

IVI-IPO 2006 COUNTY COMMISSIONER QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 1

DATE January 18, 2006 DISTRICT: 7th District PARTY: Democratic

NAME: Leonard “Len” Dominguez

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CAMPAIGN MANAGER: Anthony Sutor

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED: 920 NUMBER REQUIRED: 221

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

A) Elective or appointive public or party offices previously held including dates.

I was appointed by Mayor Richard M. Daley to be the Deputy Mayor for Education for the City of Chicago. I held that office from September, 1991 until July, 1995. I went with other members of the Mayor’s team to assume control of the Chicago Public Schools on July 5, 1005.

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

C) What is your primary occupation? **I am an educational consultant.**

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

I have been on the board of the Marshall Square Boys and Girls Club and now the General Wood Boys and Girls Club. I am currently the President of the Midwest Chapter of the Rotary Club of Chicago. I have been on the board of the Norwegian American Hospital. I was a founding member of a mentoring program named, “Paths to Achievement. I am on the Sister Cities International—Chicago-Mexico City Committee.

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 B.A. in Economics from DePaul University and have taken courses in Finance, Accounting, Public Policy Analysis, and Ethics. I have served as the Deputy Mayor for Education in the Mayor’s office and worked with many levels of government and many government officials. As part of the Mayor’s team that assumed control of the Chicago Public Schools in July of 1995, I was Chief of Policy and worked with all departments of the school system to review, revise where possible, and design new policies to serve the children of Chicago.

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

As a newly elected member to the board of the Lakeview Citizen’s Council I was a precinct worker in the Bruce Young campaign. He was elected as an Independent Democrat to the City Council. Unfortunately, he resigned shortly thereafter. Recently, I worked in my precinct in the Gery Chico Senate race and also did some fundraising for his campaign.

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Replies of Leonard “Len” Dominguez

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

Thus far, I have been endorsed by the Merchants United of Pilsen, the Latin American Police Association, the Network of Hispanic Administrators in Education, and the American G.I. Forum.

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 believe that my proven record of service to children, families and community in both my professional and civic life for over 30 years distinguishes me from the other candidates. My career as an educator at every level from teacher to Deputy Mayor for Education to Chief of Policy for the Chicago Public Schools speaks for itself. My civic involvement as an elected member of the Lakeview Citizen’s Council, chair of both the education and anti-crime committees; as active member of numerous non-profit boards and commissions, from the Boys and Girls Clubs of Chicago, to the Midwest Chapter of the Rotary Club of Chicago also is exemplary.

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

My campaign budget is \$100,00 and I have raised almost \$30,000 thus far.

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

I have one full time staff member and two part time people. There are approximately 35 volunteers (and growing) actively working on the campaign.

IVI-IPO 2006 COUNTY BOARD 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		Please elaborate. In addition to limiting the services at the clinic in Cicero which now serves only children, the Chicago Tribune recently reported on a study of health services in Chicago which showed that the areas of greatest need and least access to public health are the Northwest side and the Southwest side of Chicago. My district includes the Southwest side.
4.	ESSAY		How would you solve the budget gap while still ensuring that health and other basic human services would continue to be provided? I would call for an immediate comprehensive audit of every department in Cook County government. I was part of the Gery Chico, Paul Vallas team that assumed control of the Chicago Public Schools in July, 1995 when we closed a much, much larger budget shortfall by finding enough fat in the budget to open schools that fall with a new four-year teachers contract with guaranteed raises each year. I am quite sure that there is also enough fat in the county budget to close the budget gap and maybe even expand services.
5.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you favor a freeze in the property tax rate?
6.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support extension of the 7% property tax cap beyond the expiration date?
7.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Should County Board approval be required prior to the creation of TIF districts in Cook County? At this time, I am undecided on this issue pending further study on how TIF districts are enacted in various parts of Cook County, and how various home rule taxes are imposed.
8.	ESSAY		What should be done by the County Board to foster affordable housing, including subsidized housing? I think that the Count Board should work with both the State of Illinois and the Federal government to come up with a package of tax incentives to attract more investment in affordable housing projects across the county. Additionally, I would support ordinances which would require some agreed upon percentage of affordable units in any housing project with more than a certain number of units which received either tax incentives or TIF-type infrastructure inducements.
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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	in buildings of any size without exemptions?
11.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	if owner occupied buildings of 6 or more units were exempted?
12.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support lifting the moratorium on restoration of Forest Preserve land?

