

# Reclaim Illinois Candidate Questionnaire

## General Election Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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](mailto:ReclaimIllinois@yahoo.com)) by COB 9/20/2010

**Candidate Name:**

**Current Elected Office:**

**Office Seeking:**

**Candidate's Web site:**

**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:

Q?

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

A:

Q?

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

A:

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.

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.

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.

Q?

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

A:

Q?

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

A:

Q?

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

A:

Q?

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

A:

Q?

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

A.

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:

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:

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:

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:

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:

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:

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:

Q?

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

A:

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:

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:

Q?

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

A:

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:

Q?

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

A:

Q?

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

A:

Q?

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

A:

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

- ~ Abortion
- ~ Attracting Companies/New Businesses
- ~ Employment and Wages
- ~ Gun Owners Rights, Concealed Carry, Gun Control
- ~ Frugal Budgeting
- ~ Citizen Empowerment vs Political Party Control
- ~ Immigration
- ~ Health Care
- ~ States Rights
- ~ Gay, Bi-sexual, Transsexual issues
- ~ Environment
- ~ Energy
- ~ Green Issues
- ~ Education
- ~ Religion, freedom of, etc.
- ~ Capital Punishment
- ~ Military/Veterans
- ~ Trade

***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](mailto:ReclaimIllinois@yahoo.com)) by COB 9/20/2010