

IVI-IPO 2010 WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 1

DATE 15 July 2010 PARTY: Green

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NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED: 2000 NUMBER REQUIRED: 862

A) Elective or appointive public or party offices previously held including dates. None

B) Other elective offices for which you have been a candidate. MWRD in 2008

C) What is your primary occupation? College Professor

D) Briefly list your civic activities of the past ten years.

I coordinate the Chicago Greenmap,

Was a board member for the Chicago Chapter of US Green Building Council

Proposed a greening plan for Clarendon Park

E) What subjects have you studied and what experience have you had which will be most helpful to you in the office you seek?

Ecology and Environmental Science

Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning

I teach these subjects at the college level and have worked for the CCFPD as an environmental Planner and the Chicago Park District in charge of operations of 124 parks on the SE side of the city. I have also run a design/build firm in central Missouri.

F) What candidates have you supported in past elections? Please be specific in describing your role in each campaign.

Rich Whitney for governor in 2006

G) Please list all endorsements you have received so far.

Sierra Club

H) As concisely as possible, please state why you feel you should be endorsed over the other candidate(s). What goals for the office you seek are most important to you personally

My expertise in environmental science and technology would fill a severe gap in the expertise of the current board members to make decisions that effect the health of our waterways in the region and downstream. My technological expertise in alternative energy production could help to offset much of the budget problems and discussion on tax increases.

I) What is your campaign budget? How much have you raised to date?

Our fundraising will begin in earnest in late August. The green party is currently in the process of hiring a professional fundraiser.

J) How many people are on your campaign staff? How many volunteers are on your list?

The list of volunteers is constantly changing and consist mostly of students and other greens.

IVI-IPO 2010 WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 2

1. Should Commissioners be elected at-large or by district?

At large

2. Should cumulative voting be used to elect commissioners?

Yes

3. Do you have a business relationship with or financial interest in any entity doing business with the MWRD or other governmental bodies in Cook County?

No

4. Will you accept or have you accepted campaign donations from current or potential suppliers, employees or outside contractors?

No

5. a. In what circumstances should the District contract for outside professional services?

When the expertise needed is outside the region, state or country. We must begin to look at global issues and find solutions being tried elsewhere whenever possible.

b. In what circumstances should competitive bidding for contracts be required?

For basic goods, consumables and items that are used repeatedly. For specialty items there may not be options. That said, we must always keep in mind we are spending public funds and are accountable for getting the best product available for the citizens of the area

c. Please comment on any existing abuses.

Cronyism and nepotism via the procurement system must end. The practice of 'invited' vendors is also an unethical practice. Anyone who can provide the needed product or service should be able to bid on MWRD

contracts. All bids must be substantiated with guarantees and reliable (not political) references.

6. Do you support a ban on hiring, firing and promotion based on political considerations for non policy making positions?

Yes, all positions in the public sector should be hired based ONLY on qualifications for the job. Administrative, technical and professional need to be hired in this manner. No public sector job should be given to a family member or a political worker for only that reason.

7. Will you support public postings of all permanent and temporary jobs at the District?

Yes. I would also support outside HR firms doing the hiring.

8. Do you support Affirmative Action?

Yes

9. Do you favor permitting MWRD employees to hold other public sector employment concurrently?

No, this is double dipping and unfair to the taxpayer.

10. Do you favor permitting MWRD employees to have outside employment or contracts with entities which do business with the district?

No, this is an infringement of ethical behavior. It leads to bad decision-making and economic waste

11. Is the District in good financial condition? Please comment on both expenditures and sources of revenues.

The revenue side is healthy, but the expenditures side is light on cost saving measures. More attention needs to be placed on basic operations, especially in the area of energy consumption. Implementing green measures would save millions of dollars and set the district on a road to downsizing their overall operations.

12. Under what circumstances would you support sale of MWRD property?

Only if the land were to be sold to another public agency for public usage or for ecological necessity.

13. a. What should be the MWRD's role in policy on lakefront, riverfront and canal development?

Help set the mission to insure no ecological damage to the aquatic resources and to allow for public usage whenever possible

b. What responsibility should it have for planning or monitoring such development?

They should be a full partner in any endeavor that impacts aquatic systems

14. a. Do you support creation of a regional riverfront trail?

Yes

b. Why or why not?

c. What role, if any, should the MWRD have in such a project?

Working in partnership with county, state and/or federal land management agencies and local NGOs to set the mission of the project and in the planning and implementation processes when applicable.

15. Do you support the existing agreement between the district and the property owners on the North Branch of the Chicago River?

I support residential owners with property on the river access, and public agencies use, but I do not support commercial use of the river property.

16. Do you think the MWRD should be required to kill bacteria from human sewage that is pumped into the Chicago and Calumet river systems as part of sewage effluent?

Yes, this will protect downstream communities all the way to the gulf coast areas.

17. Do you think the MWRD should be required to remove phosphorus and nitrogen from the effluent it releases into our waterways?

Yes, if this is not done the oxygen levels could plummet due to algal blooms and cause further eutrofication (death) of the waterways and make them unable to support any aquatic life for decades.

18. a. Are you for or against using green technologies to manage storm water?

The district should be mandated to do so.

b. Do you think storm water should be preserved and protected?

Yes

c. Please explain your answers?

A consortium of invested participants will insure equitable and safe use of the waterways. No one agency or group should control them 100% as this leads to a monocultural attitude.

19. What can the MWRD do to exceed minimal requirements for permitting under the Clean Water Act?

Make decisions with regard to the precautionary principle before data proves harm.

20. What can be done to alleviate flooding in Chicago and the suburbs which persists despite the construction of TARP?

Begin to mandate the reconstruction of wetlands, bioswales, permeable pavement, native plantings and a myriad of other green technologies.