

5th Congressional District Election Questionnaire

Name: **Cary Capparelli**

Political affiliation **Dem**

Home address Chicago, Illinois 60631

Do you live in the district? My registered address is not in the district; however I have purchased a town-home in the district

Phone

E-mail elect@carycapparelliforcongress.com Blog None

Marital status Single Spouse's name None

Occupation/Firm name self-employed – Omni Communique Inc.

Campaign HQ address P.O. Box 31031, Chicago, Illinois 60631

Webpage www.carycapparelliforcongress.com

E-mail elect@carycapparelliforcongress.com

Campaign manager James Sachay (312) 391-5001

Press Secretary Susan Prather (312) 285-8090 Media consultant Same

Pollster None Direct mail consultant None

Finance directors James Sachay and Aaron DeAngelis

Name of any relatives on public payrolls None (father is retired from public service)

Name of your federal campaign committee Cary Capparelli for Congress

Campaign treasurer James Sachay

Please attach sheets with names of your finance committee; dates, locations and names of hosts of fundraisers, and copies of solicitation letters issued by your committee.

- There have been no fundraisers to date.

- There has been one letter of solicitation to date; copy attached.

Have you had any kind of program for top donors or fundraisers (for example seminars, briefings, golf outings)?

- No

List lobbyists assisting you, directly or indirectly, in raising money for your campaign.

- None

Will you pledge to disclose in advance where and when your fund-raising events occur? If the answer is no, please explain

- Yes; however it is noted that I am a proponent of campaign reform, and it is an objective of this campaign to spend minimal advertising monies and attempt to reach voters through the media

Please explain how your occupation and your life experience qualify you for the 5th Congressional District seat.

I have been fortunate to have a unique occupation and life experience. Those experiences are both academic and practical. First, my educational experience, as outlined in my Curriculum Vitae (attached), is an ongoing accomplishment I am proud of. As a self-employed international businessman, I further educated myself about world cultures, geo-political situations, geo-economics and other global matters. In the late eighties, I organized the first motor sport events between the United States and the former Soviet Union. This was unusual because Soviet motor sport was a division of its military during times of tension. It is my opinion that I come from a family of over-achievers. One story I like to tell is how my great-great grandfather arrived in America from Italy in his early forties. He learned to speak English and became a doctor by his late forties. His son became a doctor and his son became a doctor too. This is overachieving and a great example for many of the first generation people who live in the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois. My personal experiences are diverse and serve as an ongoing source of both learning and knowledge. This is complimented by my high energy and, most importantly, my integrity that has prepared me well to represent the people of this district.

Issues:

Please attach any materials you wish describing your key issues.

DOMESTIC ISSUES

What are your top three district-specific priorities?

Sometimes it is difficult to differentiate national interest priorities from district specific priorities and this is such an instance. In my opinion, at this time, the top three district-specific priorities in IL-05 are: 1) to maintain the present job force and to create new jobs for the residents of the district and within the district, 2) to secure all banking investments, including retirement funds, of its residents and 3) to ease the excessive tax burden on the residents. It is imperative to add, equally, to assure residents of the district access to quality health care.

Do you feel TARP has been effective so far? Why or why not? If not, what would you change? Are you satisfied with the transparency and accountability?

Philosophically, I would be against the 'Troubled Asset Relief Program'. It is not the role for government to bail out private industry. In this reality, because of the severity of the problem and the immediate need to correct it, I would vote for the program. At this time, it is not possible to measure the degree of success or effectiveness that has occurred so far. The actual results will not be amendable for the immediate future. Furthermore, there remains the possibilities of other unaccounted troubles by those already bailed out and new bail outs. That said, it is reasonable to be satisfied with the transparency and accountability to date.

Before becoming President Obama's chief of staff, Rahm Emanuel, was on track to be speaker of the House, which would be a coup for Chicago and Illinois. There have been persistent rumors that Emanuel might wish to return to the 5th Congressional seat for that very purpose. Yes or no, in those circumstances, would you be willing to step aside?

No. Absolutely not.

It should be noted at this point that I am a strong proponent of term limits. On the federal level, no U.S. Senator should serve more than 2 complete terms (2 terms

plus any part term maximum) and no U.S. Representative should serve more than 4 complete terms (4 terms plus any part term maximum).

Do you support President Obama's proposed stimulus package? Explain.

I could conditionally support President Obama's proposed stimulus package. As is, the stimulus package requires integral modifications.

The House Democrat bill, largely the Obama stimulus, includes \$550 billion in domestic spending and \$275 billion in tax cuts. Spending concentrates on the following sectors: education, health care, welfare, infrastructure and energy. Tax cuts are aimed at individual payroll taxes and tax credits for education and first-time home buyers.

In my opinion, there is a need for two basic modifications: 1) to trim the 'pork' on the spending. Items like increased food stamp spending, additional monies allocated to the National Park system, weatherizing modest income housing and monies spent to prevent STDs have nothing to do with an economic stimulus. The real need is to create immediate jobs. 2) and to further payroll tax deductions and allow for more tax credits to families and individuals.

The stimulus should prioritize tax cuts to families and individuals, maintaining the present job force and creating new jobs for the unemployed. The later two can best be served by being more responsive to corporate tax cuts.

Do you have a plan to ensure access to higher education? Explain.

Of course all citizens are entitled to a quality primary and higher education. Higher education, in its traditional definition, is college or university. Today, in its expanded modern definition, higher education can include computer learning, service engineering, technology and even education provided by military service. The reality is college is not for everyone but there should be access to anyone who is academically qualified regardless of financial or physical disabilities. Society has made great strides in reaching that goal. The new forms of higher education are admirable and should be equally available to those who prefer to chart those kinds of education. In fact, there is a greater need for many of these other disciplines. In conclusion, all education opportunities should be made available as may best suit the student.

Are you in favor of universal health care or some other plan?

Yes, I am in favor of a universal health care plan that will provide access to quality health care for all citizens.

A two-tier plan can satisfy most citizens. A two-tier plan would offer a Preferred Plan as may be allowed by some employers now or as can be purchased by a family or individual that allows freedom of choice in medical care and a Standardized Plan that may not allow the exact freedoms of medical care choice but assures every citizen access to quality medical care. There would be an absolute need to contain costs and to establish guidelines for both plans to assure honesty in health care billing.

How do you propose we fix Social Security?

The solution to fix Social Security is complex and requires constant reassessment. The first step to fix Social Security, without an increase in contributions, would be to raise the age limit to qualify for its benefits.

Flooding has been a persistent problem in some areas of the 5th District. As its congressman, what steps would you take to help your constituents?

As Congressman, perhaps there are several avenues to be explored in this predicament. The first example would be to research federal solutions and monies available for this purpose. Secondly, my congressional office would work with city, county and state agencies to investigate and initiate a possible collective solution.

What should Congress do about immigration? Should it pass a border-enforcement bill first and then vote on a guest worker program and a measure to provide a means to legalization for illegal immigrants? Or should it pass one comprehensive bill?

A responsible Congress should severely limit or completely discontinue immigration allowing this nation to recover from its current financial crisis. This will include border-enforcement legislation.

However, Congress should act to legalize immigrants already established in the United States if they meet the existing criteria to immigrate (aside from entering

illegally). A guest worker program, with strict rules and regulations, can be implemented to 1) allow workers into the U.S. to replenish the essential work forces and 2) afford control back to U.S. Immigration.

To reduce carbon emissions, do you favor a carbon tax or a cap-and-trade system or neither? Explain.

There seems to be bi-partisan support for a carbon tax which is strongly endorsed by President Obama. Some fear it is not about reducing CO2 and just another scheme to pay for more government and corporate globalization.

While I can support a carbon tax, I would like to see it complimented by real action to force the actual reduction of pollution.

FOREIGN POLICY

What is your timetable for withdrawing U.S. troops from Iraq?

An accessed time table is dangerous in any proposed military question. Ideally, U.S. troops should withdraw from Iraq when all military, political, and economic objectives have been met or when asked to leave by the host government. That said, I assume we are very close to reaching the military, political and economic solutions and withdraw of the majority of U.S. troops will begin to take place soon.

What role should the United States have in bringing about peace in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict?

First, it must be understood that this conflict is not necessarily between the Palestinian people and the Israeli people. These peoples are the victims of this conflict. The terrorist organizations involved in this conflict are fighting a proxy war for Iran. Iran and these terrorist organizations already consider the United States as a conduit of the conflict. Although our intelligence recognizes this, our foreign policy does not. This is a key reality of the conflict and the United States must understand the cultural significance and accept this fact before any solution can be

identified. Furthermore, there is reluctance on both sides not to bring about a peace because of mistrust. Any other role is avoiding the root of the problem as it is now.

Do you support a proposed troop surge in Afghanistan? How long are you willing to have troops stay there? How do you propose to bring stability to the nation once most of the troops are withdrawn?

Yes, I agree with President Obama and support increased U.S. troop strength in Afghanistan towards the immediate goal of bringing about security and stability to most, if not all, regions of that country, and the short range goal to arrange Afghan security forces take over its own defense. Again, a time table is typically not rational in a military theater of operations.

What steps should the United States take to reduce its dependence on foreign oil?

The simple answer here is for the United States to increase research and development of alternative energies. Also, for ways to increase the mileage in combustion, diesel and turbine motors. But, in reality, for the foreseeable future there probably is no great desire by our government to reduce dependence on foreign oil because the oil must come from somewhere. It's the theory to buy someone's oil until it is no longer available then we will use ours. Undeniably, this makes sense. Meantime, it is the responsibility of both the government and private industry to find new ways. The government can encourage private industry with both tax credits and rewards to find those new ways.

Please e-mail the completed questionnaire, a candidate biography and a recent photograph to swarmbir@suntimes.com.