

IVI-IPO 2006 STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE(WO)MAN QUESTIONNAIRE –
Section 1

DATE 1/5/06 DISTRICT: 8th

NAME: Nancy Shepherdson

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CAMPAIGN MANAGER: Larry Garascia

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED: 248 NUMBER REQUIRED: 100

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

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

Chair, Eighth District Democrats & Independents (PAC), 2000-present

Ela Township Democratic Chair, 1999-2003

Precinct committeeman, 1999-present

B) Other elective offices for which you have been a candidate.

State Representative, 2002 and 2004

C) What is your primary occupation?

Writer, book author and adjunct English professor, UCLA (online)

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

Member of Rotary International, Volunteer at Animal House shelter, Founder of Magazine Writers/Chicago, member of National Writers Union (UAW Local 1981)

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 Master's degree in Economics with a minor in Political Science from the University of Michigan and an MBA from Northwestern. I have also headed or helped to run numerous professional and political organizations. I believe this

business and organizing background has given me the tools I need to work effectively with people at all levels.

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

I began in politics in high school, canvassing for a tax referendum which failed. I was an office volunteer for the Carol Moseley-Braun campaign for Senate. I was a field volunteer for the Lance Pressl and Melissa Bean campaigns in the 8th Congressional District. And, as mentioned, I was the candidate in 2002 and 2004.

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

State Senator Terry Link, 10th District Committeewoman Lauren Beth Gash and Wheeling Township Democratic Chair Pat Botterman. I expect to get many more. I only found out I would be opposed on December 19.

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 it is vitally important that the State Central Committee understand the potential to turn the 8th District Democratic at all levels. The election of Melissa Bean to Congress is an indication that assumptions that this district is solidly Republican is no longer realistic. I want to make sure that our candidates get a fair hearing when it comes to funding priorities. Electing Democrats at all levels in the 8th District has been my goal as chair of the Eighth District Democrats & Independents. And now that we've organized the area and have the boots on the ground, all that's needed is more money.

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

I expect to spend \$5,000 or more. I have raised \$1950.

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

Only one staff member, unpaid. But because of my campaigns and chairmanship, I can call on more than 500 solid Democrats to help me. I'm also quite good friends with many union leaders and elected officials.

IVI-IPO 2006 STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE(WO)MAN QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 2

1. What should be the State Central Committee's role in encouraging and supporting candidates?

I believe that the State Central Committee should decide where to direct the Party's financial support. In particular, I believe it should follow the example of Emily's List and create a fund for emerging candidates. Candidates not in the First Tier would be allowed to apply for early funding from that fund. The possibility of this support, especially in "traditionally Republican areas" would encourage a lot more good candidates to run and allow them to get their campaigns off the ground. And I am not talking about that much money.

2. What are your views on slating, the selection of candidates by the party or party committees prior to a primary or non-partisan elections? If you are opposed to slating, will you participate in slating sessions?

Slating does not happen on a formal basis in my district. However, I would be in favor of making the slating process more transparent. A candidate I support in this election was not slated and felt slighted by the slating process. Candidates should at least feel that the process is fair. Democrats are about fairness, after all.

3. What criteria will you apply in deciding which candidates to support?

I always favor the candidates who work the hardest. Secondly, I look for candidates with compelling backgrounds who can excite voters. Anyone with these qualifications, combined with a Democratic index of at least 35% deserves a chance to succeed.

4. What would you do if the candidate of your choice were not supported by the Party?

I would do what was best for the Party. Electing any Democrat, in my opinion, is closer to my choice of philosophy than electing any Republican.

5. What changes, if any, would you advocate in the process by which the Party adopts its platform?

What process? In 2004, the Party merely adopted the national Democratic platform as its own. So, yes, let's have a process that allows a *state* Democratic platform to be created and adopted. If the Republicans can agree on one, we should try, too.

6. Would you support changing any positions or issues in the last Party platform?

While I agree with everything in the national party platform, there are lots of areas which are irrelevant or do not address Illinois issues. How, for instance, can our state help in the fight against terrorism? How will the *state* promote the creation of jobs? How can Illinois provide international leadership on the environment? Of course, the platform does pledge to work for a minimum wage of \$7 per hour, a good goal for Illinois. But we need a platform that can guide the development of legislative initiatives so Democrats can campaign with a united voice, as Republicans do so well. We don't have to be in lockstep on everything, but an agreement about basic principles and tactics will strengthen our ability to lead the state of Illinois.

7. What changes, if any, would you advocate in the structure or operations of the State Central Committee?

The state Republican Party wants to adopt our structure, so it can't be that bad – better than a smoke-filled room. And the structure has worked well lately – we would probably not have a Democratic majority if not for the functioning of the State Central Committee. However, it is necessary to make changes to let the Committeepeople's voices be heard about strong local candidates. Perhaps

a system of regional candidate evaluation subcommittees could be instituted. Of course, committeepeople themselves would also need to be pro-active in that case in getting to know candidates in their districts. I am doing so now, and plan to meet with as many 8th District candidates as I can before the primary.

8. Should precinct captains in Cook County be elected by the voters?

As a Lake County resident, it is not my place to poke my nose in, but I believe that giving the Township Chairs sole power to appoint captains can create bottlenecks. Volunteers cannot get active in townships where chairs are ineffective or disengaged.

9. Do you favor economic disclosure for parties and party officials?

Yes.

10. Has your campaign filed as a political committee?

I am filing under my existing Citizens for Shepherdson committee.