13.	<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. Unless the sale or transfer were for a project which would unquestionably promote the public welfare in terms of economic development and then, only with provisions for an equal swap of open space or park space in another part of the county that had a documented need for open space/park space.
14.	ESSAY		What proposals do you support to reduce overcrowding at Cook County Jail and the Juvenile Temporary Detention Center? I believe we need to study and promote more alternative sentencing for first-time, non-violent offenders for both adults and juveniles. This type of sentencing could include various types of community service, supervision, mandatory counseling, etc. This type of approach would reduce the load on the front-end of the criminal justice system, thereby reducing the overcrowding at the back end.
15.	ESSAY		What should the County Board do to ensure that the Juvenile Temporary Detention Center provides adequate educational and vocational services to detainees? In the first place, the JTDC should contact the home school where the student was in attendance and talk to the counselor. They could obtain the student's records and determine the most appropriate educational placement for that detainee. By definition, each new detainee is considered a "Special Education" student and should be provided an Individual Education Plan, commonly known as an "IEP" which is designed in conference with a team of specialists and a parent of that detainee. Additionally, there should be more vocational services which can be provided by the Chicago Public Schools with funding by Cook County. I visited the JTDC facility a few times when I was in the Mayor's Office, and found it to be a depressing place with few programs other than the required classroom courses. More arts education would go a long way to developing a sense of worth and pride among the young people detained at the facility. Lastly, there needs to be a study of all available services for the detainees when they are released. I know that the schools alone are not ready to take them back if there are not some community – based support services for these students. In this regard, the City of Chicago already gives many dollars to social service agencies. These types of services could be promoted through an RFP process with guidelines for services that would be funded.
16.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support separating violent from non-violent offenders?
17.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support separating juvenile from adult offenders?
18.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you favor work-release, electronic monitoring and other alternative sentencing programs?
19.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Do you support drug testing of potential or current County employees?
20.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support Affirmative Action?
21.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<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?
22.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Do you support patronage?
23.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Do you favor extending the Civil Service System to replace patronage in County employment?
24.	ESSAY		What should be done to eliminate patronage abuse in county government? Make more categories of jobs Civil Service jobs and review the entire hiring process to make sure that acceptable Human Resources practices are followed. I would also revise the Ethics Ordinance.

25.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Do you favor permitting county employees to hold other public sector jobs concurrently?
26.	ESSAY		In what circumstances should the County contract for outside professional services? When those services cannot be provided by existing personnel in County government.
27.	ESSAY		In what circumstances should competitive bidding for contracts be required? Please comment on any existing abuses. Competitive bidding should be required when the amount of the contract exceed some agreed and voted upon number. I am not aware of any existing abuses.
28.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Would you support contracting for outside services with companies located outside of Cook County? Why or why not? I cannot think of any service that is not provided by more than one company located within Cook County.
29.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you accept or have you accepted campaign contributions from current or potential suppliers, employees or outside contractors? How do you avoid "potential" suppliers or employees? I think the question is too broad.
30.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Is the County Ethics Ordinance adequate?
	ESSAY		Why or why not? Because is too long and obviously must not deal with such simple ethics concepts of not lobbying for the hiring of immediate relatives, which might have prevented one commissioner from asking the Board President to hire his sister to a top-level job even though she had no apparent qualifications for that job. At the Board of Education, our Ethics Policy was 2-3 pages long.
31.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Do you support public financing of campaigns for this office?
32.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support a campaign expenditure limit?
33.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you be a full-time Commissioner?
34.	ESSAY		What other employment, if any, do you intend to hold? I do not intend to hold any other employment at the present time.
35.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you open an office in your district?
36.	ESSAY		What will you do to ensure community involvement in identifying the concerns of the residents of your district? I would personally attend as many community meetings and forums as I could and would also instruct my staff to do the same. I would also sponsor community forums on various topics to promote involvement on issues. I would anticipate these forums would lead to the creation of various advisory committees on issues such as health care, affordable housing, economic development, etc.
37.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Should candidates for Board President be prohibited from running concurrently from a district?