

“Should I be elected, I will uphold the law and administer justice wholly independent of political influence and regardless of my personal views on any number of political, social or moral issues. The standards of judicial conduct embodied in Illinois Supreme Court Rules 61-68 are not intended to be and are not the only ethical guidelines by which the conduct of judges and judicial candidates should be evaluated. Rather, they are intended to be instructive and to assist judges and candidates in maintaining the highest standards of judicial conduct. While I may be perfectly free to announce or express my views on the various topics you address in this questionnaire, it is my conviction that to do so may well denigrate the fundamental principles of integrity, independence and impartiality which are the cornerstone of the judicial office. Recognizing that partisan elections are often vexed by misinformation and misperception, it is my conviction that any expression of my personal views on various so-called “hot button” issues—views which will have absolutely no bearing on my impartial and independent application of the law including adherence to established and binding precedent—may lead to an erroneous conclusion that such expressions constitute a commitment as to my adjudicative responsibilities or performance. A candidate’s qualifications for judicial office should be based on one’s integrity, knowledge, experience and on an ability to be fair, impartial and independent and that the personal views of an otherwise qualified judicial candidate on the questions identified above should be and are wholly irrelevant.”