

IVI-IPO 2006 COUNTY BOARD PRESIDENT QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 1

DATE Jan. 8, 2005 DISTRICT: 12 PARTY: D

NAME: Forrest Claypool

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CAMPAIGN MANAGER: Marj Halperin

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED: 20,798 NUMBER REQUIRED: 8,146

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

(Answer sheet follows questions)

- A) Elective or appointive public or party offices previously held including dates.
- B) Other elective offices for which you have been a candidate.
- C) What is your primary occupation?
- D) Briefly list your civic activities of the past ten years.
- E) What subjects have you studied and what experience have you had which will be most helpful to you in the office you seek?
- F) What candidates have you supported? Please be specific in describing your role in each campaign.
- G) Please list all endorsements you have received so far.
- 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) What is your campaign budget? How much have you raised to date?
- J) How many people are on your campaign staff? How many volunteers are on your list?

Answers to Questions A-J

- A. Deputy Commissioner, Cook County Board of Appeals, 1982-83; chief of staff, Chicago Mayor Richard Daley, 1989-91; 1998-99; CEO & Superintendent, Chicago Park District, 1993-98.
- B. None
- C. Private attorney
- D. Civic activities:
 - Board of directors, Open Lands Project
 - Board of directors, Community Youth Creative Learning Experience (CYCLE, a Cabrini-Green tutoring/scholarship charity)
- E. My experience as Park District CEO will be invaluable in helping turn around the County’s major institutions, such as the Board of Health, the Forest Preserves, the Juvenile Detention Center and the County Jail. Each of these agencies needs leadership that’s not afraid to make significant change. Each will benefit from a manager who knows how to increase efficiency and service without increasing costs. During my tenure at the Park District I dramatically improved programming and stewardship, but actually reduced overall taxes. In college, I studied law and journalism, learning many important principles that guide my work and instilled in me a respect for government with a strong sense of ethics, fairness and open disclosure.
- F. I worked on many campaigns over the years—Pat Quinn, Paul Simon, Adlai Stevenson. The most recent campaign I worked on was Barack Obama for U.S. Senate, where I assisted the candidate in debate preparation and speech prep. In addition, I was one of four individuals on Senator Obama’s transition committee to the U.S. Senate.
- G. I have been endorsed by the Sierra Club of Illinois, Citizens for Honest Government and the Edgewater chapter of Democracy for America. A copy of my steering committee endorsements is attached.
- H. I believe that my candidacy offers an almost unprecedented opportunity to close a shameful chapter in Cook County government history. While my disagreements with President Stroger aren’t personal, they couldn’t be more stark. The President seems almost unaware of the degree of corruption and incompetence facing him at virtually every level of management, yet his solution to every problem is the same: raise taxes. As President, I want to restore pride and polish to our dilapidated Forest Preserve system. I want to make affordable, accessible health care a reality for hundreds of thousands of lower-income residents of our county. And I want to make certain that youth who get in trouble with the law are rehabilitated, not abused.
- I. My campaign budget is \$2.25 million. As of the last reporting period, June 30, 2005, I had \$900,000 in the bank.
- J. I currently have seven people on my campaign staff . As of today, we have 628 registered volunteers.

IVI-IPO 2006 COUNTY BOARD PRESIDENT QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 2

	YES	NO	
1.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support removing the cap on the number of abortions performed at Stroger Hospital?
2.	<input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Is the distribution of County funded health facilities sufficient?
3.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does your district need additional health care facilities?
	ESSAY		Please elaborate.
3.	It needs additional health care services, which is why I sponsored and passed funding for Access to Care to enter Chicago for the first time. Access to Care leverages public dollars to organized networks of private physicians who provide free and discounted health care to the working poor. Access to Care is now completing its pilot program on the west and northwest sides of Chicago, an area identified in the most recent City of Chicago Health Department report as having a shortage of primary care for the uninsured.		
4.	ESSAY		How would you solve the budget gap while still ensuring that health and other basic

			human services would continue to be provided?
4.	<p>Cook County does not need additional hospitals, but it needs a significant reorganization that would enable the Bureau of Health to offer preventive care and minor medical services closer to people's homes. This will involve building solid partnerships with new and existing agencies. An effective network of health-care services countywide would significantly reduce stress on the new Stroger County Hospital, which, as the Tribune reported, was 100% over capacity in emergency-room visits one year after opening. I have written a comprehensive health care plan, which is available on my web site, detailing how I intend to expand health care services. I would also redirect monies currently absorbed by duplicative health care bureaucracies into direct medical services (currently, each of the county's three hospitals has its own PR, HR, legal, finance and administrative bureaucracies, all at ratios 3 to 1 that of not-for-profit hospitals. I would combine them into one, freeing more than \$10 million to hire additional nurses and medical personnel.) In addition, I would use technology and streamlining of bureaucratic functions in other parts of county government to free money for health care and such programs as education and mentoring of juveniles at the Detention Center; programs to aid in the transition of inmates returning from prison to productive employment and citizenship; and drug and alcohol rehabilitation. I have written a detailed report outlining how I would deploy technology to save tens of millions of dollars annually, which I would be happy to make available.</p>		
5.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you favor a freeze in the property tax rate?
5.	No. The property tax rate should continue to be cut to offset rising property assessment values.		
6.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support extension of the 7% property tax cap beyond the expiration date?
7.	Yes <input 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?
8.	<p>The county currently operates and supports a number of programs to foster construction of affordable housing. These should be managed with greater vision and leveraged with other private and public entities. I would look to create partnerships with banks, for example, which I did as deputy state treasurer, to link below-market loans to other county subsidies. A more cooperative relationship with LISC and other developers of affordable housing would also be a top priority.</p>		
9.	Yes <input 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 type="checkbox"/>	in buildings of any size without exemptions?
11.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	if owner occupied buildings of 6 or more units were exempted?
10 & 11.	<p>If Section 8 vouchers can be used in the same manner as food stamps, essentially acting as cash or checks with appropriate safeguards, I would favor such an amendment. However, if such an amendment would force landlords to involuntarily join a federal program that subjects them to regulations, paperwork, legal filings, inspections and potential penalties by federal authorities, then I could not support it.</p>		
12.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support lifting the moratorium on restoration of Forest Preserve land?
13.	<input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support the sale or transfer of forest preserve land to private interests?
14.	ESSAY		What proposals do you support to reduce overcrowding at Cook County Jail and the Juvenile Temporary Detention Center?
	<p>As with the health care issue, every effort must be made to keep people out of the institution in the first place. Since nearly 80% of offenders in Cook County Jail and in the Detention Center are being held on drug-related charges, it makes sense to build upon the successes of such programs as State's Attorney Devine's Cook County Offender Accountability Initiative, also known as Drug School. With its 11% recidivism rate (for those who complete the program) it's the most cost-effective and successful way to reduce prison and detention center populations – to say nothing of its obvious benefits to society. Yet President Stroger has never materially supported the program, and has recently advocated all but eliminating it. I'd support appropriate expansion of the</p>		

