

## Inside this Issue

- 1 Make Your Independent Voice Heard—Vote March 21!
- 2 Nominations Sought for Annual Dinner Awards.
- 3 Public Beware: Legal Establishment Doesn't Want You to Know Where Elected Judges Stand on Issues
- 4 IVI-IPO's Endorsements for the March 21 Primary
- 8 IVI-IPO's Endorsed Candidate Contact List
- 10 So How'd it go?: Report on the Endorsement Sessions
- 11 Oscar Night: Thanking the Volunteers
- 12 Calendar and Reminders

IVI-IPO Action Bulletin is published by the

Independent Voters of Illinois-  
Independent Precinct Organization  
1325 South Wabash - Suite 105  
Chicago, IL 60605

312-939-5105

website: [www.iviipo.org](http://www.iviipo.org)



# Action Bulletin

## Make Your Independent Voice Heard!

by Lee Snyder, Editor

Do not forget to vote March 21. Make your independent voice heard!

Our organization has been working very hard to sift through all the candidates running for office March 21. We are talking about state and local offices, including judicial candidates. Enclosed in this newsletter we have provided a list of the races up for vote, and the candidates we have endorsed. The chairman of our IVI-IPO Political Affairs Committee, Rich Whitehead, has done a superb job. What did he do? He and the other wonderful IVI-IPO members organized this yeoman effort to schedule the candidates and arrange for our members to hear and interview the candidates, coordinate mailing and emails and meeting time and locations to keep afloat this huge operation. And much more! Part of the reason I can appreciate all Rich Whitehead did this year is that a few years ago I held that office (the responsibility of being chair of that Political Action Committee) and I wasn't very good at it (I stunk), and Rich has been a maestro!

Hungry? To satiate your culinary and political appetite, let me make a suggestion! Our dynamic South chapter is sponsoring its annual Spaghetti Dinner Sunday, March 12 from 4-7PM at Grant Memorial Church at 4017 S. Drexel. Tickets are a steal at \$5 each, and you can order online at our website: [www.iviipo.org](http://www.iviipo.org). I have attended in the past (I love spaghetti!), and I had a great time meeting South chapter friends, Ald. Toni Preckwinkle, other city council members, state legislators, fellow IVI-IPO members and still found time to savor the pasta! Come March 12. Check it out.

Our next annual Independent Day Dinner (IDD) will be thrown June 3 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. I went a few years ago and got my picture taken with Senator Dick Durbin, and then had dinner with Congressman Danny Davis. He just sat down next to me! Took me quite by surprise. Why don't you attend this year, and maybe you'll get lucky like I did!

**March 21<sup>st</sup>: Remember to Vote!**

## NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR ANNUAL DINNER AWARDS

The IVI-IPO Steering Committee is taking nominations for awards to be given at the 62nd annual Independents' Day Dinner in June. The six awards are:

**THE LEGAL EAGLE AWARD**, established in 1974, presented to a lawyer or an organization of lawyers that has made a particularly significant contribution to opening the political or governmental process or has worked to the benefit of the general public.

**THE LEON M. DESPRES AWARD**, established in 1975, honoring those elected officials who stand in the Despres tradition of independence, dedication to constituent democracy, and leadership in the struggle for progressive politics.

**THE BARBARA MERRILL - RUDY LOZANO LABOR AWARD**, established in 1984, given to those trade unionists who demonstrate Barbara's and Rudy's selfless devotion to the cause of worker's unity, who display the foresight and leadership to integrate the trade union movement with community struggle, and who lead trade unionists and community activists alike into the political arena.

**THE HAROLD WASHINGTON AWARD**, established in 1988, honoring those community activists and civic leaders who stand in the late Mayor's tradition of fairness. The award is presented to those who have worked over a long period of time to bring together diverse communities toward a common goal.

**THE KIT PFAU VOTING RIGHTS AWARD**, established in 1993, is bestowed upon those who have demonstrated excellence and leadership in supporting legislative policy on expanded voter registration opportunities and rights, and for advocating democratic reforms in the electoral process to expand citizen participation and education.

**THE SAUL MENDELSON AWARD**, established in 1998, in memory of former State Chair Saul Mendelson, honoring a person or group that, like Saul, has consistently fought for social justice in the political, union, or legislative arena.

Please submit your nominations in writing to the IVI-IPO Steering Committee, 1325 S Wabash, Suite 105, Chicago IL 60605, or by email: [iviipo@yahoo.com](mailto:iviipo@yahoo.com)

In addition to the name of the award and nominee, please include a brief explanation of why the person is being nominated, and your name and phone number so we can contact you if we need more information.

