

**IVI-IPO 2006 GENERAL ASSEMBLY QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 1**

DATE 1/11/05 DISTRICT: 12<sup>th</sup> State Senate PARTY: Democrat

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CAMPAIGN MANAGER: Michael Rodriguez

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED: 5,098 NUMBER REQUIRED: 1,000

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

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

**Local School Council, Curie High School**

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

C) What is your primary occupation? **Legislative and Policy Analyst, City of Chicago Committee on Finance**

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

I have founded a not for profit group called Fuerza. Fuerza’s mission is to raise monies to be used for college scholarships. I have also sat on the Curie High School Local School Council. Most importantly, my work with Juan Andrade and the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute have allowed me great insight into the political process, the importance of voter registration – especially to increase Latino voter turnout, and the importance of progressive grassroots organizing.

E) What subjects have you studied and what experience have you had which will be most helpful to you in the office you seek?

Masters in Urban Planning & Policy where I studied economics, policy, management, and law. Currently enrolled in a PHD in education program where I take educational, management and public policy courses

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

**Xochitl Flores, Water Reclamation Commissioner. I served in a volunteer capacity that helped coordinate field work.**

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

**Alderman Ricardo Munoz, 22<sup>nd</sup> Ward, Chicago**

**Alderman Manuel Flores, 1<sup>st</sup> Ward, Chicago**

**Local 150 Landscapers' Union**

**22<sup>nd</sup> Ward IPO**

**State Representative, Michelle Chavez, 24<sup>th</sup> District, Cicero**

**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 am seeking the endorsement, help and support of the IVI-IPO in order to continue my campaign's work to bring an independent and progressive voice to represent the 12<sup>th</sup> District in Springfield. When people in Chicago's political establishment learned that I was running for office, they offered me a way out. They offered me a new job. But let me tell you, just like I told them - This campaign is not for sale! Help me tell corrupt organizations like the Hispanic Democratic Organization (HDO) that we will no longer sit back as they plunder the public's trust in search of jobs and contracts for their cronies.

I know that we have common values and a shared vision of working together to solve the problems that plague our public schools; the lack of funding for health care; and the need for new and better jobs in Illinois. By supporting my candidacy for State Senator in Illinois' 12th District, you will be help take a stand against corruption in our government and help ensure that the issue of educational reform, health care and economic development are at the top of the legislative agenda

As a first time candidate I also want to stress not only my commitment to IVI-IPO's values for a fair and just democratic process. I believe my opponent's ongoing financial and political dependence to the HDO, compromises his ability to fairly represent the citizens of the 12<sup>th</sup> Legislative District. The indictments of members of HDO and the ongoing investigation of its leader Victor Reyes, a registered state lobbyist, make those elected officials who depend on the organization's support suspect. As a progressive candidate who has built a grassroots' organization I am committed to representing with integrity.

Everyday I am working hard to earn the trust of the citizens of the 12<sup>th</sup> District, and with your help we can make a lasting difference in Springfield. I ask for your support and your endorsement.

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

Approximately \$175K. We have raise \$110K thus far.

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

To date, we have three full-time campaign staff members and over 200 volunteers helping our campaign.

**IVI-IPO 2006 GENERAL ASSEMBLY QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 2**

	YES	NO	Elections & Ethics
			Do you support:
1.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	moving the primary election date?
	ESSAY		If so, to what month?  I would support moving the primary election date to either May or June. Our current date makes us irrelevant in the presidential selection process, and keeps voter turnout low.

2.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	keeping voters' political party preferences in the primary elections secret?
3.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	reestablishing straight party voting in general elections?
4.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	any other changes in Illinois' election laws?
	ESSAY		<p>Please explain.</p> <p>We need to continue to work towards eliminating voter fraud. This years early voting project should help the notorious problem that Chicago and some other municipalities have always faced when it comes to absentee voting. Thus, I propose stricter laws with tougher penalties and increased enforcement on election day.</p> <p>In additions, Illinois also needs to continue to invest in voting machines that will ensure every vote is accurately counted and that no one is disenfranchised.</p>
5.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Do you support restoration of cumulative voting for the Illinois House of Representatives?
	ESSAY		If so, please describe the plan you support.
6.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Should Illinois institute instant run-off voting?
7.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support changes in the way judges are selected?
	ESSAY		<p>If so, please give a brief description of the system you support.</p> <p>I support the popular election of Circuit Court judges. Popular election is one way to assure that our judiciary reflects the ethnic and cultural diversity prevalent throughout the state. One impediment to diversity that must be eliminated is the retention system. In order to assure that diversity is attainable I will submit legislation to eliminate the retention system, or make retention less probable.</p> <p>At present, Circuit Judges are elected to an initial six year term by the general public in a partisan election running against an opponent. After serving six years Circuit Judges run for retention. Opposition is absent in a retention election and Circuit Judges only need 60% of the popular vote to be retained. From 1964 – 1994 approximately 30 judges failed to reach this number. Consequently, turnover for Circuit Judges is low and the opportunity for diversity in our courts is lost.</p> <p>I do not support the popular election of Illinois Supreme Court judges. A Supreme Court seat is the one office that must be allowed to act independently to enforce and interpret the Illinois State Constitution. Instead, I propose instituting a hearing process by which the governor of the state selects nominees based on merit. Once selected, nominees must undergo questioning and examination by a non-partisan committee of state legislators. Promotion to the bench, similar to the process utilized by the Federal Government, will only be achieved by a supermajority vote of the non-partisan committee.</p>
8.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you believe that appointments to judicial vacancies should be based on nominations from local review panels?
	ESSAY		If not, would you recommend any changes in the current system? Please explain.
			Do you support:
9.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	public financing of election campaigns?
10.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	limits on campaign contributions and political committee transfers?
11.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	restricting campaign fundraising during legislative sessions?
12.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	limiting contributions to political campaigns by dollar amount or source?

