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Political affiliation: **Democrat**
Do you live in the district? **Yes**
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Name of any relatives on public payrolls: **None**
Name of your federal campaign committee: **Fritchey for Us**
Campaign treasurer: **Colleen Daley**

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.

Attached.

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

No.

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

I already publicize information on all fundraisers not held in private homes.

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

I am running for Congress because I believe in the power and importance of public service. For 12 years, I have been a leader in the fight to make government more open and accountable, to represent the citizens' voice in decisions that impact their jobs and pocketbooks, and to expand access to affordable health care.

Whenever government has betrayed the public interest, I have fought back and won against corruption and mismanagement. I have been Chief Sponsor of more than 25 ethics bills, including working with then-State Senator Barack Obama on the Ethics Act of 2003, a bill that was the most comprehensive ethics legislation in the history of the state, and the 2008 pay-to-play ban that led to the unraveling of the Blagojevich administration. I have repeatedly shown that on those issues of greatest significance to our state, I have been a leader, not simply a vote. I have long been a Chief Sponsor on HB750, tax swap legislation that will bring more equitable funding to Illinois' schools, and I am proud of my accomplishments in the fight to cap skyrocketing property tax assessments.

The months ahead of us require smarter, harder working public service than we've had in a generation. I am running for Congress to offer that service, and to take on that challenge.

ISSUES

1) *What are your top three district-specific priorities?*

Restarting the economy

Resolving America's economic crisis must be the first priority of every elected official whether local, state or federal. Like President Obama, a large bipartisan group in Congress and most importantly the American people, I believe the federal government must intervene to break the current downward cycle. The actions we take now must restart growth, ease the pain as we ride out recession, and build new oversight to prevent future crises.

Restoring accountability to government:

The government must always operate with transparency and accountability, but ethical conduct is more important now than ever as taxpayers invest over a trillion dollars in economic recovery. I have made the push for open, honest government the cause of my career. In 2003 I worked with then-State Senator Barack Obama to pass the most comprehensive ethics overhaul in the history of Illinois. In 1998 I fought George Ryan to pass the State Inspector Misconduct Act and in 2008 I fought Rod Blagojevich to finally pass the Pay-to-Play ban.

Expanding access to affordable health care

Political will is in place to enact comprehensive health care reform that ensures all Americans access quality, affordable health care coverage. In Springfield I worked to extend coverage through FamilyCare and Community Care, passed legislation mandating that insurance companies cover needed cancer screening, and sponsored an expansion of the Circuit Breaker program, which provides pharmaceutical assistance to struggling seniors. I look forward to contributing as our nation's highest offices take up this problem.

2) *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 of the program?*

As pivotal financial institutions teeter, we need coordinated action to prevent system-wide collapse. I support federal intervention through TARP, though I believe our program should focus on neutralizing toxic assets rather than simply providing equity, as in the current Obama proposal and the original Paulson plan. I would have proposed stronger, enforceable oversight from the start, like the TARP Reform and Accountability Act that passed the House last month. TARP has already invested over \$3 billion in Chicagoland institutions like Northern Trust, Discover and Wintrust Financial Corporation. These funds can only have impact if we ensure recipients use emergency capital to increase overall liquidity, instead of hoarding. I have always dedicated myself to stronger oversight of lenders – in 2005, I was a Chief Sponsor and negotiator of the Pay Day Loan Reform Act, and was proud to receive an award from the Monsignor Egan Coalition for my efforts. We need that kind of citizen protection in Congress and throughout the entire financial services industry.

3) 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?

Shortly after he agreed to become President Obama's Chief of Staff, I spoke with Rahm Emanuel about the 5th Congressional District and that I was contemplating seeking the office. As I said to him, were I to run, it would be with the sole intention of representing my constituents and not as a placeholder. Any elected office is ultimately the property of the voters who place individuals in a position of authority and trust. It is not private chattel to be traded among insiders.

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

Yes, I support stimulus through tax cuts, benefits expansion and infrastructure spending. We should expand protections like heating assistance and unemployment benefits to struggling Americans, but the spending priority must be restarting overall economic growth. I would have voted for the \$820B package which cleared the House. I agree with Republicans that we must prioritize the tax cuts that enter the economy fastest, but I also believe that benefits extension, investments in education like the \$500M slated for CPS and near-term infrastructure projects are crucial growth measures. I was disappointed to see that only 60% of the funding will enter the economy within 18 months, and I would have worked to increase that percentage. As with TARP, I believe aggressive accountability measures must be a much stronger priority of this program.

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

Without grants and loans made possible by the federal government, I could never have attended college and law school at the University of Michigan and

Northwestern University and built the life I have today. I have dedicated myself to improving the quality and equity of educational options and I will make broader access to higher education a priority in Congress. My plan for improved access to higher education has two components: *college preparation* and *college affordability*.

Making college readiness possible through our public schools is the first step to ensure universal access to higher education. In 2007 I co-sponsored the College and Career Readiness Pilot Program to begin testing programs in Illinois that reduce remediation and diagnose college readiness. Federally, we must raise standards, foster innovative methods and fund mandates to ensure universal high-quality K-12 education and early education.

Students with the drive to attend college must have affordable options for higher education. In 2007, I was a Chief Sponsor of the College Savings Pool Exemption, which protects struggling families' college savings from creditors. I also co-sponsored savings plan legislation that eliminates tax penalties imposed on residents who invest in out-of-state college savings plans. In Congress, I will support President Obama's plan to offer tax credits that make the first year of college affordable for all families. I will also support greater funding and more access to Pell grants, and a greater government effort to offer direct student loans rather than subsidizing private firms that charge students higher interest rates.

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

In the long-term, I will work to move us toward a universal coverage program similar to the one Rep. Conyers has proposed, though I believe President Obama's plan offers the only immediately workable option. In the near-term, I support comprehensive reform based on principles similar to those the President has laid out: reach universal coverage by expanding the existing system with added quality assurance, and use tax credits and cost containment to ensure all Americans have access to plans they can afford.

Expanded coverage: To guarantee universal eligibility, we must expand access to public programs, offer tax credits so that all Americans can buy into a private plan or public program, and use a combination of legislation and subsidies to stop insurance companies from turning away the hard-to-insure.

Cost containment: We can significantly reduce the overall cost of health care by changing our approach to chronic disease care, encouraging competition, and increasing technology use in all aspects of medical care. We must emphasize preventative care and disease management to reduce chronic care costs, and also offset the cost to insurers of catastrophic care so that subscriber premiums do not inflate. It is important that we encourage competition in both the pharmaceutical and insurance industries. We can contain insurance costs by establishing a national exchange for consumers to choose among private and public options. Similarly, we can significantly reduce pharmaceutical costs by encouraging the use of generic

drugs, allowing drug reimportation, and enabling all public program administrators to negotiate drug prices. In the long-term, the federal government must lead as we move toward electronic record keeping, which will eliminate significant waste.

7) How do you propose we fix Social Security?

To maintain workable entitlement programs, we must eliminate mismanagement, fraud and poorly thought out policies that inflate costs. I also support proposals to fully fund Social Security by moderately lifting the cap on payroll taxes for higher income Americans. The American people have paid into Social Security and charged their government with the administration of Medicare. Despite temptations to shrink the federal role in these programs, we must continue offering full benefits and follow through on the government's part of the entitlement bargain. Medicare offers further options for cost reductions, and a reworking of Medicare Part D could enable significant savings.

8) 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?

We must invest in infrastructure improvements that prevent devastation like that seen in Albany Park last year. I support the City of Chicago's Environmental plan as well as efforts to transform the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District into a pro-environment agency. I believe federal stimulus funding will help with efforts like the Chicago Deep Tunnel program that neutralize the damage from urban flooding. In the western part of the 5th District, I have already discussed with local Mayors ways in which collaborative efforts between the municipalities and the federal government could be used to buy back certain flood-prone areas from residents, thereby reducing the impact of certain inevitable flooding while at the same time enhancing wetland restoration efforts.

9) 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?

The 5th Congressional District is one of the nation's most diverse. As the son of an immigrant mother, I have been privileged to work in Springfield on legislation that eases the burdens caused by our country's broken immigration system. As a country, we must enact comprehensive immigration reform now. I support a plan that redevelops the application process and preference system to eliminate visa backlog, creates a responsible guest worker program, cracks down on abusive employers, strengthens our borders, includes the DREAM act and creates a fair, respectful path to citizenship for the undocumented individuals contributing in a positive way to our communities. I oppose enforcement-only legislation and legislation that diverts resources and complicates enforcement by deputizing local officials to enforce federal immigration policy.

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

I support an emissions goal of 80% reduction by 2050, and creating a national cap-and-trade system to reach this goal. The federal government would moderate the market by selling permits and investing proceeds in a way that furthers the overall mission of the policy, such as the development of clean energy, energy efficiency improvements, and carbon sequestration, and to address transition costs including: job training, transition programs to help industries adapt to clean technology and production, and assistance to low income utility consumers. My legislative leadership on environmental issues earned me a 100% rating from the Illinois Environmental Council. I co-sponsored the Great Lakes Compact that will conserve the great lakes and wholeheartedly supported Illinois' adoption of a Renewable Portfolio Standard.

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

The time has come to responsibly withdraw our troops from Iraq and I support a phased redeployment that continues the first troop reduction initiated in September 2008. We must fully redeploy as soon as it is realistic, but as President Obama has said it is important that we are as careful coming out of Iraq as we were reckless going in. While the 16-month goal Obama and others have considered is a good target I do not feel that we can responsibly set an absolute date for final withdrawal.

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

For the overall security and prosperity of the Middle East, we must reach a peaceful resolution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. The best and most viable option is a two-state solution and a path similar to the one laid out in the Oslo Accords. As in any regional conflict a solution cannot be imposed from the outside, but can only arise from honest dialogue between the involved parties. The United States plays a pivotal role in brokering these negotiations and we must continue to bring both sides into conversation. We must also continue responsibly supporting Israel as it defends itself from terrorist attack, while providing aid and encouragement to parties throughout the region that seek to work toward peace. It is important the Palestinian people have options for responsible governance that makes peace a priority, and we must support the Palestinian Authority while isolating organizations like Hamas that promote violence and instability.

13) *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?*

I support a troop increase in Afghanistan that will neutralize the resurgent Taliban and allow a strengthening of the central government. This week, President Karzai

postponed Presidential elections due to security concerns, demonstrating the fragility of the official government. While Afghan civilians mistrust the Taliban, they are hesitant to support a government that cannot protect them. An additional troop deployment will establish stability and allow us to forge peace in this key region. The build-up must be targeted and temporary with the goal of restoring short-term security while Afghan forces reach functional independence and the central government establishes control.

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

Energy independence is an economic, environmental and security imperative. This Congress must create a path to energy independence based on low- or zero-emission renewable resources. In the near term, we must ensure that stimulus projects produce green jobs and smarter national energy infrastructure. In the long term, our path should include continued support for research, development and manufacturing of renewable power sources so that these processes become cost competitive with power derived from fossil fuel combustion.