Deadline for nominations is noon, March 28.

### ***Action Bulletin***

Is published by the  
Independent Voters of Illinois—Independent  
Precinct Organization

1325 S. Wabash Ave. #105  
Chicago, IL 60605  
312-939-5105

**[www.iviipo.org](http://www.iviipo.org)**

**Editor**  
Lee Snyder

**Designer**  
Elizabeth Fraser

**Executive Director**  
Aviva Miriam Patt

**DEADLINE FOR IDD NOMINATIONS:**  
**MARCH 28, 2006, NOON**

**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**IDD AWARDS: JUNE 3, 2006**

## **Public Beware: Legal Establishment Doesn't Want You to Know Where Elected Judges Stand on Issues**

*James A. Shapiro, Chair, IVI-IPO Judicial Review Committee*

In a 2002 ruling of the U.S. Supreme Court declaring that judicial candidates may announce their personal positions on issues of the day, Justice Anthony Kennedy argued:

Deciding the relevance of candidate speech is the right of the voters, not the State. The law in question here contradicts the principle that unabridged speech is the foundation of political freedom.

The Chicago legal establishment is doing precisely what Justice Kennedy said the State may not do.

They have recently laid siege to the Independent Voters of Illinois-Independent Precinct Organization (IVI-IPO) and its questionnaire for judicial candidates, asserting that answering questions on hot-button issues (including abortion, gay rights and the death penalty) amounts to an "attack on the independence and impartiality of the judiciary." This is preposterous.

IVI-IPO is Illinois's oldest progressive, multi-issue, good government group, and holds as its central mission the commitment to endorse and elect candidates that abide by its established principles, including (as its name suggests) "independence." IVI-IPO questions candidates in order to fulfill this goal, believing strongly that a progressive personal outlook bodes well for progressive decision-making if and when the law gives judges discretion in applying it.

In accordance with the Illinois Canon of Judicial Ethics, IVI-IPO expressly asked judicial candidates not to "commit or appear to commit" themselves on how they would rule on such issues. The goal is not to hold judges to the fire, but rather to give all parties involved their full rights.

These rights are detailed in the Supreme Court's 2002 opinion. Striking down a Minnesota rule forbidding judges from "announcing" personal opinions to voters in order to protect judicial independence, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor reasoned, "If the State has a problem with judicial impartiality, it is largely one the State brought upon itself by continuing the practice of popularly electing judges."

IVI-IPO supports merit selection of judges over popular election, but since Illinois persists in electing most of its judges, IVI-IPO believes that it has a right and an obligation to endorse judicial candidates based on their progressive orientation.

The late, great Justice Thurgood Marshall argued that "[i]f the State chooses to tap the energy and the legitimizing power of the democratic process, it must accord the participants in that process the First Amendment rights that attach to their roles." The Chicago legal establishment is denying rights on both sides of this issue by threatening judicial candidates with ethical sanction if they exercise their free speech rights. This in turn denies voters their right and duty to reach an informed decision.

The Chicago legal establishment believes that you, the people of Cook County, do not have a right to know what your judges think, and that you cannot reach an informed decision for yourselves. IVI-IPO, like the Supreme Court, believes that you do and you can.

*Mr. Shapiro's editorial previously appeared in the Sun-Times on January 18, 2006 with the heading "Legal community is trying to gag judges."*

## **IVI-IPO's endorsed candidates for the March 21, 2006 Primary Election**

*by Aviva Miriam Patt, Executive Director*

### **Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor (D)**

As a state legislator, Congressman and Governor, Rod Blagojevich has been a stalwart supporter of individual liberty and human rights. He has defended women's reproductive freedom by guaranteeing their right to obtain contraception and signed into law a ban on discrimination based on sexual orientation. Blagojevich also led the successful effort to increase the paltry minimum wage, ensuring that Illinois workers would be able to keep better pace with inflation. That, along with his initiatives to increase health care and prescription drug coverage for the most vulnerable of Illinoisans – our children and elderly – reflects his commitment to providing a social safety net at the state level to replace that which has been yanked away by the federal government. Finally, we applaud Blagojevich's tough stance on consumer protection, especially in his attempt to appoint a genuine consumer advocate to the ICC. It is encouraging to see government support people over profits and recognize which constituency it really serves.

### **Judy Baar Topinka, Governor (R)**

For over twenty five years, Judy Baar Topinka has served the people of Illinois with refreshing honesty, integrity and candor. Few elected officials can claim a comparable level of public trust and confidence. She has been a tough guardian of the state's finances, scrutinizing and questioning contracts and procurement policies and establishing a loan oversight committee to review investments. Topinka has successfully leveraged state funds to provide support for local community development, create new jobs in the technology industry, and assist Illinois farms in maintaining a competitive edge in the global economy. She also has established programs to help families save for their children's college educations and assist people with less than perfect credit to buy and retain their homes. A staunch supporter of equal rights, Topinka was the first constitutional officer to implement a ban on discrimination based on sexual orientation for employees in her office and has been a strong voice for political moderation within her party.

### **Steven J. Rauschenberger, Lt. Governor (R)**

Throughout his legislative career, Steve Rauschenberger has been the preeminent champion of electoral and ethics reform in Illinois. He has fought valiantly to eliminate special interest money that pollutes the electoral process and his personal integrity is unquestioned. Across party lines, Rauschenberger is renowned as a voice of reason and applauded for his willingness to hear out those he disagrees with and attempt to find common ground. His fiscal restraint is legendary, yet he has used his budget expertise in response to advocacy groups' pleas for help and found funds for much needed social service programs. Rauschenberger is a true independent and has demonstrated the ability to bridge the partisan divide in Springfield.

### **Alexander Giannoulas, Treasurer (D)**

Alexi Giannoulas brings a background of economics, law and financial management to his campaign for Treasurer of Illinois. He is a strong supporter of community investment and would leverage state funds to invest in small businesses throughout the state and specifically provide venture capital in impoverished areas. Giannoulas also has pledged to use the Treasurer's office as a bully pulpit for consumer protection, to oppose payday loans and other predatory lending practices and to advocate for reasonable interest rates on credit cards and other consumer loans.

### **Forrest Claypool, President of the Cook County Board (D)**

As governments at all levels struggle with the competing demands of constituent service delivery and reduced revenues to pay for those services, Cook County lumbers on as a dinosaur from another era, oblivious to the need to restructure for the modern world. Patronage, nepotism and political favoritism reign, while innovation and practical solutions are routinely silenced in debate and disappear into committees from which they never again emerge. Forrest Claypool will change that. He promises an end to cronyism and mismanagement and has pledged to appoint both an inspector general and an internal audit

team to ferret out patronage, corruption and waste. He will seek input from and work with all commissioners to develop Board policy and to increase government efficiency with the revenue already available. Claypool also pledges to reduce the waiting time for doctor appointments and prescriptions and remove the artificial caps on abortion services at Stroger Hospital. He has received a rare and coveted "Membership Endorsement" from IVI-IPO.

**Thomas J. Dart, Cook County Sheriff (D)**

Tom Dart's first priority as Sheriff would be a staffing study of the entire office, from court deputies and patrol officers to janitors and clerical workers, looking for duplicative or unnecessary functions. IVI-IPO applauds this all too rare dedication to cutting waste in County government. We also approve Dart's proposal to install video surveillance cameras throughout the jail to monitor the conduct of officers as a good first step in reducing brutality against inmates. Especially welcome is his suggestion to employ non-invasive devices, such as Ion detectors, to search female detainees, thus ending the incumbent's deplorable practice of strip-searching women detained for minor violations. Dart also won a "Membership Endorsement."

**Dean T. Maragos, Water Reclamation District Commissioner (D)**

In recent years, the MWRD Board has transformed from an obscure retirement haven for the politically connected to an active public body of increasingly independent commissioners. Dean Maragos would be a welcome addition to the new, improved Board. A former staff attorney for the MWRD, he is familiar with the District, its finances and its policies. Maragos is also a CPA, and his accounting background would be a valuable asset to the Board.

**Debra Shore, Water Reclamation District Commissioner (D)**

Debra Shore is the only candidate for this office with a background in conservation. As a leader in Chicago Wilderness, a regional conservation consortium, she has a broad perspective on issues of water quality and supply, natural resource protection and biodiversity conservation. Shore has a specific agenda for this office – to prompt the District to educate the public and become a leader in water conservation. But her initiatives reach beyond the predictable. Shore also sees the District working with businesses to develop a market for products and services like permeable paving, rainwater collection and green roof installation. We have never seen a candidate who brings so many fresh and innovative ideas to this office, which is no doubt the reason Debra Shore is the only candidate for any office in this election, and the first candidate for any office in over ten years, to win a unanimous "Membership Endorsement" from IVI-IPO.

**Terrence J. O'Brien, Water Reclamation District Commissioner (D)**

An MWRD Commissioner since 1988, O'Brien has been elected President of the Board for five consecutive terms. Under his leadership, the District has successfully controlled costs, maintained fiscal stability and achieved a AAA bond rating. When he stood for re-election six years ago, O'Brien stated as his primary goal the transfer of responsibility for Storm Water Management from Cook County to the MWRD. He followed through, spearheading the introduction and passage of legislation in Springfield to effect the transfer, making possible the environmentally responsible ideas proposed by Debra Shore. IVI-IPO commends O'Brien for this initiative and he also was the recipient of a "Membership Endorsement."