			Do you support
13.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	legislation to prohibit incumbency and political affiliation as criteria in the mapping process for Congressional, Legislative and local government electoral districts?
14.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	creation of a non-partisan Commission to draw maps instead of the General Assembly?
15.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Do you support permitting state employees to hold other public sector jobs concurrently?
16.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Do you support patronage?
	ESSAY		Please explain your position.  Chicago, Cicero and the State of Illinois are plagued with corruption in government. To decrease actual or perceived corruption we must clearly draw a line separating what is private with what is public. Thus, a public official should not be allowed to be directly or indirectly be employed by the state. Strong nepotism policies must also be created to prevent the children, wives, and extended family of elected and appointed officials from abusing the public's trust, by leveraging their relationship with an elected official to obtain a desirable state job.
<b>Taxes and Economic Policy</b>			
			Do you support:
17.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	instituting a graduated income tax?
18.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	increasing income taxes to relieve or replace local property taxes and increase state funding of education?
19.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	maintaining the current corporate/individual ratio in income taxes?
20.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support casino gambling in Cook County?
	YES	NO	
21.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you support legislation requiring citizen referenda at the state or local level before casino gambling is expanded?
	ESSAY		If so, at which level and why?  I believe that the expansion of casino gambling should be decided by the citizens of the local communities that will be most impacted via a referendum.
			Do you support
22.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	prohibit confession of judgment clauses in consumer contracts?
23.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	allow expanded private rights of action?
24.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	allow expanded rights of litigation?
25.		X	mandate attorney fees to be awarded to successful plaintiffs?
26.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	provide for any other changes? Please specify.
			Do you support legislation
27.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	banning Pay Day loans?
28.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	banning or restricting ATM fees?
29.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	capping credit card interest rates?
<b>Education</b>			

30.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you vote to increase state funding to at least 50% of public education costs?
31.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Do you support vouchers or other means of public funding for private or parochial schools?
32.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support public funding of charter or contract schools?
	ESSAY		<p>Please explain your position.</p> <p>As a former educator and community organizer I believe that families should have access to a quality public education. Illinois schools and students face a variety concerns. In the 12<sup>th</sup> District, schools are overcrowded, under funded, and lack adequate facilities and technologies to properly teach children. The solution to these problems will require creativity and additional funding.</p> <p>I believe that charter and contract schools are a part of this solution because they provide the flexibility, choice, and new ideas to education that families are seeking. In addition, charter schools often bring additional private monies as well as support from community and business organizations to the institution.</p> <p>Ensuring that students have access to a quality education is what is most important. I support the current policy of providing funding to charter schools that are providing children with a quality education.</p>
<b>Civil Rights &amp; Civil Liberties</b>			
33.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support Affirmative Action?
34.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you vote to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment?
			Do you favor legislation
35.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	legalizing civil marriage between two people of the same gender?
36.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	providing legal recognition of domestic partnerships?
37.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	prohibiting discrimination in housing against unmarried individuals residing together?
38.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Do you support mandatory AIDS testing for insurance or employment?
			Do you support mandatory drug testing
39.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	for public sector employees?
40.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	for private sector employees?
	ESSAY		<p>Under what circumstances?</p> <p>I believe that drug testing should not be mandatory for all state employees and is a violation of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. As public servants who represent taxpayers, public employees should be held to the highest standards accountable. Nonetheless, this would be an expensive effort to undertake, especially for small municipalities. Instead I believe that local agencies should determine the critical positions in which the duties and responsibilities of the employee require the highest safety standards. Employees who fill these positions should be required to take drug tests.</p> <p>I also believe that private employers should not be required to conduct drug testing on all employees, but that businesses should have the ability to decide which positions in their business require employees to follow the highest safety standards.</p>

