

Reclaim Illinois Candidate Questionnaire

General Election Nov. 2nd, 2010

Reclaim believes that neither faith, party nor race should differ when it comes to the pursuit of critical traits such as Honor, Integrity, Honesty and Justice in our public servants.

Informed citizens can unite around these traits for the removal of corruption and inept leadership in state government.

The strategy Reclaim Illinois is seeking to deploy to meet our goals is to engage and challenge citizens around Illinois to participate honorably in the democratic process. At the same time, we seek to provide citizens with easy access to the vital knowledge of candidates and issues required to act with wisdom.

We have developed this questionnaire to bring further clarity to light regarding candidate stances and proposals on corruption, reform and other pertinent subjects and issues. Citizens deserve additional details into how such massive problems as state government corruption are going to be effectively addressed as well as how honor, integrity, justice and a sense of pride will be returned to Illinois through the efforts of perspective leaders such as yourself.

Please honor the citizens of this state by filling out this questionnaire completely and returning it via e-mail to (ReclaimIllinois@yahoo.com) by COB 9/20/2010

Candidate Name: Lex Green

Current Elected Office: None

Office Seeking: Governor

Candidate's Web site: www.electlex.com

Using the office of President as the ultimate example of a term limit:

Q?

Do you support term limits for statewide offices? Y/N, why?

A: Yes, I believe that more corruption occurs because of the re-election process. This was never more evident than during the Blagojevich trial where the allegedly extorted money was to go the his re-election campaign fund. Under our republic, citizens have rights and government over them should be limited, but that does not guarantee a right to govern in unlimited terms.

Q?

Do you support term limits for legislators? Y/N, why?

A: Yes, for the same reasons as question one.

Q?

Will you impose a term limit on yourself should you be elected?

A: Yes. I don't want to be in office for a long time. I want to enjoy my life as a private citizen. I will only serve one or two terms.

Q?

In November citizens will vote on a constitutional amendment to allow the recall of a governor by citizen initiative. Do you support this amendment? Should all public officials be subject to recall?

A. No. I do not support recall. I feel that impeachment serves the cause of removing elected officials if they break the law. A recall will allow for politically motivated witch hunts that undermine the electoral process. A recall says that the people voted in a manner not supported by those who want the recall. This method is ripe for corruption.

Q?

Do you favor or oppose limits on campaign contributions by individuals, interest groups, unions and businesses? Should limits apply to contributions made by political parties and by funds controlled by the leaders of the House and Senate? Explain.

A. I am not a fan of limits on campaign contributions for two reasons. A person who is limited in his/her contributions is being limited by government in the exercise of his/her right to use their property as they wish. Also any political party with enough motivation will find a way around the limits and only private, law abiding citizens will then be so limited. However, I do not dislike them so much as to oppose limits. If we do this as a necessary evil, then all entities, including legislative leaders and political parties must be limited to the same extent as citizens.

Q?

Should legislative redistricting be conducted by a committee of independent reform organizations including Reclaim Illinois, The Illinois Policy Institute, The Illinois Campaign for Political Reform, The Better Government Association and others or should the power to draw legislative boundaries stay with the legislature? If you support a change, detail your suggestions toward an accomplishable new method and how we implement it.

A. I supported the Putback Amendment and I propose to resurrect that amendment when I am governor. The hallmark of redistricting reform in that initiative is citizen input. As such private citizens as well as groups such as Reclaim Illinois, could put forth proposals.

Q?

Illinois is struggling with a multi-billion dollar budget deficit. What are your top 5 targets for spending cuts?

A: Pensions, Medicaid, and Education comprise 90% of our budget. There can be no reform that doesn't address these issues. We need to tighten eligibility requirements for Medicaid, re-define the GSA grant under the State Board of

Education, move to a defined contribution system for new hires and negotiate cuts and caps of pension benefits for current employees. We can also drastically reduce the Department of Commerce to one tenth of its budget by leaving only a Small Business Administration. By passing tax relief, we can also end farm subsidies, reducing the Department of Agriculture, which benefits 10% of farmers with 90% of subsidies.

Q?

Can the state balance its budget without a tax increase? Y/N, How? Provide details.

A: Yes. We don't need the big government we have. We can balance the budget using current levels of revenue simply by rolling back spending to 2008-2009 levels. By ending programs that have been implemented in the past two decades by both major parties, we can generate enough excess to afford our pension obligations.

Q?

At what rates would you raise or lower income taxes for individuals and/or corporations?

A: I want to eliminate income taxes. I would accept any compromise that lowers the income tax.

Q?

Do you support Zero-Based Budgeting Y/N, why? If yes, when and where will you implement it first?

A: Yes, I support ZBB. I will implement it immediately and comprehensively when I prepare my first budget proposal to the General Assembly as required by the Illinois Constitution.

Q?

Would you consider raising other taxes and/or fees temporarily to raise money? Explain.

A. I might consider a temporary increase in the sales tax if it is necessary to achieve a broader tax relief. The net effect of any increase for decrease must be tax reduction for business and taxpayer alike.

Q?

Governor Quinn has chosen to keep almost all Blagojevich era appointees even elevating some to leadership in his office. How do you think that those hired during the Blagojevich administration should be dealt with given the expanse of both waste and corruption during his administration? Provide details regarding what action you will take as well as your timeline.

A: Immediately upon taking office, I will appoint a team to independently review the performance and effectiveness of all agency heads. I care not who hired them, only that they can help me achieve a balanced budget and the elimination of waste.

Q?

There is a “Culture of Corruption” within Illinois state government outside of the connection to Mr. Blagojevich i.e. select statewide elected office holders, select members of the legislature and select state employees. While many of these people are now hiding within the ranks please provide details on what you will do in your first 100 days to start rooting out those within your authority?

A: As stated in the previous question, I expect to have a team headed by my appointee or under my Lt. Governor do a sweep of programs and personnel with the goal of eliminating waste and unnecessary state government activity. By implementing transparency and accountability in agency spending and payroll, we will uncover and remedy corruption wherever we find it.

Q?

Have any Blagojevich or Quinn appointees/hires donated to and or worked for your campaign and if so what actions will you take to remedy and prevent it from happening in the future?

A: I have only received, to date, contributions from individuals. I do not know who they work for and the amounts are small. No one from inside the campaigns or offices of current or former elected officials have worked for my campaign.

Q?

**Would you support the following Reclaim Illinois proposal?
Work with Reclaim Illinois to draft legislation to develop a single Publicly Accessible Illinois Government “Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)” web site/portal.**

With all the technology at our fingertips and immediate access to vast amounts of information why should the FOIA request and fulfillment process still be back in the stone age and why can't citizens easily see what someone else has requested!?!?! In addition, the state already has the technology and infrastructure in place so why not use it.

FOIA Web Site/Portal specifics include:

- ~ Use of the web portal is to be mandatory for ALL entities under the Governor, All statewide offices, the legislature and cities over 75,000 in population.
- ~ Intake ALL requests through this single web portal that then makes them available to the appropriate FOIA office for processing.
- ~ Each entity fulfills the request then providing the original request and all results of each request on the web site in PDF and other applicable formats.
- ~ The requester is then informed where on the web site their fulfilled request is located.
- ~ If a request is denied the original request and the denial is posted on the site and the requester is then informed where on the web site the denial response is located.
- ~ ALL requests with fulfillments and requests with denials are available to the public via the site for a period of 20 years then archived.

- ~ The site should be fully searchable by key word.
- ~ Links to the latest requests both filled and denied are to be displayed on the main page of the site.
- ~ Provide the ability to signup and receive E-mail alerts when a new request fulfillment or denial has been added to the web site.
- ~ Offer use of the portal to all other governmental entities at all levels.
- ~ The site should be built, housed and technically supported by the State of Illinois/Central Management Services but governed by a committee made up of independent reform organizations including Reclaim Illinois, The Illinois Campaign for Political Reform and others to be named.
- ~ Neither the legislature, the Governor nor other elected official are to have any authority or control over the committee or the site and must comply with its use.
- ~ Fulfillments, denials and other value statistics will be publicly viewable via the site.

A: I am in agreement of most of the requirements listed. My main exception is that municipalities should provide for their own FOIA management. As an advocate for limited government, FOIA and other transparency are a tool to limit the corruption and unnecessary expansion of government that occurs when jurisdictional and constitutional limits are exceeded. I therefore feel we need to keep the different local governments separate from the state program. Except for that, as governor I would extend an invitation to a coalition of reform groups and independent citizens to help initiate the program.

Q?

Do you think those hired and/or retained in leadership (i.e. directors, deputy directors, division managers, etc.) during the Quinn administration should be removed given the lack of change and even the adoption of questionable Blagojevich programs and projects that were allowed to continue? Example: During 2009 IBM TSP contactors were allowed to continue at inappropriately high hourly rates (\$150+ per hour) on web related projects within CMS/BCCS despite the fact that the Quinn administration was alerted several months prior to the situation.

A: It would be unwise for me to reject the option of retaining the services of qualified individuals who possess good intent and work ethic. But I would make every attempt to eliminate those who milk the state at high rates, or for idle or unnecessary contracts. As previously mentioned, I would dedicate a team to the discovery and elimination of that kind of waste. I would also instruct that team to accept citizen or advocacy group input to help in that action.

Q?

Would you support the following Reclaim Illinois proposal? Work with Reclaim Illinois to draft legislation to create an Enterprise Program/Project Management Office with the appropriate authority, control and independence as follows:

- ~ The EP/PMO will coordinate appropriate business and process analysis and project management oversight on all major (over \$100,000.00) proposed projects across state government before they start.

- ~ Any required additional contractual resources will be engaged and managed for value by the EP/PMO not the agency.
- ~ Existing project management offices within the state agencies will continue to be imbedded within the agency but report to the EP/PMO.
- ~ Programs and projects will be halted whenever possible for determination of value.
- ~ Contractual staff will be excused until effort value is determined.
- ~ All efforts will be evaluated for value and return on investment as well as prioritized before additional work takes place.
- ~ Efforts will be cancelled if appropriate value as well as adequate resources to bring success can't be secured.
- ~ Program and project teams will be interviewed to get their honest opinion of each existing effort prior to the effort being allowed to continue.
- ~ Adherence to EP/PMO oversight will be mandatory for all entities under the Governor, statewide officeholders and the Legislature.
- ~ A set of standard management tools will be deployed throughout the enterprise to enable more effective business and process analysis and project management at the agency level as well as appropriate oversight at the enterprise level.
- ~ Status of all projects will be reported on a weekly basis via established processes and toolsets.
- ~ The EP/PMO will conduct assessments of project performance and will take action to reduce or eliminate the risks of project failure.
- ~ There will be NO MORE throwing of tax dollars into lost causes so managers and politicians can save face. Assessments and the determination to hold or cancel projects will be made with minimal delay.
- ~ Negligence will be prosecuted!
- ~ The EP/PMO will be governed by a committee made up of independent reform organizations including Reclaim Illinois and others.

A: I will welcome input into project management processes. However, those listed functions should be part of the Office of Management and Budget. Rather than create a parallel or parallax office, it would be prudent to review where the OMB is deficient and fold in those functions to the existing agency. I would consider more transparency and citizen input to help review the effectiveness of the OMB. This does not mean I reject the proposal outright. But I would need at least 6 months in office to determine which path would be consistent with efficiency and limiting government growth.

Q?

Governor Quinn was in a unique position to make meaningful reforms within the sphere of his own authority as governor in early 2009 which would have improved Illinois state government dramatically but chose to squander the "Golden" opportunity. Over and above action regarding Blagojevich and Quinn hires what are your specific proposals, actionable by your administration within your elected authority, to diminish the culture of corruption over the long term.

A: The so-called Culture of Corruption starts with election law and the long term entrenchment of power. We need to de-couple state government from the two-party system and make election law simple and fair. Next, I favor term limits for legislators and elected officials, including limited length terms for legislative

leaders. And finally, I propose to implement transparency so that all government spending and activity can be viewed and reviewed by any citizen.

Q?

Would you support a crime stoppers type concept to help bring to light instances of negligent and criminal activity?

A: Yes, I want to accept citizen and state employee "whistle blowing" as a way to keep our state government and its employees in line.

Q?

What will you do to uncover past inappropriate, questionable or even criminal activities and bring about justice including firings, prosecution and restitution? Actions may include investigations and forensic audits.

A: As stated previously, I expect to have a team to review the necessity and effectiveness of all agencies. If we uncover criminal misconduct, I will see to it, to the best of my ability, that charges are brought against the offenders.

Q?

State employees can conceivably play a key role as watchdogs within state government. What will you do to alleviate the fears that state employees have regarding coming forward to expose corruption, bullying and generally questionable treatment and/or activities?

A: During my attempts to discover inefficient and unnecessary agencies and government spending, my team will conduct private interviews and accept input from employees at all levels confidentially.

Q?

What will you do to improve state employee morale and instill a sense of pride?

A: This sense of pride is something that I want to instill in all Illinoisans, not just state employees. That can be done only by balancing the budget and making all of the reforms we have discussed here. I hope to use my bully pulpit to increase citizen participation in our government as well. When there is a sense of ownership in our state, there will follow a sense of responsibility and pride.

Q?

What will you do about the questionable state employees that have been moved around and squirreled away and or have been able to achieve further protection for themselves by joining unions?

A: Every case will have to be reviewed on an individual basis. With 60,000 employees, there are likely to be too many cases to generalize.

Q?

What will you do to address possible reverse discrimination activities and issues that have taken place in recent years?

A: I will have to review these on a case by case basis. Some perceived cases of

reverse discrimination may be codified in state or federal law. This makes action on them a complicated legal issue. If you have examples, I need to know what they are.

Q?

Health care for state employees and retirees costs Illinois billions a year. What do you propose to reduce the state's costs?

A: I am leaning toward Medical Savings Accounts that are coupled with high deductible Health Plans. Those provide incentive for the employees while saving costs to the state. Everyone benefits when employees become more involved in their own healthcare costs. Many healthcare costs are contractual and must be remedied through negotiation.

Q?

Illinois has an unfunded pension liability. Please briefly identify what you propose in order to remedy the situation.

A: I propose to migrate immediately to a defined contribution plan. The short term costs will be outweighed by the long term benefit. The biggest effort we must make is to cut state spending in all areas so we can afford to cover the promises we made. The raiding of pension funds by past legislators and Governors is criminal. While we can attempt to limit our expenditures as lawfully as we can, a state pension is a contract protected by law and the Illinois Constitution.

Please provide your stance/feelings/position briefly on the following subjects:

~ **Abortion** Illinois law already establishes the right of the fetus from conception, subject to overriding federal law. I have no desire to overturn this law.

~ **Attracting Companies/New Businesses** Business leaves Illinois because of excessive regulation and high taxes. I propose to lessen regulation and lower or eliminate business taxes.

~ **Employment and Wages** By making Illinois more business friendly through relief of regulations and taxes, jobs will return. I am opposed to further increases in minimum wage.

~ **Gun Owners Rights, Concealed Carry, Gun Control** I am a strong advocate of unrestricted right to keep and bear arms for all law abiding citizens. I will make passage of a carry law one of my highest priorities.

~ **Frugal Budgeting** We do not have a revenue problem, we have a spending problem. I want to reduce or eliminate as many taxes as possible. That is only possible by restricting state spending.

~ **Citizen Empowerment vs Political Party Control** I want to reform election law so that elections are free and equal for all citizens and parties, as mandated in the Illinois Constitution. My ultimate goal would be to eliminate primary elections, which benefit only those in power, and have parties nominate their candidates in private conventions. This would help independents and save the state millions of dollars every election cycle.

~ **Immigration** We should not encourage illegal immigration. We need to end the welfare and benefits incentives for illegals. We need to prosecute employers who hire illegals at rates lower than Illinois citizens can legally work for. But the national government should provide an easier path to legal entry. Legal immigrants are a valuable demographic that will become productive citizens.

~ **Health Care** The problem with the health care industry is too much regulation. And we are heading in the wrong direction. We need to find a way to get the government out of the relationship between doctors and patients. That includes the financial relationship. As long as government artificially interferes in prices and services, costs will rise and services will suffer.

~ **States Rights** I am the Illinois state coordinator for the Tenth Amendment Center. I believe that the fundamental reason for any government is the protection of our rights, those being Life, Liberty and Property. I also believe, as Thomas Jefferson and James Madison did, that it is the responsibility of each to protect the rights of its citizens. That would include nullifying or overruling unconstitutional national law that infringes on our rights.

~ **Gay, Bi-sexual, Transsexual issues** All people are entitled to equal protection under the law, regardless of race, creed, gender or sexual preference. Government should remove itself from the marriage contract. Marriage should only be a contract between two people or two people and their church.

~ **Environment** The role of government in the environment is limited to preventing or punishing polluters. Climate change is not the concern of the government, since climate has always and will always change in ways we cannot predict.

~ **Energy** Government should only provide for minimum regulation and never encourage any particular type of energy over others. Cost effective energies will emerge to the benefit of consumers when markets are as free as possible.

~ **Green Issues** We should all be aware of the impact we have on our environment. But government should not regulate our otherwise legal activities if they do not infringe on the rights and well-being of others. A carbon tax is unwise and unconstitutional.

~ **Education** The best education is that which is controlled locally. There is no proof that throwing more money and regulations at schools and districts benefits students. We need to eliminate state bureaucracies and wasteful programs from the State Board of Education and reform the GSA grants so that the money follows the children.

~ **Religion, freedom of, etc.** I agree with Andrew Jackson when he said: "I could not [proclaim a day of prayer] without transcending the limits prescribed by the Constitution for the President and without feeling that I might in some degree disturb the security which religion nowadays enjoys in this country in its complete separation from the political concerns of the General Government."

~ **Capital Punishment** A person can forfeit their life for heinous murder. But there should be no suppressed evidence in capital cases and the Governor should be required to order the execution so that such an important decision rest on him/her, or it should be converted to by him/her to life or be remanded back to the courts.

~ **Military/Veterans** I am forever in the debt of those who risk their lives in service to their state and their country. We should never again send our brave men and women to fight without the benefit of a constitutionally declared war. I will order the National Guard to return to and stay upon United States soil as required by the Constitution and US code Title 10 unless federalized for a declared war or a time of declared national emergency.

~ **Trade** I am for free markets. This means ending regulation and taxes as much as is possible. Most of the problems with capitalism are not from free markets, but from corporatism, which is government interfering by support some companies through subsidy and tax breaks. Removing government from the markets as much as possible will help us return to prosperity.

Thank you for your time.

Again, please honor the citizens of this state by filling out this questionnaire completely and e-mailing it to (ReclaimIllinois@yahoo.com) by COB 9/20/2010