**Lewis W. Powell III, Water Reclamation District Commissioner (D)**

An attorney, adjunct Law Professor and former President of the Cook County Bar Association, Lewis Powell brings legal expertise, as well as a distinguished record of public service to his candidacy for the MWRD. His particular interest is ensuring that TARP succeeds in reducing flooding in the south suburbs and he proposes additional storm water reservoirs to be built throughout the county, if federal funding can be secured.

**Phillip Jackson, 1st Congress (D)**

Phillip Jackson sees the discrepancies of wealth among our neighborhoods and wants to use the power of the Congressional office to connect the 1<sup>st</sup> district to the greater business community. He proposes training programs to connect residents of the district to entrepreneurship, business and new business development. A national leader for community and parental involvement in education, Jackson's top Congressional priority will be raising the performance of district schools, which he describes as "the highest matter of national security."

**John P. Sullivan, 3rd Congress (D)**

Two years ago, in an act of appalling arrogance, the incumbent Congressman resigned his seat after the primary, and engineered the selection of his son, a resident of Tennessee, as his replacement in the general election. The Democratic voters of the 3<sup>rd</sup> district, furious at being denied any say in the decision, now have a champion in John Sullivan, a lifelong resident of the district. Sullivan believes the voters of the 3<sup>rd</sup> district deserve a Congressman from the community who will fight for the community. On the issues, he supports an exit strategy in Iraq based on tangible benchmarks, access to affordable health care for all, and protecting social security and private pensions. IVI-IPO warmly endorses Sullivan and hopes his victory will serve notice upon party bosses that the voters will not be bypassed in the electoral process.

**Raymond G. Wardingley, 3rd Congress (R)**

An Air Force veteran and community activist, Ray Wardingley is truly independent, speaking his mind on any issue, not pandering to party lines or special interests. He supports exit goals for the war in Iraq and calls upon Congress to fulfill its oversight role in foreign policy and granting of federal contracts. Wardingley also decries out-of-control defense spending and supports greater funding for veterans' health care and other needs at home. He is the obvious choice over a neo-Nazi opponent in the Republican primary.

**Rahm Emanuel, 5th Congress (D)**

Rahm Emanuel's top priorities are health care, jobs, education, and retirement security. He has worked to help Americans afford their prescription drugs by allowing importation of FDA-approved drugs from other countries and has offered legislation to make education more affordable through increasing the number of Pell Grants available to students and extending the higher education tuition deduction to more families. Emanuel is striving to put together a coalition of Republicans and Democrats from every state bordering the Great Lakes to pass the "Great Lakes Restoration Financing Act," which would help states clean up the lakes and preserve them for future generations.

**Christine Cegelis, 6th District (D)**

After winning over 44% of the vote in the November 2004 election, Christine Cegelis declared her intent to run again in 2006, leading to the incumbent's decision to retire. Now she is energetically campaigning for this open seat, backed by hundreds of indigenous volunteers who are declaring that the people of the 6th district, not PACs and pollsters in Washington, will choose their representative. Cegelis' message is one of sensible fiscal policies that provide growth for American businesses and good paying jobs for American workers. She supports single-payer universal health care, to make American businesses more competitive in the global marketplace, and as a matter of conscience and compassion for the world's richest nation. Cegelis will work for tax justice, cutting the national debt and providing social services for those in need. IVI-IPO enthusiastically endorses her.

**Danny K. Davis, 7th Congress (D)**

For five terms in Congress, Danny Davis has been a leader in the fight for economic and social justice and to make quality education and affordable health care accessible to all. He has been a champion of civil liberties and an articulate and passionate spokesperson against the war in Iraq and the human rights abuses that have been uncovered in our military operations abroad. Davis supports reordering our budget priorities to cut the deficit and create good jobs at a living wage. In the past year, he has led efforts to assist ex-offenders to

reintegrate into community life, find housing and employment, and resume their roles as productive members of society.

**Zane Smith, 10th Congress (D)**

A Park District Commissioner, community activist and Boy Scout leader, Zane Smith brings a passionate commitment to public service to his race for Congress. Smith wants to be a voice for working men and women and also represent the interests of small business owners struggling with providing insurance and other benefits for their employees. He sees both interests as complementary, rather than in conflict, a refreshing perspective. Smith condemns the corrupt influence of moneyed interests in Congress and pledges to be a community leader rather than a corporate puppet.

**Bill Reedy, 13th Congress (D)**

Concerned that our federal government is operating in an air of secrecy unprecedented in US history, Bill Reedy is running for Congress to hold the administration accountable for both policy and politics. He condemns the culture of corruption in Washington and would work to restore ethics and integrity to Congress. Reedy will promote the interests of the middle class and the poor whose needs have too long been ignored. His priorities are to establish fiscal discipline, protect retirement security, strengthen the public school system and ensure that quality, affordable healthcare is available to every American.

**Ruben Kanhai Zamora, 14th Congress (D)**

A teacher, Ruben Zamora will fight for increased educational opportunities, including higher education, for all Americans. He advocates creating a fairer tax structure and new economic opportunities to benefit those who have been left behind by globalization, corporate downsizing and merger mania. Zamora supports affordable housing, universal health care, privacy in reproductive decisions and defense of our civil liberties. Another priority is the environment, particularly slowing urban sprawl and protecting family farms.

**Danny Stover, 19th Congress (D)**

With over thirty years of public service as an educator and in elected office, Stover has fought for balanced budgets and fiscal responsibility while still providing needed social services. He will be a fierce advocate for living wage jobs and affordable housing, universal health care and retirement security. Stover also promotes the use of innovative technology to revitalize the coal industry in Southern Illinois without damaging the environment.

**Dian M. Powell, 5th County Board (D)**

Social Worker Dian Powell promises to be a legislator who listens and responds to her constituents, and doesn't blindly support any party or political leader. To insure community involvement, she plans hold quarterly meetings for each township and maintain an open door policy in her district office. Powell's major county-wide priority will be reducing overcrowding and ensuring adequate educational and vocational services at the Juvenile Detention Center.

**Robert L. Ryan Jr., 6<sup>th</sup> County Board (D)**

A staunch independent, former State Representative Robert Ryan correctly identifies patronage in County government to be at the root of numerous problems, including the deplorable situation in the Juvenile Detention Center. He supports strict enforcement of the Shakman Act to end patronage abuse and proper bidding of contracts as a first step to achieving fiscal responsibility and reform. Ryan cites his experience as a bank Examiner and Certified Fraud Examiner as providing him with professional skepticism to think independently and challenge the system. IVI-IPO is relying on Ryan to continue the independent revolution of commissioners of 2002 and we heartily endorse him.

### **Leonard “Len” Dominguez, 7th County Board (D)**

Educator Len Dominguez will be a voice of reason, responsibility and reform on the County Board. He will work to cut wasteful spending, sweep away corruption and graft, and ensure that the money is spent where people need it most. Dominguez is particularly concerned with increasing the availability of health care and overcoming barriers of language and culture that deny many in his district equal access to county services.

### **Peter N. Silvestri, 9th County Board (R)**

First elected in 1998, Peter Silvestri’s goal for his fourth term is the reform of county government through reorganization of the bureaucracy, professionalism and redirection of the administrative structure, the elimination of politically based hirings and reduction of pin-stripe patronage. He also has several proposals to improve conditions at the Juvenile Detention Center, focusing first on making the facility “liveable” for the young detainees, selecting and training staff to be role models, and creating a more natural school setting to encourage them to pursue education and avoid crime. Silvestri is one of the most thoughtful and practical commissioners and IVI-IPO strongly recommends him.

The list above does not include endorsements for the General Assembly or Judges. The following chart shows IVI-IPO's complete endorsement list and you can find full candidate descriptions on the IVI-IPO website at [iviipo.org](http://iviipo.org).

## **IVI-IPO ENDORSED CANDIDATES IN THE MARCH 21, 2006 PRIMARY ELECTION**

Candidate	Office	Campaign Phone	Website
STATEWIDE OFFICES			
Rod R. Blagojevich	Governor (D)	773-404-2006	<a href="http://www.rodforillinois.com">www.rodforillinois.com</a>
Judy Baar Topinka	Governor (R)	312-346-5839	<a href="http://www.judyforgov.com">www.judyforgov.com</a>
Steven J. Rauschenberger	Lieutenant Governor (R)	312-307-5272	<a href="http://www.steveforillinois.com">www.steveforillinois.com</a>
Alexander Giannoulas	Treasurer (D)	773-334-2000	<a href="http://www.alexiforillinois.com">www.alexiforillinois.com</a>
COUNTY WIDE OFFICES			
Forrest Claypool	County Board President (D)	773-271-9500	<a href="http://www.forrestclaypool.com">www.forrestclaypool.com</a>
Dean T. Maragos	MWRD Commissioner (D)	312-578-1012	<a href="mailto:citizens@maragoslaw.com">citizens@maragoslaw.com</a> (email)
Debra Shore	MWRD Commissioner (D)	847-922-0622	<a href="http://www.debrashore.org">www.debrashore.org</a>
Terrence J. O'Brien	MWRD Commissioner (D)	888-862-6973	<a href="http://www.terrencejobrienmwr.com">www.terrencejobrienmwr.com</a>
Lewis W. Powell, III	MWRD Commissioner (D)	312-987-1159	<a href="http://www.L-E-W.com">www.L-E-W.com</a>
Thomas J. Dart	Sheriff (D)	312-957-9800	<a href="http://www.dartforsheriff.com">www.dartforsheriff.com</a>
CONGRESS			
Phillip Jackson	1st (D)	773-752-5786	<a href="http://www.runphilliprun.com">www.runphilliprun.com</a>
John P. Sullivan	3rd (D)	708-221-3328	<a href="http://www.sullivanforillinois.com">www.sullivanforillinois.com</a>
Raymond Wardingley	3rd (R)	773-238-4028	<a href="http://www.raywardingley.com">www.raywardingley.com</a>
Rahm Emanuel	5th (D)	312-994-2502	<a href="http://www.house.gov/emanuel">www.house.gov/emanuel</a>
Christine Cegelis	6th (D)	630-693-0500	<a href="http://www.cegelisforcongress.com">www.cegelisforcongress.com</a>
Danny K. Davis	7th (D)	773-638-1998	<a href="http://www.davisforcongress.us">www.davisforcongress.us</a>
Zane Smith	10th (D)	312-245-0031	<a href="http://www.zanesmithforcongress.com">www.zanesmithforcongress.com</a>
Bill Reedy	13th (D)	630-759-0042	<a href="http://www.reedyforcongress.com">www.reedyforcongress.com</a>
Ruben Zamora	14th (D)	630-677-7169	<a href="http://www.zamoraforcongress.org">www.zamoraforcongress.org</a>
Danny Stover	19th (D)	618-322-2812	<a href="http://www.stoverforcongress.us">www.stoverforcongress.us</a>
STATE SENATE			
Oscar Torres	1st (D)	312-455-9961	<a href="mailto:citizensfortorres@sbc.net">citizensfortorres@sbc.net</a> (email)
Eduardo "Eddie" Garza	12th (D)	773-735-0166	<a href="http://www.garzaforsenate.com">www.garzaforsenate.com</a>
Dan Kotowski	33rd (D)	847-849-6946	<a href="http://www.kotowski4senate.com">www.kotowski4senate.com</a>
Don Harmon	39th (D)	708-524-2006	<a href="http://www.senatorharmon.org">www.senatorharmon.org</a>

STATE HOUSE			
Francisco Rodriguez	2nd (D)	312-455-9961	frankie@chicago.com (email)
Karen Yarbrough	7th (D)	708-344-7062	www.karenyarbrough.com
Barbara Flynn Currie	25th (D)	773-643-5237	www.currieforstaterep.org
Lou Jones	26th (D)	773-373-9400	
David E. Miller	29th (D)	708-849-7372	repdavidmiller@aol.com (email)
Marlow Colvin	33nd (D)	773-847-3300	repcolvin@sbcglobal.net (email)
Mark H. Beaubien, Jr.	52nd (R)	847-381-1898	
Paul Froehlich	56th (R)	847-985-7827	www.pfroehlich.com
COUNTY BOARD COMMISSIONER			
Dian Powell	5th (D)	773-406-0037	www.votefordian.com
Robert Ryan	6th (D)	708-474-2000	www.robertryan.com
Len Dominguez	7th (D)	312-432-1840	www.lendingomez.com
Peter Silvestri	9th (R)	708-456-8683	www.petersilvestri.com
STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE (D)			
Ricardo Munoz	4th	773-762-4900	Aldmunoz22@aol.com (email)
Nancy Shepherdson	8th	847-550-8631	www.illinoisdedi.com/committeewoman
William Marovitz	9th	312-595-1400	willythebull@mac.com (email)
Alan Prochaska	10th	847-370-0617	agprochask@cs.com (email)
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEEMAN			
Charles Hernandez	Cicero (D)	708-863-4236	
R. Kent Kirkwood	Elk Grove (D)	847-392-5652	rkkirkwood@comcast.net (email)
Frederick J. Hossfeld	Hanover (D)	630-673-4244	fredthemcom@aol.com (email)
Robert Provenzano	Maine (R)	847-635-0383	www.voteforprovenzano.com
Karen Yarbrough	Proviso (D)	708-344-7062	www.karenyarbrough.com
Paul Froehlich	Schaumburg (R)	847-985-7827	www.pfroehlich.com
APPELLATE COURT			
Kathleen Kennedy	1st - Hartigan Vacancy (D)	847-966-2719	
Joy Virginia Cunningham	1st - Hartman Vacancy (D)	312-604-2738	www.joycunningham.org
Vicki Wright	3rd - Slater Vacancy (D)	815-499-6066	www.judgevickiwright.com
COOK CIRCUIT COURT			
Ann Collins-Dole	Burr Vacancy (D)	773-248-4180	anncollinsdolenew@sbcglobal.net (email)
Pamela Hill-Veal	Schiller Vacancy (D)	773-778-0889	www.judgehillveal.com
Martha Mills	Travis Vacancy (D)	312-925-6549	www.citizensformills.com
COOK SUBCIRCUITS			
Carl Anthony Walker	1st - Crooks Vacancy (D)	312-719-8048	www.carlanthonywalker.com
Michael Stuttley	2nd - A Vacancy (D)	708-922-3726	www.judgetstuttley4u.com
D. Ann Marie Stevenson	4th - Varga Vacancy (D)	312-804-4959	forty4lion@sbcglobal.net (email)
Stephen Stern	5th - Greene-Thapedi Vacancy (D)	773-633-7934	sssternlawoff@sbcglobal.net (email)
Ramon Ocasio	6th - Jorzak Vacancy (D)	312-603-8340	rocasio3001@earthlink.net (email)
Ken McNeil	7th - A Vacancy (D)	773-315-5850	kennethmcneil@comcast.net
James McGing	10th - Golniewicz Vacancy (D)	773-467-8011	www.mcgingforjudge.com
Mary Colleen Roberts	11th - A Vacancy (D)	708-601-6279	www.marycolleenrobertsforjudge.com
Don Sampen	12th - Madden Vacancy (R)	847-215-8308	don.sampen@mbtlaw.com
Darrell Lavon Tarr	15th - Nowinski Vacancy (D)	708-974-6470	dlavontarr@aol.com

## So, How'd it Go? : The Endorsement Sessions

*By Kimberly Johnson, Community Action Intern*

Endorsement sessions across the board left no member, candidate, nor observer empty-handed. Besides the typical campaign rhetoric, many candidates were very candid about what it felt like to go through the ultimate interview.

Over 70 endorsement sessions were held at various times and locations with hundreds of attendees throughout the run. Some took place simultaneously, and were organized by district in order to accommodate constituents. In between the timed speeches, designated "Q & A" sections, and simply catching their breath, some candidates had time to tell all.

"Anyone running for governor is walking into a crumbling morass," said Judy Baar-Topinka. Several other candidates mentioned a similar state of affairs concerning the current gubernatorial office and subsequently faced questions regarding the topic. Baar-Topinka reported fair treatment this year from IVI-IPO, but not before mentioning that it was for the first time. Perhaps some were encouraged by her insistence on ethical reform. Baar-Topinka accused the current administration of having broken their promises. To that end, she said, "I don't make a lot of promises, but when I do, you can take'em to the bank." It's not surprising then, that she is currently State Treasurer. IVI-IPO endorsed Republican Baar-Topinka (in addition to incumbent Rod Blagojevich [Dem]) for Governor.

Aspiring to fill her shoes is Alexi Giannoulias—the self-described "community banker." Giannoulias provided prominent names of those endorsing his campaign including the support of Congressman Danny K. Davis, Alderman Joe Moore, and Senator Barak Obama, among others. Giannoulias is also clear-cut on whom he would support himself, or rather, not: pay-day and cash advance operations. "The Treasurer's Office should not be doing business with these facilities," he said. "I normally do a better job listening than talking." IVI-IPO officially endorsed him for State Treasurer.

Edwin Eisendrath, former Chicago alderman and public school teacher, is running independently for Governor (on the Dem ballot). "I love being in a room with people who ask questions that they care about," he said. It certainly appeared so. Unlike all other candidates, Eisendrath made sure that the audience could audibly hear the questions being asked and proceeded to remove the mic from its stand (and himself from behind the podium) to get closer to the group. His personal style stood apart from the others who remained rigidly poised. One setback? In response to a question on off-shoring from board member Donna Conroy, Eisendrath nervously accommodated for what he admitted was a lack of sufficient knowledge on the topic. "We need more discussions like this," he said, and, he added, "I'll need to spend some time researching off-shoring." He was not endorsed by IVI-IPO.

Another incumbent to receive official support from the organization was U.S. Representative Rahm Emanuel (5th Dist., D). Focusing on the elimination of estate taxes in order to accommodate family farms, he said, "Tax law is so complicated that most people need ways and means just to figure it out." When asked to provide examples of the relation between the disintegration of family farms and estate taxes, Emanuel did not cite specifics, only that he knew from witnessing others' misfortune while growing up. Why the focus was on rural development when Emanuel's Fifth District is oppositely urban was never brought up, but the group was decidedly amicable towards him, and his ability to continue promoting progressive causes.

Opposing Emanuel is 36-year-old Johnny Hap. "I won't take PAC money—ever," he said, "I'm tired of special interest in campaigns." He advocated federal funding while noting the massive dichotomy in dollar amounts between him and Emanuel. Facing possibly the most pointed questioning, he was told by one board member that he should run for a lower-tiered office because he won't win this one. "They think

I'm nuts," he said, "But I chose this race because of what I see as a crisis." He was particularly thankful for IVI-IPO and the opportunity to participate in the session, however. "IVI-IPO has been a great asset to me," he said, "They've given me wonderful guidance." The organization, however, chose incumbent Rahm Emanuel as an endorsee.

Deliberation also ensued after candidate Peter Silvestri's appearance. The hopeful 9th Dist. Cook County Commissioner concerned board member Marc Loveless, when he disregarded the idea of a separate health care division focused solely on AIDS. But between mention of specifically detailed agendas, Jim Ginsberg delivered one of the most powerful messages. "We need to encourage Republicans who are moderate," he said, "It's good for competition." Ginsberg also questioned what IVI-IPO stands for if the organization commonly and continuously votes for Democrats across the board? "He's pretty much a slam dunk," he added. IVI-IPO must have thought so too. Silvestri was endorsed for 9th District County Board Commissioner.

As the saying goes, talk is cheap. So, whether the endorsement participants mean what they say right now is anyone's guess. Politicians in the past have been easily swayed by the benefits of achievement, but we hope, each endorsed candidate will remember the passion found in IVI-IPO and the importance of ensuring honest government to promote equality and justice.

As in all elections and contests, there are winners and losers, but nothing compares to the ordinary people who lose because of negligent policies and programs. It can be said with confidence that IVI-IPO put forth its very best and is certainly going to try to affect the turning of the tides of change, no matter how large or small. The Independent Voters of Illinois-Independent Precinct Organization has a very strong voice that must continue to shout as loud as possible for those whose voices regularly go unheard.

## **Oscar Nite comes to Chicago April 5th**

*"The envelope, please. And the winner is..."*

### **A gala honoring the campaign volunteers. \***

Just like the Academy Awards, nominees will receive their Oscars as a result of secret balloting-in 10 categories.

You're invited to vote-on the top 3 categories:

- The funniest story of the campaign
- The saddest story of the campaign
- The most inspiring story of the campaign

How you can participate:

1. Sign up for our email list at [www.iviipo.org](http://www.iviipo.org). We'll notify you when voting begins.
2. RSVP to Oscar Nite at our website. Advance tickets sales-\$10 by mail or web. \$15 at the door.

Join us 6:00 to 8:00pm, Wednesday, April 5th, at the Excalibur, 632 N. Dearborn, Chicago. Free hors d'oeuvres and cash bar.

\* All of IVI-IPO's endorsed candidates are also invited so you'll have a chance to meet the people you campaigned for!

*Exercise your fancy in dressing up or down...the red carpet awaits the nominees.*

## Calendar

03-12-2006 4-7PM Spaghetti Dinner *[see Lee Snyder's page 1 article for details]*  
03-21-2006 All Day Election Day  
04-05-2006 6-8 PM Oscar Nite Comes To Chicago *[see the bottom of page 11 for more]*  
06-03-2006 TBA IVI-IPO Independents' Day Awards

For meetings, updates and more events, check the calendar at the IVI-IPO website: [www.iviipo.org](http://www.iviipo.org)!

### **Early Voting is now available in Illinois [as of February 27, 2006]**

*See the following websites for more details:*

Cook County: [voterinfonet.com/sub/early\\_voting.asp](http://voterinfonet.com/sub/early_voting.asp)  
City of Chicago: [chicagoelections.com/EarlyVoting.htm](http://chicagoelections.com/EarlyVoting.htm)  
State of Illinois: [elections.il.gov](http://elections.il.gov)

*Get involved! To renew your membership or join today: call the office at 312-939-5105 or print out the membership form on our website at [www.iviipo.org](http://www.iviipo.org).*

---

Independent Voters of Illinois-  
Independent Precinct Organization  
1325 South Wabash - Suite 105  
Chicago, IL 60605

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED