

5th Congressional District Election Questionnaire

To the candidates: Please complete the following questionnaire and attach a short bio. Feel free to use more than the space allotted if you would like to address an issue in more depth.

The deadline to return the questionnaire is by **5 p.m. Feb. 4**. The questionnaires will be posted on-line shortly afterward at the Chicago Sun-Times web site for voters. Personal information, such as home address and phone number, will be redacted. Any candidate who does not meet the deadline will not have their answers posted.

Name: Mike Quigley Birth date: 10/17/1958

Political affiliation Democrat

Home address _____

Do you live in the district? Y

Phone (home) _____ (mobile) ___(Pager) _____

E-mail mqhockey@comcast.net

Marital status Y Spouse's name Barbara

Occupation/Firm name Attorney, private practice

Business address _____ (Phone) _____

Campaign HQ address: 2035 W. Irving Park Chicago, IL 60618 (Phone) _773-472-4876

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Campaign manager Thomas C. Bowen

Press Secretary Billy Weinberg Media consultant Saul Shorr

Pollster Anzalone Liszt Direct mail consultant Pete Giangreco

Finance directors Kelly Dietrich

Other campaign staff/consultants _____

Name of any relatives on public payrolls _ Dan Quigley (brother) Cook County Assessor;
Chris Bensen (sister) Superintendent of Schools, Streeter

Name of your federal campaign committee ___ Quigley for Congress_____

Campaign treasurer _____ Ronald G. Hayden_____

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.
Our finance team consists of Bill Brandt and Henry Feinberg

Have you had any kind of program for top donors or fundraisers (for example seminars, briefings, golf outings)?
There have been no special events for donors or briefings.

List lobbyists assisting you, directly or indirectly, in raising money for your campaign.
The campaign is not aware of any lobbyists that have assisted with the coordination or bundling of funds.

Will you pledge to disclose in advance where and when your fund-raising events occur? If the answer is no, please explain.
Events will be posted on our website

Please explain how your occupation and your life experience qualify you for the 5th Congressional District seat.
I have spent the last 10 years reforming the Cook County board to protect taxpayers' interests and change the way the old, machine politics have worked. From rooting out fraud to promoting transparency and accountability on the County Board, I think I have learned the requisite skills to make me an effective representative in Congress.

Issues:

I have a complete issue section on my website.
<http://www.quigleyforcongress.com/issues.htm>

What are your top three district-specific priorities? _____

1) Improving the infrastructure of the District. As Congressman of the 5th District I would seek stimulus funds to improve the transit system and Chicago, improve the infrastructure of our schools and ensure that the Chicago River has significant protections to reduce the severity of flooding.

2) Long term solutions – not short term fixes. I will focus on long term solutions to our economy that focus on education, job growth and job creation.

3) Health Care. Residents of the District are losing their jobs and consequently their health care at an alarming rate and the safety net is not strong enough to protect them. I will work to provide health care for every American that is affordable and portable from job to job that does not interrupt the coverage of Americans happy with their current coverage.

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? TARP has been a failure in its current form. With record home price depreciation and catastrophic job loss I believe that any version of TARP would have failed. That being said, there are reforms that could improve TARP.

First I would have changed the target of the TARP funds. The funds should have been required to be utilized to put liquidity in the market. Small businesses cannot borrow money to expand and storefronts sit eerily vacant as no money is available for their development. This not only contributes to our problems of grayfields but takes away opportunities for job creation.

Secondly, the complete lack of transparency in the use of TARP fund has, rightly, troubled the American people about the ability of their government to spend money wisely. TARP funds have reportedly been used to purchase new flat screen tvs and repaint the headquarters of Citigroup. Explain that to taxpayers who are about to lose their home – I sure can't. What I can explain is that as County Commissioner I have worked for 10 years to bring transparency and accountability to Cook County Government – from shining light on outsider influences on the property tax appeal process to rewriting the Inspector General Ordinance. I have fought for disclosure and accountability and I will not stop this fight. Taxpayers are losing their homes and food stamps are at a record high and companies are trying to use TARP funds to buy new jets? \$350 BILLION dollars has been spent and the Bush administration did not require that they told us how.

We must stand up to this abuse of our tax payer dollars. I strongly support President Obama's new plan to publicize the amount of assistance that each corporation receives and limits on executive compensation. All of the information must be placed online for public scrutiny.

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. While I have the utmost respect for Rahm Emanuel, if I have the honor of serving this District I would continue to run for the seat until the voters decide it is time for new representation.

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

Yes. There are basic things Americans should be able to have. They should have food to eat, a roof over their heads, education for their children and a job available if they are able to work. In the mess of special interests and corporate greed the Bush administration lost sight of this and luckily for us President Obama has brought them back. The stimulus package offers direct benefits to struggling Americans by reinforcing the safety net for our entitlement programs such as food stamps to help struggling families, upgrading our schools, providing funds for first time homeowners and creating or saving 3-4 million jobs. It is estimated that in Illinois alone the stimulus would generate more than 200,000 new jobs.

I would like to see a greater emphasis on long term solutions to our problems. More funds should be targeted to improving our infrastructure – especially as it related to public transit. We need a safe, affordable, environmentally efficient way to get people to and from work and Chicago is in desperate need of an infusion of federal funds to continue to upgrade our transit system.

I applaud the President's efforts to provide safeguards for the environment in the stimulus package and it really proves the adage that 'going green saves green'. The plan doubles the amount of energy produced from renewable resources within only three years – which has the added benefits of increasing our national security by lessening our dependence on foreign oil. It also builds upon our existing infrastructure by making federal buildings more efficient for a savings of \$2 billion dollars annually.

The stimulus plan would also provide health care coverage for over 8 million Americans who are about to lose their insurance through job loss or new employment. As a County Commissioner I see the vital and immediate need for this. In our Cook County health system we cannot handle the ever increasing number of uninsured and underinsured patients seeking health care. Lines are long and appointments can take month. The stimulus is projected to infuse \$2.9 billion over the next three years into our state's Medicaid program. This funding would allow the County to save our health care system and meet the demand for preventive care services.

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public transit. We need a safe, affordable, environmentally efficient way to get people to and from work and Chicago is in desperate need of an infusion of federal funds to continue to upgrade our transit system.

In addition, the stimulus package must address how we as a nation are going to drive down our debt.

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

The recession is not just affecting our current workforce, but our future workforce as well. Students are trying to get an education but funds for student loans are drying up. I support President Obama's initiative to provide tax credits for higher education in exchange for community service.

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

I am in favor of moving towards universal health care. We must first, however, build upon—not tear down—our preexisting healthcare system, while utilizing the doctors, providers and plans already in place. We need to step in to provide solutions for those who lack full coverage, while not disrupting care for those who are satisfied with their current plan. For those without insurance I support President Obama's initiative to provide a range of affordable private insurance options based on the same benefits that he would receive as a member of Congress.

How do you propose we fix Social Security?

It is far more important right now to address problems with Medicare as Social Security is solvent for decades before major changes have to be addressed. In an economy that is extremely fragile and with significant government resources being used to remove troops from Iraq and redirect them to Afghanistan, we should focus on solving the most immediate problems first. That said, I will listen to the proposals of President Obama and judge whether they provide an adequate safety net that provides a good quality of life for seniors while keeping taxes low for hard working middle class families.

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?

For years we have built homes and businesses on our floodplains without a second thought. As Chairman of the Cook County Forest Preserve District I have seen the consequences of these actions have we have been deluged by requests to use our public lands to retain storm water from developments illegally built on floodplains.

Unfortunately this is not an easy or inexpensive fix. An infusion of new funds from the stimulus package could help us shore up our infrastructure to prevent or least minimize the flooding. For example, the Army Corps of Engineers canceled a project to repair a berm on the Chicago River and instead diverted its resources to Iraq – because of this

North Park College and homeowners in the area are faced with millions of dollars in repair costs and dorms were destroyed. These types of projects should be a priority in the economic stimulus package.

In addition, many flooding problems exist due to the fact that we pave over almost all of our surfaces and driveways and roads cannot absorb water – so it flows into basements. I would support the use of federal tax credits and grants to promote green infrastructure throughout the district to capture rainwater and prevent its entry into our sewer system.

Secondly I would work to stop further development on open spaces that are floodplains or wetlands.

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?

I support providing a path toward citizenship for law-abiding immigrants who have been in this country for many years—while, at the same time, protecting the integrity of America's borders.

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

I support a cap and trade policy aimed at reducing pollution from greenhouse gases to 1990 levels by 2020 and an 80% reduction by 2050. The credits can be auctioned off to not only create a level playing field for all sources of energy but the proceeds of the auction will help support the accelerated development of renewable energy.

FOREIGN POLICY

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

I support the President's approach of immediately withdrawing troops in the safest possible manner as the Joint Chiefs of Staff recommend to the President.

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

Throughout its history, Israel has been anxious to make peace with its Arab neighbors. If successful, a peace process is an opportunity for Israel to increase its security, normalize relations with its neighbors, and create a more stable and prosperous Middle East.

Resolution of the conflict depends on direct negotiations between the parties based on mutual respect and recognition. The United States' commitment to Israel must continue so Israel can negotiate with its former and current adversaries from a position of

strength. I believe that Israel can take risks for peace only because of unwavering American support.

America must isolate Hamas and make it clear to them that they will be international pariahs until they change their stated goals and activities. We must force Hamas to choose between terrorism and the welfare of the Palestinian people. Hamas must renounce violence, recognize Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state, and agree to abide by all agreements between the Palestinian Authority and Israel.

As a member of Congress, I will unequivocally support Israel's efforts for peace, stability and security. I will fight to hold the Palestinian leadership accountable for their actions

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 support a troop surge in Afghanistan. We need to redirect our forces from Iraq to not only fight the Taliban but to control the drug trade and stabilize the country. We cannot forget that Afghanistan shares a border with Pakistan and terrorists are flowing freely across their borders. Pakistan is a nuclear power and we cannot allow rogue groups to have access to weapons and create havoc in region.

With a new administration, we have a new opportunity to create a new image for America and create partnerships around this world. It is my belief that this will have a disabling affect on terrorists throughout the globe and ultimately allow for troop withdrawal from Afghanistan.

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

This process needs to be two fold. We need to reduce our need for oil through reduced consumption and through new energy sources.

First we need to develop clean energy sources – such as solar and wind power. The strategic development of clean energy sources will not only reduce our dependence on foreign oil but can help create over five million new jobs in our new 'green collar' economy.

In addition we need to reduce our consumption. We need to mandate higher fuel efficiency standards. In addition, we need to provide tax-credits for citizens purchasing hybrid and electric vehicles so that high-mileage, low-cost cars will become a more practical option for the American consumer.

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