

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

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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?

I am an electrician.

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

I have been an active fundraiser for Special Children’s Charities for the past five years, and have been an active fundraiser for the Matter of Reaction Movement Project for the past three years. I have been a volunteer for Chicago 2016 since the AIBA Boxing tournament of 2007 as a shift manager.

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 been an electrician for Cook County for the past eight years. The past six years I have been the person responsible for taping every board and committee meeting, and public hearings of the Board of Commissioners. Since the formation of the Cook County Health and Hospital System Board, I have been responsible for recording all of its meetings. These experiences have given me the unique perspective on the inner workings of these two bodies.

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

Tom Hynes for Cook County Assessor 1992 and 1996, I canvassed neighborhoods distributing literature and worked precincts passing palm cards.

George Scully for the Illinois House of Representatives and Debbie Halverson for Illinois State Senate in 1996, I canvassed neighborhoods distributing literature and worked precincts passing palm cards.

John Stroger for Cook County Board President 1998, 2002, and 2006, I passed petitions, canvassed neighborhoods distributing literature and worked precincts passing palm cards.

Dan Hynes for United States Senate 2004, I worked precincts passing out palm cards.

Joan Murphy for Cook County Commissioner 2006, I passed petitions, canvassed neighborhoods distributing literature and worked precincts passing palm cards.

Todd Stroger for President of Cook County Board 2006. I canvassed neighborhoods distributing literature and worked precincts passing palm cards.

Joseph Berrios for Cook County Board of Review 2008, I canvassed neighborhoods to distribute literature.

Tom Allen for Cook County States Attorney 2008, I passed petitions.

G) What goals for the office you seek are most important to you personally?

My biggest goal is to educate the people in my district on the function of Cook County. Many of my personal acquaintances, even if they know I work for the County, think that all Cook County does is tax them. There are thousands of functions many people are not aware of that the County performs every day.

Another goal is to further the green initiatives that Cook County has implemented. Currently, Project Green light has been put on hold because of the lack of funding due to not passing the bond issue. This project not only has environmental impact, but also a fiscal one. Each light fixture that is retrofitted with an electronic ballast, uses much less electricity than the current ones do with magnetic ballasts.

Another goal is to have all employees on an electronic swipe system for timekeeping. These types of systems are easily tracked, and can be integrated to the payroll system. Cook County currently has some swipe systems in place, but some departments use time-clocks with paper cards and some departments still have paper sign in sheets. This will have an added benefit of transparency in our timekeeping methods.

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

I.B.E.W. Local Union 134, I.U.O.E. Local 399, and The Chicago and Cook County Building Trades Council have endorsed me.

IVI-IPO 2009 10TH DISTRICT COUNTY COMMISSIONER QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 2

	YES	NO	
1.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support removing the cap on the number of abortions performed at Stroger Hospital? YES, providing this does not negatively impact staffing levels, currently the largest dynamic driving restrictions on the number of abortions that can be performed at Stroger each day.
2.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the distribution of County funded health facilities sufficient? NO. Clearly the need for low-cost/no-cost health care is growing in communities throughout the metro area.
3.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does your district need additional health care facilities? ESSAY Please elaborate. YES. Currently, residents in my district must rely on Cook County's closest ambulatory clinic, which is in Logan Square -- a very long distance to travel for many constituents -- or on outpatient services at Stroger Hospital. Both sites are extremely busy, at the same time that the need for healthcare for residents in my district is growing. We need at least one additional ambulatory clinic centrally located near major public transportation corridors in the 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? Fortunately, Cook County government took a politically difficult but necessary step last year when the Board voted to raise the County's

		<p>portion of the sales tax from ¾ penny on the dollar by a penny to 1.75 cents on the dollar. As before, Cook County’s portion of the sales tax continues to exempt vital goods like groceries and medicines. This was an unpopular move, but a necessary step to tackle the County’s chronic structural deficit – the difference between growth in County revenue and growth in costs – a spread which has been growing for some time, to a great extent because Cook County’s portion of the property tax has remained flat at \$720 million since 1996. Families would be unable to pay 2009 bills with 1996 dollars, and Cook County confronted the same issue, despite real reductions of between 2 and 17% in most departments’ annual budgets each year for the last five years. Ironically, at a time when governments from California to New York are feeling the pinch of budget shortfalls, Cook County’s finances today rest on relatively solid financial ground. That said, I would continue the prevailing practice of ensuring that the County Board focuses on vital services and cost-saving measures, including deploying new technologies in IT, energy and other arenas as a way to hold down costs.</p>	
5.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you favor a freeze in the property tax rate?
YES, I favor preserving the freeze on property taxes of \$720 million, the amount the County has assessed to local property owners since 1996.			
6.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support renewing the 7% property tax cap?
YES.			
7.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Should County Board approval be required prior to the creation of TIF districts in Cook County? NO. While many concerns have been raised about the need for oversight and transparency in TIFS – concerns that I share – simply handing off local authority to another governing body does not address the larger issues. State legislation mandates the rules surrounding the deployment of TIFS, and the State Legislature should take meaningful steps to improve governance, transparency and accountability.
8.	ESSAY		What should be done by the County Board to foster affordable housing, including subsidized housing? Cook County has no direct authority over its own housing authority. That said, Cook County does receive roughly \$15 million a year in CDBG and block grant funds from the federal government for housing and infrastructure improvements. Historically, those dollars have been awarded to projects serving some of the County’s most needy constituencies and municipalities, particularly in the south and west suburbs. Roughly \$30 million in new federal funds to address the current housing crisis have also become available, and will be used to help municipalities with the highest rates of home foreclosures get homes back on the market and into the hands of people who need housing. I will work with Cook County’s Department of Planning & Development to encourage the development of affordable rental housing throughout Cook County, including in some of our more affluent communities, where housing is so unaffordable local workers cannot afford to live in the communities they serve.
9.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you support equitable geographic distribution of affordable housing throughout the county? YES.
			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? NO.
11.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	if owner occupied buildings of 6 or fewer units were exempted? YES.
12.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support the sale or transfer of forest preserve land to private interests? I answer this with a qualified NO.
			Please explain your answer. While I oppose on principle the sale or transfer of vital green space and other public lands held by the FPD to private interests, I support the County’s right to

			negotiate in good faith on land swaps that may provide a net gain to the County of quality green space and recreational property, particularly when those arrangements also serve the larger environmental interests of our region.
13.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support separating violent from non-violent offenders in County jail? Because each case is different, I support reserving decision-making in these cases for the County Sheriff, with regular input from public policy projects committed to working with the Sheriff to shape best practices approaches that ensure for the widest amount of safety and well-being for both inmates and jail staff.
14.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support separating juvenile from adult offenders? YES.
15.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you favor work-release, electronic monitoring and other alternative sentencing programs? YES.
16.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support drug testing of potential or current County employees? Cook County already provides for random drug testing of current employees, particularly those in the public safety arena, as well as drug testing for prospective hires in areas that include law enforcement and health care. I support continuing sensible policies for drug testing of prospective and current employees, with an eye on balancing these policies with civil liberties imperatives.
17.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support Affirmative Action? YES.
18.	<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? YES.
19.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support patronage? This question is both loaded and unclear in its intent, so I'll take this opportunity to provide a nuanced answer, rather than one that simply panders to the prevailing editorial line. Roughly 80% of Cook County's employee base is currently comprised of union members, who by definition and under the terms of their contracts, are not subject to what most people understand to be 'patronage' hiring – that is, hiring in which objective testing and competition for open slots is subverted by political machinations. Most of the rest of Cook County's workforce is covered by the terms of civil service, and therefore also in a de facto way bound to the same hiring and promotional practices our union workers are protected by. Each elected official also has, under the terms of the Shakman Agreement, the opportunity to hire staff of their choice into senior management positions – a practice I support on its face. Mike Quigley, the individual who previously held this position, was free to hire staff based on his assessment of their qualifications and their support for his political agenda. Any administration in any government, be it our new President, Barak Obama, or the County Sheriff, should have a measure of authority to appoint key individuals who share her or his policy perspectives and vision for the office. If these types of hires constitute 'patronage' in the conventional understanding of that word, then I support patronage in this limited sense – i.e., in terms of affording elected officials the authority to make senior appointments of their choosing, with the caveat that these individuals are expected to meet baseline criteria to fulfill their functions with competence and integrity.
20.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you favor extending the Civil Service System to replace patronage in County employment? I support expanding the Civil Service System as appropriate, under the guidelines of our human resources policies and best practices in the field, with exemptions that afford administrations the opportunity to put in place management teams of their choosing. Please see my answer above for more information.
21.	ESSAY		What should be done to eliminate patronage abuse in county government? Cook County has already taken substantive steps to address the issue of patronage abuse in Cook County, and I support continuing on this path. The current County Board President embraced the Shakman Consent Decree in the weeks before he took office in December 2006, and worked with County Commissioners to strengthen the County's Inspector General Ordinance, providing that individual with authorities that include subpoena power,

the capacity to investigate every office within the County, and a budget that adequately staffs this mission. I do think it's important to expand the scrutiny of issues of 'patronage' to ALL elected offices in Cook County. An open government is an honest government, and residents are best served by a comprehensive dialogue on the procedures surrounding appointments throughout Cook County Government and its elected officials.			
22.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you favor permitting county employees to hold other public sector jobs concurrently?
YES, providing those responsibilities do not negatively impact on their ability to fulfill their responsibilities to County residents.			
23.	ESSAY		In what circumstances should the County contract for outside professional services?
In the last two years, Cook County has moved aggressively to improve its purchasing and contracting practices, by making them more open, transparent and accessible to the public and to prospective bidders. The County has also moved to improve the number of MBE/WBE businesses that can successfully compete for County business. Outside contracting for professional services has also been an important element in the County's move to create an independent health and hospitals board. At a baseline level, where County agencies lack the in-house experience to manage particular tasks and responsibilities, be they federal lobbying or health care policy planning, I support County Board oversight in seeking outside professional services in these arenas.			
24.	ESSAY		In what circumstances should competitive bidding for contracts be required? Please comment on any existing abuses. Most contracts in Cook County are already competitively bid, a practice I support continuing and expanding where appropriate. A number of cases related to contractors and their relationship with County employees have surfaced over the years, and I support efforts to prosecute these cases under the full authority of the law and County policy, including the terms of the Cook County Ethics Ordinance and the mandate of the Cook County Inspector General.
25.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Would you support contracting for outside services with companies located outside of Cook County? Why or why not? While I support contracting with County-based businesses – and employers – wherever possible, I recognize that this is simply not feasible for all contracts, particularly equipment contracts and tech contracts with sole providers or manufacturers in specialty arenas like medical imaging equipment or some software applications. Where possible, I support contracting for outside services with Cook County-based companies.
26.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you accept campaign contributions from current or potential suppliers, employees or outside contractors?
27.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the County Ethics Ordinance adequate?
	ESSAY		Why or why not? Cook County's Ethics Ordinance should always be viewed through the lens of prevailing state and federal legislation, and to this end I support reviewing the ordinance at regular intervals and amending it as appropriate. I also support regular reviews of the ordinance that seek to incorporate best practices as necessary.
28.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support public financing of campaigns for this office?
YES, as long as public financing is used to create a truly level playing field.			
29.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support a campaign expenditure limit?
YES.			
30.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you be a full-time Commissioner?
YES.			
31.	ESSAY		What other employment, if any, do you intend to hold?
I am currently a licensed electrical contractor, and will reserve the right to preserve that licensing and company status.			
32.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you open an office in your district?
My expectation and hope is to keep open the current district office.			
33.	ESSAY		What will you do to ensure community involvement in identifying the concerns of the residents

			of your district?
I plan to host town hall meetings once a month throughout the wards that make up this district, and also plan to hold extended office hours through 9PM at least one day a week to facilitate access for constituents throughout the district.			
34.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Should candidates for Board President be prohibited from running concurrently from a district?
NO.			
35.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you support a redistricting process that prohibits consideration of incumbency or political affiliation?