

**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. 43<sup>rd</sup> Ward Democratic Committeeman, 2/2008-present
- B) Other elective offices for which you have been a candidate. Alderman, 43<sup>rd</sup> Ward, 2007
- C) What is your primary occupation? Attorney
- D) Briefly list your civic activities of the past ten years. Chair, Social Action Committee, Chicago Sinai Congregation; Board Member, Facing History and Ourselves, Board Member, National Conference for Community and Justice; Volunteer Leader, United Power for Action and Justice. Volunteer service after Hurricane Katrina with Chicago Cares and Hands-on USA, April 2006. Organized relief effort for Hurricane Katrina, raising \$60,000.
- E) What subjects have you studied and what experience have you had which will be most helpful to you in the office you seek? My experience as a former federal prosecutor and former corporate attorney, as well as my involvement with local politics.
- F) What candidates have you supported in the past? Please be specific in describing your role in each campaign. Mike Quigley for County Board President, volunteer; Forrest Claypool for County Board President, legal volunteer; Barack Obama for President, volunteer; Hillary Clinton for President, volunteer.
- G) What goals for the office you seek are most important to you personally? The opportunity to bring county government into the 21<sup>st</sup> century as far as management practices, transparency, and accountability. The opportunity to work for meaningful reform of the processes of county government so that the taxpayers can be assured that their money is being spent wisely.
- H) Please list all endorsements you have received so far.

**IVI-IPO 2009 10TH DISTRICT COUNTY 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.
The county still has to improve access to primary health care for the uninsured and underinsured near where they live. There also needs to be a focus on drug and alcohol treatment in the communities.			
4.	ESSAY		How would you solve the budget gap while still ensuring that health and other basic human

		services would continue to be provided?
<p>The County should get its own house in order by pursuing numerous opportunities for costs savings, through joint purchasing agreements for supplies, exploration of savings in health care costs for current employees, including giving incentives for county employees to use the county health care facilities, annexing unincorporated land to municipalities, and consolidating certain operations with the State. The county should also consider other revenue sources, such as sponsorships. The County Board should also convene oversight committees to review county spending.</p>		
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 renewing the 7% property tax cap?
7.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Should County Board approval be required prior to the creation of TIF districts in Cook County? – However, this should be done as part of an overall process of reformation of TIF procedures.
8.	ESSAY What should be done by the County Board to foster affordable housing, including subsidized housing?	
<p>The county must first be assured that the services it is providing are adequate and appropriately monitored before taking on new projects. I believe affordable housing should be addressed as part of the Governor's capital spending plan.</p>		
9.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Will you support equitable geographic distribution of affordable housing throughout the county?
<p>Will you support an amendment to the County Human Rights Ordinance to protect Section 8 voucher holders from discrimination in housing</p>		
10.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> in buildings of any size without exemptions?
11.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> if owner occupied buildings of 6 or fewer units were exempted? – as an alternative, if upon investigation, it is determined that such a requirement is an undue burden on smaller landlords.
12.	<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.		
13.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Do you support separating violent from non-violent offenders in County jail?
14.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Do you support separating juvenile from adult offenders?
15.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Do you favor work-release, electronic monitoring and other alternative sentencing programs?
16.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Do you support drug testing of potential or current County employees?
17.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Do you support Affirmative Action?
18.	<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?
19.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Do you support patronage?
20.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Do you favor extending the Civil Service System to replace patronage in County employment?
21.	ESSAY What should be done to eliminate patronage abuse in county government?	

First and foremost, we must limit the number of exempt positions. And the county should fully institute the recommendation of the federal monitor, quickly. In addition, the county should institute much more professional job evaluation procedures.			
22.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Do you favor permitting county employees to hold other public sector jobs concurrently?
23.	ESSAY		In what circumstances should the County contract for outside professional services? Where the capabilities inside the County are inadequate to the task due to needs for specialized equipment or expertise. There should be findings required as to why an outside contractor must be hired. For example, I understand that the County hires lobbyists in addition to those on the payroll. Is this necessary? But more importantly, we need managerial oversight at the county level of these relationships so contractors are answerable to the taxpayers.
24.	ESSAY		In what circumstances should competitive bidding for contracts be required? Please comment on any existing abuses. Competitive bidding is an important component of any governmental purchasing decision, as a baseline against abuse. However, I understand that the purchasing process is difficult and not transparent. As someone with purchasing experience in the private sector, I would like to review the process to ensure that larger transactions are completed with transparency and with cost-savings opportunities.
25.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Would you support contracting for outside services with companies located outside of Cook County? Why or why not? While in-county vendors could be preferred, if the service can in fact be performed better and cheaper outside the County, we should consider it.
26.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Will you accept campaign contributions from current or potential suppliers, employees or outside contractors?
27.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Is the County Ethics Ordinance adequate? Why or why not? There are still issues that need to be addressed including compliance with existing laws.
28.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Do you support public financing of campaigns for this office?
29.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Do you support a campaign expenditure limit? I believe that campaign limits in and of themselves will not solve the problems of undue influence. As a first step, I believe we should ban corporate contributions and corporate PAC contributions.
30.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you be a full-time Commissioner?
31.	ESSAY		What other employment, if any, do you intend to hold? I may maintain a few private clients from my law firm, but I would refuse any business that conflicts directly or indirectly with County business. My current practice is completely with private clients.
32.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you open an office in your district?
33.	ESSAY		What will you do to ensure community involvement in identifying the concerns of the residents of your district? I have a record of informing the community of issues that are related to my political office. I will expand those efforts through the internet, mail, and community meetings to educate and solicit input. Having an informed, educated electorate is a primary goal of mine.
34.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Should candidates for Board President be prohibited from running concurrently from a district? The Board President should not be a sitting commissioner, but should be a separate, executive office.
35.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you support a redistricting process that prohibits consideration of incumbency or political affiliation? – this requires further study.