

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

**NAME:** Kimberly J. Walz

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

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?

Chief of Staff – Cook County Commissioner Mike Quigley

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

- Board of Directors, 3550 Condominium Association (2007-Present)
- Event Committee Member, Mental Health Illinois of America (2008-Present)
- President (2003 – 2007) and Founding Board Member (2001-Present), Young Chicago Lakefront
- Team Leader, Bank of America Chicago Marathon – Start Line Operations (2008)
- Board Member (Present) and volunteer, John Merlo Sports Program (2002-2008)
- Team Member, American Cancer Society Marathon Team (2007)
- Volunteer, Girls on the Run (2003-2005)
- Board member, IVI-IPO (2005)
- Team Member, Girls on the Run Marathon Team (2004)
- Delegate, Illinois Women’s Institute for Leadership (2002)
- White House Advance Team Member, German Delegation – NATO Summit (1999)
- Recipient, Harlan Rigney Public Service Award (1998)
- Team Captain and Planning Committee Member, American Cancer Society Relay for Life (1998)
- Steering Committee Member, Project 2009 (1998)

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 have a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Beloit College with a major in Political Science. In addition, I have a Masters of Public Policy from Georgetown University with a specialization in Education, Family, and Social Policy.

The most important experience I have had is the 8 and a half years that I have worked for Cook County Commissioner Mike Quigley. I have helped shape his initiatives to reform and reinvent Cook County and would be able to hit the ground running on day one if I was selected to replace him on the Cook County Board.

**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?
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does your district need additional health care facilities?
	ESSAY		Please elaborate.
I want to work to coordinate efforts between the Chicago Department of Public Health and the Cook County Department of Public Health to better meet the needs of the 10 <sup>th</sup> County Board District.			
4.	ESSAY		How would you solve the budget gap while still ensuring that health and other basic human services would continue to be provided?
Commissioners are not brought into the budget process until the eleventh hour. We need to work with the Administration and other elected officials earlier in the year to calculate what it truly costs to operate Cook County Government and meet the needs of our core mission. This can be accomplished by changing our budgeting process to incorporate elements of zero based or performance based budgeting.			
Only after we can ensure that our core mission is fully funded can we pursue other parts of County government that are not vital to the core mission.			
5.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you favor a freeze in the property tax rate?
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support renewing the 7% property tax cap?
Yes, but not in its current form.			
7.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Should County Board approval be required prior to the creation of TIF districts in Cook County?
8.	ESSAY		What should be done by the County Board to foster affordable housing, including subsidized housing?
The County Board needs to ensure that affordable housing receives property tax exemptions as an incentive for their development and long term sustainability.			
9.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	in buildings of any size without exemptions?
11.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	if owner occupied buildings of 6 or fewer units were exempted?
12.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Do you support the sale or transfer of forest preserve land to private interests?
	Please explain your answer. I authored and built coalitions to pass a new land policy for the Cook County Forest Preserve District. This Ordinance prohibits not only the sale or transfer of forest preserve land to private interests but it prohibits the exclusive use of our land by private interests.		

			I also authored an ordinance that mandates that any funds from tree mitigation be utilized for restoration and rehabilitation of our natural lands.
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	<input type="checkbox"/>	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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support patronage?
Elected officials should be able to hire people for a limited number of exempt positions. However, there are too many Shakman exempt positions throughout Cook County and it is abused. People should be hired for jobs they are qualified for – not jobs they are rewarded for who based on whom they support in elections.			
20.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you favor extending the Civil Service System to replace patronage in County employment?
21.	ESSAY		What should be done to eliminate patronage abuse in county government?
There are too many Shakman exempt positions in Cook County. We need a comprehensive employee audit to determine which positions should be exempt and which ones should be in a civil service type of system.			
In addition, as noted by our former Shakman compliance administrator, Judge Nowicki, we need to drastically reform the process of how we hire employees.			
22.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you favor permitting county employees to hold other public sector jobs concurrently?
If a county employee is able to work 40 hours per week and give 100% to their county position while still having outside employment I think it is within their right to have an additional job.			
I have greater concerns with the continued understaffing at our County health facilities where many nurses are forced to work overtime which can put our patient health at risk.			
23.	ESSAY		In what circumstances should the County contract for outside professional services?
I support Commissioner Quigley's Public Services Accountability Ordinance which oversees if and how a public service can be privatized. The mandates of the ordinance provide that no privatization contract may exceed two years, the minimum compensation to be paid for positions shall be the greater of the wage rate paid at step one of the grade or classification under which a County employee whose duties are most similar is paid, and that every privatization contract shall contain provisions requiring the contractor to offer available employee positions to qualified regular employees of the County whose employment is terminated because of the privatization contract.			
24.	ESSAY		In what circumstances should competitive bidding for contracts be required? Please comment on any existing abuses.
Any contract over \$100,000 should require a competitive bid. There have been numerous concerns recently as to whether or not the County's WMBE requirements are uniformly enforced across all of our contracts. I support further investigation of these claims and believe that further streamlining of the bidding process is necessary.			

25.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Would you support contracting for outside services with companies located outside of Cook County? Why or why not?</p> <p>Whenever possible local companies should be given price differentials in the bidding process. However, as we attempt to further green purchasing in Cook County sometimes the most environmentally preferable products are not available from a local service provider.</p>
26.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Will you accept campaign contributions from current or potential suppliers, employees or outside contractors?</p> <p>I would not accept contributions from employees of my office but if employees of another elected official would like to support my candidacy I do not see a conflict.</p>
27.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Is the County Ethics Ordinance adequate?</p>
	ESSAY		<p>Why or why not?</p> <p>County employees should be banned from making political campaign contributions to their supervisor or elected official. In addition, companies that provide audits or financial services to Cook County should be banned from making political contributions to any Cook County official. I have worked with Commissioner Claypool's office to draft amendments to the Ethics Ordinance to prohibit contributions from companies that audit Cook County Government.</p>
28.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Do you support public financing of campaigns for this office?</p>
29.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Do you support a campaign expenditure limit?</p>
30.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Will you be a full-time Commissioner?</p>
31.	ESSAY		<p>What other employment, if any, do you intend to hold?</p> <p>I have a part-time political and non-profit graphic design business.</p>
32.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Will you open an office in your district?</p>
33.	ESSAY		<p>What will you do to ensure community involvement in identifying the concerns of the residents of your district?</p> <p>As Commissioner I would maintain regular contact with local community organizations to ensure that their concerns are being addressed by my office.</p> <p>In addition, I would maintain a website that provides daily briefings on upcoming legislation and ask for feedback from residents of the 10<sup>th</sup> District.</p>
34.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Should candidates for Board President be prohibited from running concurrently from a district?</p>
35.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Will you support a redistricting process that prohibits consideration of incumbency or political affiliation?</p>