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published by the

Independent Voters of Illinois-
Independent Precinct Organization
1325 South Wabash - Suite 105
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website: www.iviipo.org



Action Bulletin

Illinois Decision 2006 IVI-IPO's 62nd Annual Independents' Day Dinner

Saturday, June 3, 2006, 6:00pm
Holiday Inn Mart Plaza
350 North Orleans

Invited Speakers:

Governor Rod Blagojevich
Treasurer Judy Baar Topinka
State Senator James Meeks

Award Winners:

Leon Despres Award:
Congressman Lane Evans

Legal Eagle Award:

Freedom to Read Foundation

Barbara Merrill-Rudy Lozano Labor Award:

Jorge Ramirez, UFCW Local 1546

Harold Washington Award:

Rafael "El Pistolero" Pulido

Kit Pfau Voting Rights Award:

Equip for Equality

Saul Mendelson Social Justice Award:

Chicago Committee to Defend the Bill of Rights

Tickets are \$75 for members

\$100 non-member ticket includes one year membership

Sponsorships are also available

Order tickets, sponsorships and ads through the website at
www.iviipo.org

Community Action Report

by Kimberly Johnson, Community Action/Municipal Affairs Intern

Chicago's Living Wage Ordinance is still alive and kicking, thanks to the thirty-three aldermen who've signed on so far. Even more rewarding: the ordinance now includes all existing "big box" stores, not just new ones. Progressive politics in its prime! Now it's up to constituents to build pressure on those aldermen not budging.

Attention Northsiders! Be on the lookout for sample letters and phone calls to use as a reference when contacting your aldermen – the 43rd and 44th wards still need pushing!

- 43rd Ward - Vi Daley 773-327-9111 vdaley@cityofchicago.org
- 44th Ward - Tom Tunney 773-525-6034 ward44@cityofchicago.org

Other legislative campaigns being monitored by the Community Action Committee:

1. Safe Homes Ordinance
2. Blue Bag Recycling Reform
3. Fighting City's Appeal of Shakman Decree

If you are interested in working on these or other local issues, please come to CAMA Committee meetings, usually on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Please contact the Committee Chair, Herb Ziegeldorf at barney8336@aol.com or the office at iviipo@yahoo.com to receive committee notices.

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Endorsements

Following the January 14 endorsement session, the Board dedicated two meetings to discuss and develop new rules for conducting our endorsement sessions. These will be voted on by the Board in May or June and sent to the members prior to endorsements for the General Election. At its April meeting, the Board also voted to send several Constitutional Amendments to the membership for ratification. These will be mailed in the next few weeks in an envelope marked "Ballots Enclosed." Please look out for them and be sure to exercise your franchise.

And save these dates for endorsements for the November General Election:

- Saturday, July 15 - Governor, Attorney General & Comptroller
- Monday, July 17 - Secretary of State, Treasurer
- Monday, July 31 - MWRD
- Saturday, August 19 - Cook County Board President, Assessor, Clerk, Sheriff & Treasurer

Local Endorsement sessions will be scheduled by the chapters and may be held anytime from July 16 through August 22. We will mail a comprehensive schedule before July 15. *You must join by May 16 to be eligible to vote in the July 15 gubernatorial endorsement.*

End Housing Discrimination

by Aviva Miriam Patt, Executive Director

One would think that in 2006, with government at the state and local levels controlled by Democrats, we would not still be fighting to end discrimination in housing. But there is still one insidious yet perfectly legal form of housing discrimination in Illinois – discrimination against holders of Section 8 housing vouchers. This discrimination exists despite state and local law banning discrimination based on source of income because neither the State of Illinois nor Cook County recognize housing vouchers as a protected source of income. In all of Illinois, only the cities of Chicago, Champaign and Urbana forbid discrimination against Section 8 tenants.

Failure to protect renters who rely on vouchers is particularly cruel in light of the demolition of thousands of units of public housing and the entry of displaced residents into the shrinking market for affordable housing. In the fantasy land of federal and local housing authorities, renters have their choice of any market rate unit and have only to present their voucher and find home. In the real world, most landlords refuse to accept the vouchers; the highly touted “choice” is non-existent.

Legislation to ban discrimination against Section 8 voucher holders has been introduced in Springfield in previous sessions but not currently. That battle will have to wait for another day. But in Cook County, the struggle to end discrimination is moving forward and we need the help of our members to urge their Commissioners to support the County ordinance. Several commissioners had previously refused their support because they wanted an exemption for owner occupied buildings of 6 or fewer units. The working group of housing advocates has agreed to that concession and now is the time to get the commissioners to commit their support.

Please contact your commissioner and spread the word to family, friends and fellow travelers to do the same.

- District 1 Earlean Collins ▪ 773-626-2184 ▪ Fax: 773-626-2407
- District 2 Bobbie L. Steele ▪ 773-722-0140 ▪ Fax: 773-722-0145
- District 3 Jerry Butler ▪ 312-603-6391 ▪ Fax: 312-603-5671`
- District 4 John H. Stroger, Jr. ▪ 773-224-1705 ▪ Fax: 773-224-1714
- District 5 Deborah Sims ▪ 708-371-4251 ▪ Fax: 708-371-4376
- District 6 Joan P. Murphy ▪ 708-389-2125 ▪ Fax: 708-389-2240
- District 7 Josephy Mario Moreno ▪ 773-927-7154 ▪ Fax: 773-927-7166
- District 8 Roberto Maldonado ▪ 773-395-0143 ▪ Fax: 773-395-0146
- District 9 Peter N. Silvestri ▪ 773-774-8554 ▪ Fax: 773-774-2901
- District 10 Mike Quigley ▪ 773-935-1010 ▪ Fax: 773-935-3155
- District 11 John P. Daley ▪ 312-603-4400 ▪ Fax: 312-603-6688
- District 12 Forrest Claypool ▪ 773-832-4642 ▪ Fax: 773-832-4663
- District 13 Larry Suffredin ▪ 847-864-1209 ▪ Fax 847-864-1445 ▪ lsuffredin@cookcountygov.com
- District 14 Gregg Goslin ▪ 847-729-9300 ▪ Fax: 847-729-2279 ▪ commissionergoslin@cookcountygov.com
- District 15 Carl R. Hansen ▪ 847-818-1515 ▪ Fax: 847-818-1580
- District 16 Comm. Anthony J. Peraica ▪ 708-345-5808 ▪ Fax: 708-345-5838 ▪ Peraicalaw@aol.com
- District 17 Comm. Doody Gorman ▪ 847-759-8216 ▪ Fax: 847-759-8479 ▪ eadgorman@cookcountygov.com

Grass Roots Politics Is Alive And Well And Winning On The Northwest Side

by Aviva Miriam Patt, Executive Director

Despite an election in which incumbency, party support and money appeared to be the prerequisite for victory, a determined group of independent activists proved elections could still be won the old-fashioned way – through working precincts door-to-door and getting out your plus voters on Election Day.

In the northwest side's 6th judicial subcircuit, IVI-IPO endorsed candidate Ramon Ocasio challenged the party's pick – Ed Lechowicz, son of ward boss Ted. Lechowicz won the unanimous backing of the area committeemen (although 35th ward committeeman Rey Colon later publicly endorsed Ocasio). The Lechowicz campaign literature and posters paired him with popular activist (and IVI-IPO member) Gloria Chevere, who was running unopposed for another subcircuit seat. Multiple mailings were sent on Lechowicz' behalf, with endorsements from an array of prominent elected officials. Prior to Election Day, Lechowicz had received nearly \$150,000 for his campaign, about half of it from his father's campaign fund.

Ocasio's campaign raised slightly more than \$20,000 by Election Day. They sent one district-wide mailing. They had no posters or lawn signs. But they had a legion of volunteers going door-to-door, distributing literature at transit stops, holding coffees, sending friend-of-friend letters, and creating all the personal contact that is essential in a grass-roots movement. On Election Day, the campaign had over 100 volunteers covering precincts in the 1st, 26th, 31st, 33rd and 35th wards. Ocasio won.

That wasn't the only victory on the northwest side. There were three advisory referenda on the ballot in the 35th ward, placed there by Alderman Rey Colon (IVI-IPO member and 2003 endorsed candidate) to gauge popular support for some economic issues which are beginning to divide residents of the neighborhood. Two of the issues, affordable housing set-asides and the Big Box/Living Wage Ordinance have long been on the progressive agenda. But the third referendum, regarding development on Milwaukee Avenue, was seen by many as a test for the community's tolerance of gentrification in Logan Square. A huge coalition of neighborhood groups, block clubs, student activists, DFA, IVI-IPO and workers in the Ocasio campaign came together in a "Si, Si, No" campaign to educate voters on the issues and remind them to go to the end of the ballot to vote on the referenda. It was an incredible effort - with virtually no money but an abundance of people power - and the voters of the 35th ward responded by voting overwhelmingly for affordable housing and a living wage, and by a substantial majority against runaway gentrification.

Politics is exciting on the northwest side. For many of us long-time activists, it reminds us of the heyday of the independent movement in the 60s and 70s, when we were energized and active and believed we could defeat the machine – precinct by precinct, ward by ward, legislative district by legislative district. Many of us have given up the fight, or removed ourselves from active service in the struggle. But the lesson of this year's primary is that the cause is still alive, still worth fighting for, and still eminently winnable. And victory is sweet.

**IVI-IPO OFFICIAL NOMINATION FORM
FOR CANDIDATES TO THE STATE BOARD**

IVI-IPO is recruiting candidates for election to the State Board of Directors. Directors are elected by mail ballot in July and will serve one-year terms beginning July 26, 2006. The Board of Directors meets 10-12 times each year and members are required to attend at least half of the meetings, as well as to work on fundraising projects throughout the year.

Candidates may submit a biography/platform statement to be included with the ballots. Maximum statement length is noted below for each office but brevity is encouraged. No editing will be done. Statements exceeding their maximums will be cut at the appropriate point.

Any member in good standing may nominate another member (or her/himself) for any of the following offices:

STATE CHAIR (500 words)
ADMINISTRATIVE VICE CHAIR (300)
PROGRAM VICE CHAIR (300)
SECRETARY (200)
TREASURER (200)

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR (300)
POLITICAL ACTION CHAIR (300)
LEGISLATIVE ACTION CHAIR (300)
COMMUNITY ACTION CHAIR (300)
NATIONAL AFFAIRS CHAIR (300)

or for one of three **AT-LARGE DELEGATE seats (200 words)**. According to the IVI-IPO Constitution, "The express goal is that an attempt shall be made to enable representation of otherwise unrepresented constituencies."

In addition to these positions elected by the entire membership, each chapter elects representatives to the Board and the Political Action Committee. If you wish to run for a chapter position, please contact your Chapter Chair or the office.

Candidates may not run for more than one position on the Board.

Ballots will be mailed July 1 and must be received in the IVI-IPO Office by **5pm, Monday, July 24.**

Nominations, including biographies and/or statements, must be received by 5:00pm Friday, June 23. Preferred method of submission is by email to iviipo@yahoo.com either as a Word document or in the body of the email. We will also accept an IBM compatible 3.5" diskette (please also include a hard copy). The information requested on this form is required to complete your nomination and does not count toward your maximum word count.

Thank you for your participation and good luck!

NAME _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

MAILING ADDRESS (if different) _____

HOME PHONE _____ FAX _____ EMAIL _____

OFFICE PHONE _____ FAX _____ EMAIL _____

CANDIDATE FOR _____

Board Members to Be Elected

General Officers – all general officers are Steering Committee Members The State Chairperson presides at all meetings of the Board of Directors and at all general membership meetings and performs the usual duties of a chairperson. The State Chairperson is the public spokesperson for IVI-IPO.

