

IVI-IPO 2009 CONGRESSIONAL QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 1

DATE: **February 4, 2009**
DISTRICT: **IL-5**
PARTY: **Democrat**
NAME: **John Fritchey**
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CAMPAIGN MANAGER: **Josh Levin**
NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED: **5,000**
NUMBER REQUIRED: **1,000**

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

State Representative, D-11 (1996-Present)

32nd Ward Committeeman, (2008-Present)

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

State Representative, D-11 (1996-Present)

32nd Ward Committeeman, (2008-Present)

C) What is your primary occupation?

State Representative

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

11th District State Representative, 32nd Ward Committeeman, Adjunct Lecturer in Political Science at Northwestern University, Founder of the John Fritchey Youth Foundation

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

B.A. in Economics from University of Michigan, JD from Northwestern University Law School. Illinois Assistant Attorney General, first term Committeeman for the 32nd Ward, 7-term State Representative for the 11th District: Chair of House Civil Judiciary Committee and member of the Special Investigative Committee that recommended Blagojevich's impeachment.

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

In 2007-8 I worked in the 32nd ward to break up the Matlak/Gabinski machine—one of the oldest and most anti-progressive ward organizations in the city. I was also among the leading activists state-wide for a Constitutional Convention, and I campaigned aggressively for Barack Obama in Wisconsin, Indiana and other neighboring states.

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

I have received the following endorsements, though this list is not a complete. My campaign will be announcing additional endorsements in the following week. AFSCME Council 31, IFT, Association of Fire Fighters of Illinois, ATU Local 241 and Local 308, UNITE/HERE, UFCW, IBEW Local 134, Pipe Fitters Local 597, Teamsters Joint Council 25, American Muslim Task Force, Illinois Committee for Honest Government. Ald. Dick Mell, Ald. Vi Daley, Ald. Manny Flores, Ald. Tom

Allen, Ald. Pat Levar, Ald. Gene Schulner, Ald. Ariel Reboyras. Representative Luis Arroyo, Rep. David Miller, Former Rep. Ricca Slone. Senator Linda Holmes.

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?

For 12 years, I have been a leader in the fight to make government more open and accountable, to represent the citizens' voice in decisions that impact their jobs and pocketbooks, and to expand access to affordable health care so that Illinoisans need not go uncovered.

Whenever government has betrayed the public interest, I have fought back and won against corruption and mismanagement. I have been Chief Sponsor of more than 25 ethics bills, including working with then-State Senator Barack Obama on the Ethics Act of 2003, a bill that was the most comprehensive ethics legislation in the history of the state, and the 2008 pay-to-play ban that led to the unraveling of the Blagojevich administration. I have repeatedly shown that on those issues of greatest significance to our state, I have been a leader, not simply a vote. I have long been a Chief Sponsor on HB750, tax swap legislation that will bring more equitable funding to Illinois' schools, and I am proud of my accomplishments in the fight to cap skyrocketing property tax assessments. Thanks to my efforts, IVI-IPO has in the past recognized me with its Best Legislative Voting Record.

My priorities are restarting the economy, bringing ethics reform and accountability to federal government and expanding access to affordable health care. The months ahead of us require smarter, harder working public service than we've had in a generation. I am running for Congress to offer that service and to take on that challenge

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

Our campaign budget is approximately \$900,000, and we are on pace to exceed our target.

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

10 staff, 450 volunteers.

1. I stand with President Obama in support of stronger U.S. participation in the international community. Only through close global partnerships can we move toward greater prosperity, security and human rights assurance. I have always championed legislation that emphasizes the importance of cooperation and cultural understanding. The Genocide Studies bill I introduced in the Illinois House extends the Holocaust-teaching mandate to include lessons on modern genocides, such as the ones in Cambodia and Rwanda.

2. The IMF and World Bank must continue working to provide monetary stability and development funding to struggling nations around the world, though these institutions must focus on targeted grant aid rather than loans. I believe the IMF and World Bank must reemphasize accountability provisions and local input in their programs.

3. Historically, Congress has been closely involved in shaping the U.S. role in the global community through foreign aid, trade bills and other legislation. To maintain the balance of power and ensure thoughtful consideration of all military and foreign affairs, Congress must reestablish an independent and forceful voice that works in partnership with the Commander in Chief.

4. YES, the time has come to responsibly withdraw our troops from Iraq, and I absolutely support a phased redeployment that begins now. I do not feel that we can responsibly set an absolute date for final withdrawal, but I would oppose legislation that allows increased troop deployment without explicit goals and withdrawal targets.

5. NO

6. NO

7. NO

8. As we withdraw from Iraq we must lower appropriations both to the overall Defense budget and the Global War on Terror supplement. President Obama plans to reduce Defense spending by 10%, and I believe we must continue to eliminate waste from the Department's operations, particularly in long-term weapon systems purchasing where costs continuously overrun projections. In general, a refocus on diplomacy should be accompanied by an increase in funding for State Department and particularly USAID programs, and a decrease in disproportionate military spending. One of our first priorities, however, must be to ensure our troops are fully and properly equipped to face whatever missions they are assigned.

9. NO

10. YES

11. YES

12. YES

13. NO

14. For the War on Drugs to succeed, we must shift its emphasis from criminalization and harsher sentencing to proven methods like needle exchange and drug courts that focus on treatment and rehabilitation. I would also add enforceable accountability measures to anti-drug programs, which currently have almost no continuous evaluation. In the War on Drugs and throughout the federal government, we cannot habitually increase funding for programs that have operated for years with no evidence of success.

15. NO

16. NO, though I am optimistic that a near-term transition of power away from the Castros will enable normalized relations.

17. NO

18. NO

19. NO, expanded domestic exploration does little to move us toward energy independence, and has devastating environmental impact.

20. YES, I support stronger emissions goals.

21. YES

22. YES, I support liquefaction and other clean coal technology, but only if implementation occurs in conjunction with carbon capture and sequestration. The environmental issue is not solely pollutants, but also carbon emissions.

23. NO

24. NO

25. YES

26. YES

27. YES

28. YES

29. YES

30. YES

31. YES

32. YES

33. YES

34. Crumbling infrastructure has dangerously confined economic growth, particularly in Illinois. I support significantly increased federal infrastructure funding. We need transit improvements on the Red and Blue Lines, a high-speed rail network, but also other infrastructural improvement like sewer upgrades and flood reduction initiatives like the Chicago Deep Tunnel project. As stimulus spending enables broad construction of transportation infrastructure, I support transit projects before highway expansion, and believe we need a much stronger emphasis on accountability than currently proposed.

35. YES

36. NO

37. NO

38. NO

39. NO, I support proposals to raise capital gains taxes, though I do not support capital gains tax parity with earned income tax.

40. NO

41. NO

42. NO

43. NO, dividends and capital gains realized outside of tax-advantaged retirement accounts should be taxed, but not at the same rate as regular income. Investments are typically made with money subject to regular income taxes, and both dividends and capital gains are (or should be) subject to corporate taxes. While income earned through these passive means should be taxed at a reasonable rate - perhaps at Clinton-era levels - it should not be subject to the highest marginal tax rates applied to high-income earners.

44. YES

45. YES

46. I have always opposed unfair tax legislation, and I have fought against the growing tax burden on middle class Americans. I was a leader in Springfield on the assessment cap that ended excessive property tax increases, and I championed HB 750, the Tax Swap bill, which would combat tax-based iniquity in public education funding. Federally I believe we must allow the Bush tax cuts to expire.

47. To fully fund Social Security I support a moderate raise in the cap on payroll taxes for higher income Americans. In general, we must eliminate mismanagement, waste and fraud to ensure the full benefits of our entitlement programs continue.

48. NO

49. I support stimulus through tax cuts, benefits expansion and infrastructure spending. We should expand protections like heating assistance and unemployment benefits to struggling Americans, but the spending priority must be restarting overall economic growth. I was disappointed to see that only 60% of the funding in the House bill will enter the economy within 18 months, and I would have worked to increase that percentage. I believe aggressive accountability measures must be a strong priority of stimulus projects.

50. NO, I support stronger regulation to prevent corporate hyper-leverage, but I believe anti-trust legislation is the wrong path to reduce recklessness in this case.

51. I stand with President Obama in demanding that predatory lenders more clearly disclose the details of their products, and in providing incentives for banks to renegotiate unworkable mortgages. I also support public education programs on financial products, particularly for underserved communities. I have always dedicated myself to stronger oversight of lenders—the PayDay Loan Reform Act I co-sponsored in 2005 earned an award from the Monsignor Egan Coalition.

52. YES

53. YES

54. YES

55. YES, and I was Chief Sponsor of HB1150 that enhanced consumer protection through ATM legislation in Illinois.

56. YES

57. NO

58. YES

59. YES

60. NO, and I support legislation ensuring that unions and other pro-worker organizations have no disadvantage in the political conversation.

61. NO

62. YES

63. YES

64. Fiscal and humanitarian abuses by large-contract contractors like Blackwater and Halliburton demonstrate the dire need for increased oversight. In Springfield, I have been a leader in advancing the role of inspectors general and tougher regulations in both government and contractor operations. During the Brown Line closures, I led the charge to hold CTA's feet to the fire by establishing independent audits. In the case of CTA, mismanagement and fraud reigned unchecked in a government agency. Contractor abuse has been even more widespread, posing significant economic and security risks that must be resolved.

65. YES

66. YES

67. YES

68. In the long-term I will work to move us toward a universal coverage program similar to the one Rep. Conyers has proposed, though I believe President Obama's plan offers the only immediately workable option. I support comprehensive reform based on principles similar to those the President has laid out: reach universal coverage by expanding the existing system with added quality assurance, and use tax credits and cost containment to ensure all Americans have access to plans they can afford.

69. YES, and I supported measures in the Illinois Legislature to enable reimportation.

70. YES

71. YES

72. We must not allow the profit motives of pharmaceutical companies to interfere with basic humanitarian rights. I support responsible licensing when used by aid organizations to help millions suffering from treatable diseases. I have always fought for great access to AIDS treatment, and in 2005 I co-sponsored the Illinois resolution calling on Congress to fully fund ADAP.

73. YES

74. NO

75. NO

76. YES, I have always been a fierce pro-choice advocate. As Chief Sponsor of the Adolescent Health Care Safety Act I led the response when groups introduced legislation to interfere with women's rights.

77. NO

78. YES

79. NO

80. YES

81. YES

82. YES

83. YES

84. YES

85. Especially during these difficult economic times, it is important that we provide a basic safety net to struggling American as they transition from welfare to work. I support President Obama's efforts to extend benefit programs like LIHEAP and unemployment, and to increase funding for child care and job retraining programs that help people find employment. In Springfield I have been a leader on behalf of anti-poverty measures, such as the 2005 Earned Income Tax Credit extension I co-sponsored.

86. YES

87. YES

88. YES

89. YES

90. YES

91. NO

92. NO, though the bill laid a framework which, if fully funded, could become effective legislation for students and school districts.

93. I believe federal standards-setting, classroom accountability, and increasing educational innovation are all positive steps to advance student achievement. But for NCLB to be effective we must develop fairer and more sophisticated ways to judge performance and student growth than the current AYP system, and the federal government must fund its mandates. I am encouraged by the stimulus proposal's funding for Title I and IDEA, and I believe it will take this and more federal support to transform NCLB into a workable path to universal, high-quality K-12 education.

94. NO

95. YES, I support electronic eavesdropping in some instances of demonstrated threat and when approved by judicial review, though I do not support our increased dependency on this form of surveillance though the Patriot Act.

96. YES, I support roving wiretaps of surveillance targets when approved by judicial review. As with electronic eavesdropping, I believe we must be vigilant to only use this measure in the case of direct, demonstrated threats. I believe the Patriot Act expansions of roving wiretaps irresponsibly dilute privacy protections for non-suspects.

97. NO. Capital punishment as it currently works in our legal system is dangerously flawed. Until we can guarantee due process throughout the system that leads to capital punishment, my focus will be on reform.

98. NO

99. NO

100. YES

101. YES

102. NO, especially as data management issues render the program ineffective and pose serious privacy concerns.

103. YES

104. YES

105. NO

106. YES

107. YES, I would support legislation prohibiting secret military tribunals.

108. As President Obama has said, we must reject the false choice between our ideals and our security. The secret military tribunals haphazardly fashioned by the Bush administration do not provide internationally accepted due process to prisoners in the war on terror, and have incited our enemies while alienating our allies. I was encouraged by President Obama's rapid steps to begin closing the Guantanamo Bay prison facility and I support a continued redesign of our anti-terrorism programs.

109. YES

110. NO, I am a staunch gun control advocate, but I do not support a wholesale ban on the manufacture and sale of all handguns.

111. YES

112. YES

113. YES

114. The Legal Services Corporation provides a critical service to struggling Americans while embodying our national commitment to justice for all. I support increased appropriation for legal services for the poor. I would only support funding restrictions if efforts advanced to divert the scope of the program away from low-income representation.

115. YES

116. YES

117. YES, I believe the Patriot act was constructed and passed too hastily, without proper consideration to the roll-backs of civil liberties it entails. Where there are examples of unnecessary or egregious restrictions on civil liberties, such as broad warrantless wiretapping, I believe we should revisit these provisions.

118. NO

119. YES

120. YES, as part of comprehensive immigration reform.

121. YES, I support a fair and responsible path to citizenship for undocumented individuals residing in the United States and contributing positively to our communities.

122. NO, though I do support increased funding for border security.

123. I support a plan that redevelops the application process and preference system to eliminate visa backlog, creates a responsible guest worker program, cracks down on abusive employers, strengthens our borders, includes the DREAM act and creates a fair, respectful path to citizenship for the undocumented individuals contributing positively to our communities. I oppose enforcement-only legislation, and legislation which diverts resources and complicates enforcement by deputizing local officials to enforce federal immigration policy.

124. YES, and I co-sponsored SB 3186 that expands protections from discrimination in Illinois.

125. YES

126. NO

127. YES

128. YES

129. NO

130. NO

131. YES, in Illinois I sponsored a moment of silence bill that deflected Republican attempts to impose a mandatory prayer period in the beginning of the school day.

132. YES, where they provide humanitarian service without proselytizing.

133. NO

134. NO

135. NO

136. YES

137. YES

138. YES, I think we must revisit legislation to ensure we do not disadvantage workers seeking to establish collective bargaining or inform the public of their grievances.

139. YES

140. YES, except in cases where it represents a direct threat to public safety.

141. YES

142. NO, I do not think we should make full employment a condition of public works programs, though I support a large stimulus package that includes Davis-Bacon coverage to ensure fair treatment of workers.

143. YES

144. YES, and I co-sponsored Equal Pay legislation in Illinois

145. YES