program, and the development of other prevention programs, as an important first step in eliminating overcrowding.			
15.	ESSAY	What should the County Board do to ensure that the Juvenile Temporary Detention Center provides adequate educational and vocational services to detainees?	
As the ACLU has so clearly pointed out, all manner of abuse and neglect run rampant in this modern institution conceived as a safe refuge for children awaiting trial. Unfortunately, it has taken a year's worth of investigation by the press and the ACLU to bring to light what the County itself somehow overlooked. The Center's school offers classes only part of the day, so an opportunity to reach at-risk youth is squandered. It really won't take a blue-ribbon committee, such as the one recently appointed by President Stroger, to figure out what's wrong. Wholesale management change must be instituted. Educational opportunities at the center must be increased. Friends and neighbors of the Stroger family must be told to seek employment elsewhere unless they have the credentials to run a modern detention center. Professional practice must be instituted throughout the facility, and an unassailable process must be instituted to monitor the change and direct course-correction when necessary. I have a record of bringing effective change-management to large bureaucracies, and I look forward to making sweeping improvements to the Juvenile Detention Center.			
16.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support separating violent from non-violent offenders?
17.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support separating juvenile from adult offenders?
18.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you favor work-release, electronic monitoring and other alternative sentencing programs?
19.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support drug testing of potential or current County employees? Only for positions where the potential use of drugs could affect the safety of the public.
20.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support Affirmative Action?
21.	Yes <input 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"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support patronage?
23.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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?	
How will I stop patronage abuse in county government? By declaring from the first day that it will not be tolerated by my office. By not having a "patronage chief" who makes secret personnel decisions away from the public light. By instilling from the top, from the first day, an ethic that does not tolerate patronage abuse, and by appointing like-minded managers and middle-managers dedicated to public service.			
25.	<input type="checkbox"/>	No <input 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?	
Contracting for outside services makes good fiscal sense when the job at hand requires expensive equipment or highly specialized individuals for only a portion of the budget year. The problem in Cook County government is not that it contracts for outside professional services. It is that the County has inadequate oversight and a culture of neglect from the top. I will install professional managers who understand the need for honest, open contractual management, and order them to stop the abuse.			
27.	ESSAY	In what circumstances should competitive bidding for contracts be required? Please comment on any existing abuses.	
I support competitive bidding for all contracts with Cook County, except for those areas currently exempted by law because of the specialized nature of the services.			

28.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Would you support contracting for outside services with companies located outside of Cook County? Why or why not?
I would, if they provide the best services and best cost for taxpayers, although I do support the local preference rules currently in place, which give a competitive edge to local companies.			
29.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you accept or have you accepted campaign contributions from current or potential suppliers, employees or outside contractors?
I have accepted a small number of contributions from current contractors. My guess is these contributions amount to several thousand dollars. I support restricting the size and frequency of contributions from vendors to elected county officials.			
30.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the County Ethics Ordinance adequate? Why or why not?
As amended in recent months, through amendments authored by Commissioner Mike Quigley, the ordinance has been strengthened. The issue is less the current rules than in the weak enforcement and monitoring of activity by the administration.			
31.	<input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support public financing of campaigns for this office?
32.	<input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support a campaign expenditure limit?
33.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you be a full-time Commissioner?
I will be a full-time President and Commissioner. That is to say, I will be full-time in my commitment to County Board service.			
34.	ESSAY		What other employment, if any, do you intend to hold?
None.			
35.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you open an office in your district?
I will maintain my district office.			
36.	ESSAY		What will you do to ensure community involvement in identifying the concerns of the residents of your district?
I have always been a strong believer in fostering involvement of the community with all levels of government. I worked extensively with Parks Councils when I was CEO of the Park District, and I believe the community involvement made our planning process much stronger. I would bring the same sensibility to the County Board.			
37.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Should candidates for Board President be prohibited from running concurrently from a district?
38.	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	Will you employ or have you employed staff in your office who hold other public sector jobs concurrently?
39.	<input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Will you employ or have you employed staff in your office who have either outside employment or contracts with entities which do business with the county?
40.	ESSAY		How will you balance your dual roles as President and as representative of the residents of your district?

As president, I will represent all the interests of county residents. But I do not believe there is a conflict between the interests of my constituents on the Northwest side of Chicago and those of the remainder of Cook County. My platform is for expanded social services but no new taxes, a platform based on experience and not rhetoric. I have a proven track record as the chief executive officer of a large government (the Chicago Park District) in which I achieved those objectives to widespread acclaim