41.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Should state police be allowed to stop vehicle operators to test for DUI on grounds other than probable cause?
42.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Would you support legislation to include data on pedestrian, as well as motor vehicle, stops by police for the purpose of gathering statistics on racial profiling?
	YES	NO	
43.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Would you support amending current racial profiling legislation to add collection of data on persons of Middle Eastern origin?
44.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support repeal of legislation that permits employers to eavesdrop on the telephone conversations of their employees?
45.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Do you favor detention of suspects and material witnesses without charges and/or probable cause?
<b>Labor</b>			
46.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you favor restructuring the wage scale of state employees to correct disparities based on gender by instituting equal pay for jobs of comparable worth?
47.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support privatization of state services?
	ESSAY		If so, which services?  I support privatization of state services when it is possible to achieve both cost savings and efficiencies while maintaining quality wage and benefit standards for workers. I do not support privatization initiatives that are meant solely to lower wages or fire current state employees.
48.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Would you support contracting for outside services with companies located outside Illinois? Why or why not?  While I believe that the public sector should attempt to contract with Illinois firms in as many instances as possible, in our diverse economy this is not always possible. Instead I believe that the state should seek to contract with companies that provide the highest quality goods and services at the best price.
49.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support the right of public employees to strike?
50.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support legislation banning the replacement of strikers in private employment?
51.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support family leave legislation for employees of private companies not currently covered by federal law?
			Do you support
52.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	raising the minimum wage to establish a living wage for Illinois workers?
53.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	establishing a lower minimum wage for minors?
54.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	including farm workers and household employees under existing labor laws?
<b>Health &amp; Human Services</b>			
55.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Will you support a single-payer health plan for Illinois?
	ESSAY		If so, how would Medicaid be incorporated into the program you support?

56.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you support sufficient funding to provide community based services for discharged mental health patients?
			Do you support:
57.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	legislation which would guarantee that abortion remains legal in Illinois, to the extent it is currently available, in the event of Roe v. Wade being overturned or diminished?
58.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Medicaid funding for abortions?
59.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	insurance coverage of abortions for state employees?
60.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	parental consent/notification for minors seeking abortions?
61.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	banning so-called partial-birth abortions?
62.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	any other restrictions on abortions? Please specify.
	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	
63.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support increasing appropriations to the Department of Children and Family Services to increase the number of caseworkers?
64.	ESSAY		<p>What services, if any, would you offer to those whose time on Welfare has run out and do not have adequate income to support themselves and their families?</p> <p>Healthcare services must be continued and sustained for these individuals. Also, children under 18 years old should receive health benefits until the age of majority.</p>
<b>Housing</b>			
65.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you favor legislation banning housing discrimination against holders of Section 8 vouchers?
			Would you support legislation
66.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	mandating that landlords give tenants notice prior to entering their units?
67.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	assessing penalties against landlords who engage in illegal or retaliatory evictions?
<b>Energy &amp; Environment</b>			
68.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Do you support an elected ICC?
69.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Should Illinois institute a Renewable Portfolio Standard requiring all energy providers in Illinois to sell minimum amounts of their energy from renewable sources?
70.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Should Illinois adopt the International Energy Conservation Code for residential buildings?
71.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you support ratification of the Great Lakes Annex Compact if it restricts out-of-basin diversion of Great Lakes waters?
72.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Would you support legislation that would provide state technical assistance funds to local communities to help them prepare and implement comprehensive smart growth plans to avoid the costs of rapid unplanned growth and urban sprawl?
73.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Would you support legislation requiring registration and monitoring of confined feedlot waste treatment/disposal and licensing of third party waste haulers?

			Do you support
74.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	expansion of O'Hare airport?
75.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	expansion of other regional airports? If so, which? Yes, I believe that we should also look into potential for expanding Midway Airport in the 12 <sup>th</sup> District with a plan for developing an economic development zone that will create new businesses and jobs.
76.		X	building a new airport in Peotone?
			Do you support
77.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	inter-city high speed rail?
78.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	the current formula for allocation of funds to CTA, Metra and PACE?
			<b>Criminal Justice</b>
			Do you support state legislation to ban the manufacture, sale and possession of
79.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	handguns?
80.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	assault weapons?
	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	
			Do you support
81.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	legislation increasing penalties for illegal resale of weapons?
82.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	legislation permitting the licensing of concealed weapons?
83.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	legislation mandating background checks of purchasers of weapons at gun shows, through the internet and through print advertisements?
			Do you support:
84.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	capital punishment?
85.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	criminal prosecution of juveniles as adults?
86.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	mandatory sentencing?
87.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	work release, home monitoring, other alternative sentencing?
88.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	admissibility of illegally obtained evidence?
89.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	electronic eavesdropping?
90.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	roving wiretaps?
91.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you favor continuation of the current moratorium on capital punishment in Illinois?
	ESSAY		If not, how would you address the inequities enumerated in the report of the Commission on the Death Penalty?