The Administrative Vice-Chair develops new chapters and works with chapter officers to implement IVI-IPO policy at the chapter level. In the absence or incapacity of the Chairperson, the duties of the office are performed by the Administrative Vice-Chairperson

The Program Vice-Chair develops programs, coordinates public issues forums and implements action proposals adopted by the Board of Directors.

The Secretary takes minutes at the Board and Steering Committee meetings.

The Treasurer prepares the annual operating budget, reports to the Board monthly on the state of the Organization's finances, authorizes disbursements of funds and prepares or reviews and approves tax returns and contracts.

Committee Chairs – Steering Committee Members The Political Action Chair chairs the Political Action Committee which writes candidate questionnaires, schedules and organizes endorsement sessions. S/he also chairs all endorsement sessions other than those held within one or more chapters.

The Membership Chair chairs the Membership Committee which is responsible for new membership recruitment and membership retention.

Committee Chairs – not on Steering Committee

Legislative Action Chair – Chairs the Legislative Action Committee which recommends actions to the Board on state legislation. The Chair also directs lobbying activities and may represent IVI-IPO in coalitions working on statewide issues.

Community Action/Municipal Affairs Chair – Chairs the CAMA Committee which recommends actions to the Board on local legislation. The Chair also directs lobbying activities and may represent IVI-IPO in coalitions working on local issues.

National Affairs Chair – Chairs the National Affairs Committee which recommends actions to the Board on federal legislation. The Chair may represent IVI-IPO in coalitions working on national or international issues.

Board Delegates Three delegates and three alternates are elected at-large by the general membership. The express goal is that an attempt shall be made to enable representation of otherwise unrepresented constituencies through these positions.

Each chapter elects a Chair and Vice-Chair. Depending upon the number of chapter members, the chapter may be entitled to one or more delegates, as well as an alternate for each delegate.

Members outside of chapters elect one or more delegates, depending upon number of members in the unorganized areas. One alternate is also elected for each delegate.

DUTIES OF BOARD MEMBERS

1. Attend monthly Board meetings
The Board usually meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month
2. Serve on at least one of the following standing committees
National Affairs, Legislative Action, Community Action/Municipal Affairs, Membership, Finance, Political Action or Judicial Review Committee
3. Attend and financially support organization events
4. Recruit a minimum of 5 new members or raise the monetary equivalent
5. Periodic evaluation of the above

WELCOME NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS

Joy Adelizzi
Thomas Ambry
Kevin Anders
Donald Anderson
Jason Arrendondo
David Askew & Tamara Edmonds
Askew
M. Frank & Audry Avila
Nathan Baker
LaNeesha Barker
Ellen Barnes
David Bartnick
Paula Basta
Angelina Becerra
Christopher Belz
Charles Bernardini & Patricia
Heimann
Donna & Steve Bilski
John Bilski
Harold & Bette Blair
Dorian Breuer
Owen Brugh
Eric Bryant
Julie Greene Bryant
Elizabeth Buccheri
Jamaal Buchanan
Carolyn Bull
Robert Burrows
Edwin Burke & Anna Belluomini
Cheryl Byers
Ray Carter
Marty Casey
Forrest Claypool & Daina Lyons
Frank & Ann Coconate
Victor Crown
Jerry Davis
Naomi Davis
Suzanne Davis
Robert Denneen
Charlotte DesJardins
Lynn Donaldson
Kimberly Duda
Tom Erickson
Russell Ermon
Carl Faust
Eric Feldman
Pedro Ferral
Garrett Fitzgerald
John Flisk
Leonardo & Julie Fontana
Jeffrey & Elizabeth Frank
Rick Garcia
Ealy Gatson

Lisa & Nicholas Gecan
Kevin Givens
George Goltsos
Michael Gonzalez
Robert Gonzalez
Daniel Gonzalez II
Daniel Gonzalez Jr. V
Bonnie Smith Gordon
Don Gordon
Marjorie Halperin
Katharine Hamilton
Howard Handler
Philip Hannema
Ednalyn Hansen
Mitchelle Hansen
Kevin Harris
Jacquelyn Harrison
James Hill
Kathleen Hutchinson
Aja Jackson
Charles Janda
Elga Jefferies
Lawrence Johnson
Stanley Johnson
Lou Jones
Stephen Jones
Tom Kamykowski
Larry Lambros Kekos
Diana Kenworthy & Ross Eagle
Gary Kleppe
Ramey Ko
Jennifer Koehler
Daniel Kollman
Thomas Kollman
Clint & Dale Krislov
Doug Kucia
Jason Liechty
Dan & Debbie Luna
Willie Mack, Ph.D.
Gloria Majewski
Luci Byrd Matlock
Anja Matwijkiw, Ph.D.
Carrie McAteer-Fournier
Vanessa McCain
Patrick McGinnis
Deloris Mebain
Ellen Meyers
Deborah Mister
Michael Moore
Laura Nelson
Lisa Newman
Dave Oakleaf
Kevin Patrick O'Brien & Blair Cox

Kevin O'Connell
Brenden O'Connor
Tim & Elly O'Donnell
Ray Pempek
Juan Perez
Betty Hancock Perry
Kelly & Adam Petersen
Louise Pollok
Lewis Powell III
Harold & Gail Pye
Mike Radzilowsky
Dorothy & William Reed
Brendan Reilly
Tom Revollo
Robert & Diane Richmond
Alan Robinson
Cynthia Robinson & Matthew Hane
RoxAnne Rochester & Jay
Marhoefer
Anna Liza Rodriguez
Anthony Rodriguez
Armando Romo
Judith Rae-Ross
Dennis Roszak
Nicole Saulsberry
Rachel Scheu
Andrea Schleifer & Pam Gecan
Minh Tho Schulerberg
Elizabeth Scully
Barbara Sherman
Frank Sierra
Kathleen Simon
Deidre Smith
Matthew Smith
Ruby Smith
Mariayana Spyropoulos
Tonya Stephens
Richard Streetman
Llwellyn Thapedi
Jacqueline Toepfer
Ivan Tomic
Tom Tunney
Michael Volini
Judy Wallenstein
David Warren
Phyllis Weir
Dawn Whitfield
Marc Wigler
April Williams
Lowell Wynn
Sam Yanover
Jamie Young & Robert Wimp
Mark & Margie Zivin

Upcoming IVI-IPO Events:

Post-Election New Member Party [Tuesday, May 16, 5:30–7:30pm - location to be announced]

An opportunity for prospective members to meet the IVI-IPO Board, find out about the organization and sign-up if interested. This event will be free, with a cash bar and complimentary munchies, etc.

62nd Annual Independents' Day Dinner [Saturday, June 3 - Holiday Inn Chicago Mart Plaza 6–9pm]

Invited Speakers: Governor Rod Blagojevich, Treasurer Judy Baar Topinka & State Senator James Meeks

For more program information and to buy tickets or ads, please see our website at www.iviipo.org

Endorsement Sessions for: [locations and times to be announced except as noted]

- **Governor, Attorney General & Comptroller** [Saturday, July 15]
- **Secretary of State & Treasurer** [Monday, July 17]
- **MWRD** [Monday, July 31 - 7:00pm - IVI-IPO office, 1325 S Wabash #105]
- **Cook County Board President, Assessor, Clerk, Sheriff & Treasurer** [Saturday, August 19]

For legislative updates, information about events and more, please email us at iviipo@yahoo.com, sign up for our email contact list at www.iviipo.org or call the office at 312-939-5105.

If the date above your name on your mailing label is 20050401 your dues are delinquent. Please return your membership renewal form (sent separately) or pay your dues online at www.iviipo.org

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED