage. • Require that the HR Bureau hire the required number of qualified individuals to work towards substantial compliance. • Require the staff of the Administration to examine each Department to search for and remedy patronage violations. <p>Patronage is a scourge on the taxpayers of Cook County and a tremendous blight on our politics. The taxpayers of Cook County deserve a Commissioner in the Quigley and Claypool model who is not afraid to tackle the Stroger administration and its corrupt patronage machine. I proved that I will stand up to power and patronage politics when, against all odds, I took on the Berrios/Stroger machine in 2008. If given the opportunity to serve on the Cook County Board I will be that body’s strongest advocate for eliminating the extensive patronage system.</p>
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22.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Do you favor permitting county employees to hold other public sector jobs concurrently?
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23.	ESSAY	<p>In what circumstances should the County contract for outside professional services? I will not generally support outsourcing essential county services to private contractors. While I support efforts to streamline County government, reduce costs and make all departments more efficient, I do have serious concerns about privatization efforts. The privatization or outsourcing of public sector services changes the motivation behind those providing the services. When we outsource public services to private companies, then the motive becomes "profits" rather than providing optimal public service. Privatization of foster care placement is an issue with which I have specific experience as a litigator who saw its horrible results. In those situations, the motive of the contractors was often to "make the profit" rather than making the proper placement of the child the most important goal. I will carefully evaluate any proposed contracting of outside</p>
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			professional services to determine whether the services can be performed by existing County personnel and to ensure that labor and environmental standards would be respected.
24.	ESSAY		In what circumstances should competitive bidding for contracts be required? Please comment on any existing abuses. The County should have competitive bidding in nearly all circumstances. Competition among contractors is good for the County and good for business. The Stroger administration has a history of awarding contracts to campaign contributors and the politically well-connected, as well as bypassing low bidders without proper justification. For example, the Stroger administration twice in two months bypassed the lowest bidder on a key security contract for the Cook County Circuit Court Clerk's office. Twice it chose the more expensive Whitfield Security over Moore Security and offered inconsistent statements to Cook County Commissioners about the rationale for the decision. The Administration eventually admitted that their stated reason for bypassing Moore Security was false. This is exactly the type of case that shows why competitive bidding policies must be tightened. I support amending current policy so that all contracts over \$3,000 must be subject to competitive bidding requirements. Lowering the financial amount for bidding also has the effect of allowing smaller businesses to compete for contracts which is good for the small business economy. I will also continue to support vigorous County Board oversight of Stroger administration contracts.
25.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Would you support contracting for outside services with companies located outside of Cook County? Why or why not? Because of the need to fight unemployment and improve the economy in Cook County, I would not support this concept except in situations where there are no available, qualified service providers or contactors within the county.
26.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Will you accept campaign contributions from current or potential suppliers, employees or outside contractors?
27.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Is the County Ethics Ordinance adequate?
	ESSAY		Why or why not? Absolutely not. Clearly the scandals and cronyism of the Stroger administration demonstrate that the County Ethics Ordinance is not adequate and is not properly enforced. If chosen to serve as Cook County Commissioner I will conduct a comprehensive review of the County Ethics Ordinance and offer strengthening amendments based on the review's findings. Clearly there are insufficient ethical standards in place for various departments inclusive of the Board of Review. Decisions on property tax appeals should not be made by an individual who has just received a campaign contribution. Contractors who are providing bids for work should not be allowed to make contributions. Much of the corruption in the Administration is related to political contributions from County contractors influencing County decision making. The Cook County Ethics Ordinance prohibits county contractors from donating more than \$3,000 to county officials in election years and \$1,500 in non-election years. I support banning campaign contributions from County contractors entirely. At a bare minimum, the County Board should strengthen the rules by allowing no contributions within a year of making a bid on work.
28.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support public financing of campaigns for this office?
29.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support a campaign expenditure limit?
30.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you be a full-time Commissioner?
31.	ESSAY		What other employment, if any, do you intend to hold? I will work a minimum of 40 hours per week (and more likely more) fulfilling my duties as a County Commissioner. Work for my legal practice would be limited to select complex litigation matters that do not interfere or conflict with any County work.
32.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you open an office in your district?

33.	ESSAY	<p>What will you do to ensure community involvement in identifying the concerns of the residents of your district? I will utilize innovative communication and social networking technology to ensure that residents can communicate with me quickly and effectively. Communication is the key to being an effective County Commissioner, and I will spare no effort to ensure that residents know how to send me their views on neighborhood issues. I will issue a top of the line issue-focused electronic newsletter every month. In addition to utilizing the internet, I will focus on personal contact and phone calls for those who are not able to use the internet. I will respond within two business days to any resident who e-mails me or calls me with a question or concern.</p> <p>In addition to in-person town hall meetings, I will host telephone town-hall meetings which enable the disabled and other homebound residents to participate. I will post my opinions on county issues on community listservs, blogs, social networking sites, newsgroups and other online community forums. I will have an active facebook group for the 10th County Commission District and develop community advisory panels on key issues including tax reduction, ethics, health care, economic development, LGBT rights and the environment.</p>	
34.	x	<p>Should candidates for Board President be prohibited from running concurrently from a district? No, however, if a Commissioner is elected Board President he or she should resign the Commissioner seat.</p>	
35.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Will you support a redistricting process that prohibits consideration of incumbency or political affiliation?</p>