



MIDWEST DEMOCRACY NETWORK

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

DEAR CANDIDATE:

THE MIDWEST DEMOCRACY NETWORK RESPECTFULLY REQUESTS THAT YOU TRANSMIT YOUR COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE ELECTRONICALLY TO CINDI CANARY OF THE ILLINOIS CAMPAIGN FOR POLITICAL REFORM AT CINDI@ILCAMPAIGN.ORG

BY MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2007. THE CANDIDATES' RESPONSES WILL BE PUBLICLY AND SIMULTANEOUSLY RELEASED ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30. THANK YOU

I. CAMPAIGN FINANCE

Issue: Presidential Public Financing System

Question I-A:

As President, would you support and work to enact legislation to strengthen, keep the same, or repeal the presidential public financing system?

Strengthen ____

Keep the same ____

Repeal ____

Comments (please limit to 250 words or less):

Question I-B:

If you are nominated for President in 2008 and your major opponents agree to forgo private funding in the general election campaign, will you participate in the presidential public financing system?

Yes ___

No ___

Comments (please limit to 250 words or less):

Issue: Congressional Public Financing

Question I-C:

If elected President, would you support and work to enact legislation creating a voluntary public financing system for congressional candidates?

Yes ___

No ___

Comments (please limit to 250 words or less):

Issue: 527 Groups

Question I-D:

Do you believe that Section 527 groups which are organized primarily to affect federal elections should be required by the Federal Election Commission and/or Congress to comply with the campaign finance laws that apply to all other candidate, party and political committees whose goal is to influence federal elections?

Yes ___

No ___

Comment (please do not exceed 250 words):

Issue: U.S. Senate Campaign Disclosure

Question I-E:

In the interest of increasing transparency and public accountability, should incumbent Senators, Senate candidates, and Senate campaign committees be required to file their campaign finance disclosure reports electronically?

Yes ___

No ___

Comments (please limit to 250 words or less):

Issue: FEC Reform

Question I-F:

As President, will you actively support and sign legislation that would replace the current Federal Election Commission with a new and more effective enforcement agency?

Yes ___

No ___

Comments (please limit to 250 words or less):

II. GOVERNMENT ETHICS

Issue: Executive Branch Reforms

Question II-A:

Because many citizens believe the President bears a special responsibility for setting and enforcing high standards of honesty, transparency and accountability in government, what specific steps, if any, would you take, as President, to:

- (1) Slowdown or close the “revolving door” for high-ranking and influential administration officials who leave their positions to become high paid registered lobbyists?
- (2) Limit or ban the acceptance of gifts by administration employees from lobbyists and others with an interest in influencing policy?
- (3) End insider abuses in the federal government’s no-bid contract procedures?
- (4) Provide the public with information about the sponsors, purposes and beneficiaries of the special interest-supported appropriation “earmarks” approved by Congress?

- (5) Publicly disclose the content, participants and outcomes of closed-door policy-related discussions involving high administration officials and interest group representatives and lobbyists?

Comments (please limit answer to 500 words or less):

Issue: Congressional Reforms

Question II-B:

If you were President now, would you sign, veto, or try to amend S. 1?

Yes ___

No ___

Comments (please limit to 250 words or less)

III. COMMUNICATIONS POLICY

Issue: Broadcasters' Public Interest Obligations

Question III-A

Do you support regulatory and legislative efforts to clarify the public interest obligations of broadcasters, including adoption of new license processing guidelines that would encourage digital broadcasters to (1) air a certain minimum number of hours of qualifying civic and/or election-related programming each week and (2) file periodic reports with the Federal Communications Commission detailing how stations are meeting this and related guidelines?

Yes ___

No ___

Comments (please limit to 250 words or less):

Issue: Media Vouchers

Question III-B:

In the interest of mitigating the high costs of election campaigns, fostering electoral competition, and enabling more candidates to communicate with voters, would you, if elected President, support and sign legislation that would (1) provide qualifying congressional candidates and party committees with vouchers with which to pay for some

broadcast advertising time; (2) impose a modest user fee on broadcasters' gross advertising revenues to underwrite the voucher program; and (3) allow qualified candidates and parties to purchase non-preemptible advertising time at rates below stations' lowest unit charges during the final weeks of primary and general election campaigns?

Yes ___ No ___

Comments (please limit to 250 words or less):

IV. ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

Issue: Federal Funding for Election Reform

Question IV-A: Do you support ongoing federal funding to improve the conduct of federal elections in exchange for better information from state and local election authorities on how they are administering elections and whether they are complying with federal law?

Yes ___ No ___

Comment (please limit to 250 words or less):

Issue: Voter Protection

Question IV-B:

As President, will you insist that the Department of Justice vigorously enforce the Voting Rights Act and other federal laws in order to curtail practices and procedures that have a disproportionately negative impact on the political participation of minority, low-income, disabled, and elderly voters?

Yes ___ No ___

Comment (please limit to 250 words or less):

Issue: Voter Registration

Question IV-C:

As President, would you work to ensure that every eligible citizen can easily register to vote by vigorously enforcing the National Voter Registration Act's requirements that registration services be provided at motor vehicle facilities, public assistance offices, and agencies serving people with disabilities?

Yes ___

No ___

Comment (please limit to 250 words or less):

V. REDISTRICTING

Issue: Once-A-Decade Redistricting

Question V-A:

As President, would you support federal legislation prohibiting states from redrawing valid congressional district lines more than once a decade?

Yes ___

No ___

Comment (please to 250 words or less):

Issue: Independent Redistricting Commissions

Question V-B:

As President, would you support federal legislation requiring states to form diverse, transparent, and independent redistricting commissions to redraw congressional district lines?

Yes ___

No ___

Comment (please limit to 250 words or less):

SUBMITTED ON BEHALF AND WITH THE AUTHORIZATION OF:

NAME OF CANDIDATE

BY:

NAME AND TITLE OF CAMPAIGN REPRESENTATIVE

DATE:
