

Reclaim Illinois Candidate Questionnaire

Reclaim Illinois is a grass roots organization aimed at educating, advising and encouraging citizens to take informed action to reclaim our state from the culture of corruption which poisons our government. Gathering valuable information in order to further inform voters is key as the primary election quickly approaches.

After finding inadequate detail on candidate web sites Reclaim Illinois has designed this questionnaire to bring further clarity to light regarding candidate stances and proposals on foundational subjects. 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 possible leaders such as yourself.

Please honor the citizens of this state by filling out this questionnaire briefly and yet completely and e-mailing it to (ReclaimIllinois@yahoo.com) by **COB 1/15/2010**

Candidate Name: **Mike Boland**

Candidate's Web site: www.bolandcampaign.com and www.bolandforillinois.com

Q?

Do you believe there is a culture of corruption within Illinois state government i.e. statewide elected office holders, the legislature and state employee ranks? Y/N, please provide details,

A: No – most state employees, legislators and statewide elected office holders are good and honest people. The structure needs reform to bring state government closer to the people and more transparent.

Q?

How do you think that those hired during the Blagojevich administration should be dealt with given the expanse of corruption during his administration? Provide details regarding what action you will take.

A: Any people hired by Blagojevich and involved in corruption should be prosecuted. All hired should be reviewed by the Governor.

Q?

Do you think those hired and/or retained in leadership during the Quinn administration should be removed given the lack of change and even the adoption of questionable Blagojevich projects that were allowed to continue? Example: During 2009 IBM TSP contactors were allowed to continue at inappropriately high hourly rates on web related projects within CMS/BCCS despite the fact that the Quinn administration was alerted several months earlier.

A: Media and legislative oversight should focus on these so voters can react.

Q?

Do you think those hired during the Ryan administration should be considered questionable as well?

A: Yes, the Governor should also review those employees.

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 dealing with Blagojevich and Quinn hires what are your specific proposals, actionable by your administration within your elected authority, to diminish the culture of corruption?

A: The Lt. Governor has no power in this area, except in that office, but does have a “bully pulpit” to advocate reform

Q?

What will you do to root out inept and or ineffective management?

A: The media spotlight needs to be focused on this.

Q?

In some cases those involved in questionable activities early in the Blagojevich administration continue on the state payroll to this day having had little or no punishment. What will you do to uncover past inappropriate, questionable or even criminal activities and bring about justice including firings, prosecution and restitution?

A: This is under the purview of Attorney General or the Federal Investigators. As Lt. Governor I would turn over any information in this area that I became aware of to them.

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: I support stronger “whistle blower” laws and I would stand up and support individuals courageous enough to speak out.

Q?

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

A: I pledge not to use state employees as scapegoats for state problems as done by former Governor Blagojevich. I would also visit state facilities and make sure they are recognized when they are doing a good job.

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: I would hope and urge the Governor to look into those situations. As Lt. Governor I would have no power to affect that except perhaps to notify news media to help spotlight the situation.

Q?

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

A: This is a matter for the courts to decide. As Lt. Governor I would base my hiring and promotions on merit and performance.

Q?

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

A: Yes, I believe eight years in one office is enough time for state officials. It would help eliminate the type of corruption brought about through lax administration and carelessness.

Q?

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

A: Yes, but a more reasonable amount of time, perhaps 16 years. It would have the side benefit of helping the pension system and keep fresh ideas flowing.

Q?

Do you support all state FOIA requests and accompanying results being provided online? Y/N why?

A: Yes I do. Open government with transparency helps democracy and would help encourage honest government.

Q?

Do you support a constitutional amendment designed to reform the Illinois legislature known as the PutBack Amendment? Y/N, why?

A: Yes, but my unicameral constitutional amendment is a better idea because it would result in smaller single member districts.

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. Yes, I support it, but it is really too complicated. I have sponsored a better Constitutional Amendment. All should be subject to recall, but recall should be difficult.

Q?

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

A. I favor limits, and parties and leaders should be included.

Q?

Should legislative redistricting be conducted by an independent, nonpolitical organization 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.

A. I support a change modeled after the Iowa system.

Q?

Lawmakers recently approved revisions in the Illinois Open Meetings Act. Do you believe those changes are adequate? If not, what other changes should be made?

A: Yes

Q?

Illinois is struggling with a multi-billion dollar budget deficit. What are your top targets for spending cuts? Can the state balance its budget without a tax increase? Y/N, why?

A: Top targets for cuts include changing to a unicameral legislature, and combining state treasurer and state comptroller offices. It is not likely that the state can balance its budget without a tax increase. However, the increase can be lessened by increasing the number of casinos and putting lottery machines in rest areas, like in Florida, and slots at racetracks.

Q?

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

A: Personal exemption should be raised and earned income tax credit should be raised. This would help lower and middle income folks the most.

Q?

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

A: Yes and it should begin this fiscal year (2011)

Q?

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

A. No

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 open-minded as to solutions, but do not know the answer to this situation at this time.

Q?

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

A: We need to end abuses that allow individuals to raise their pensions by serving a short time in a higher paid position. The 3% increase for those in office longer than 20 years should end.

Q?

Should the state expand or reduce eligibility for Medicaid? What are your proposals to make the state's Medicaid system more frugal?

A: At present Medicaid cannot be expanded, but if we get out of the current budget crisis this may be possible. Medicaid should be changed to a managed care system to save money.

Thank You!!