

# IVI-IPO 2012 WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 1

**DATE:** December 19, 2011      **PARTY:** Democrat

**NAME:** Patrick Daley Thompson

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**CAMPAIGN MANAGER:** Claudia E. Chavez ([Claudia@PatrickDThompson.com](mailto:Claudia@PatrickDThompson.com) or 312-768-4753)

**NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED:** Approximately 26,000      **NUMBER REQUIRED:** 5,586

**A)** Elective or appointive public or party offices previously held including dates.

2000 elected Delegate to the Democratic National Convention

2004 Rules Committee to the Democratic National Convention

**B)** Other elective offices for which you have been a candidate.

None

**C)** What is your primary occupation?

Lawyer

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

- Illinois Attorney General Business Advisory Council
- Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence, Chairman of the Board of Directors
- The Louis L. Valentine Boys and Girls Club of Chicago, President
- Aquinas Literacy Center, Past Chairman and current Board Member
- South Loop Chamber of Commerce, Secretary
- Leadership Greater Chicago, Fellow
- Historic Chicago Bungalow Association, Board Member
- The John Marshall Law School Board of Visitors
- Nativity of Our Lord Parish Finance Council

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

As a lawyer, I am trained to think critically and solve complex problems. I believe having a lawyer on the Board of Commissioners will be beneficial. The Board has jurisdiction over contracts, real estate, employment issues to name a few matters that involve legal evaluation. In addition, prior to becoming an attorney, I worked for 8 years in commercial

real estate. The MWRD owns over 9,000 acres of land throughout Cook County and I believe the land is a valuable asset that should be evaluated and perhaps utilized to generate opportunities for recreation or for commercial uses. I also concentrate my practice on real estate. In doing so, as it pertains to development, I understand many of the issues pertaining to storm water management.

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

1994-John H. Stroger for Cook County Board President

2000-Vice President AL Gore for President. I was a Delegate to the Democratic National Convention.

2004-Senator John Kerry for President. I was a coordinator of Linn County, Iowa.

1989, 1991, 1995, 1999, 2003 and 2007-Mayor Richard M. Daley coordinator.

1991 to Present- Precinct Captain for the 11<sup>th</sup> Ward Regular Democratic Party working for numerous Democratic candidates from President Obama, Senator Durbin, Secretary of State Jesse White, Attorney General Lisa Madigan and many other candidates.

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

To date, I've only been endorsed by the Democratic Party of Cook County.

**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?**

I have the proven leadership skills to move the District forward into the next century. I believe that I have the vision and commitment needed to make the District a leader among its counterparts in other urban cities. My goals are to provide strong leadership, innovative ideas and work tirelessly to increase green infrastructure, support high quality water standards, and maintain fiscal stability across the district. In addition, I will work to advance the District's work on storm water management to further mitigate the impact of storm water in communities across the district.

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

Campaign budget: \$200,000 Funds raised as of 12/19/11: \$40,000

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

Staff: 1 Volunteers: 100

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## **IVI-IPO 2012 WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 2**

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

At-large. The issues the MWRD has jurisdiction over affect almost the entire County. Therefore, we should be held accountable to the entire County.

2. Should cumulative voting be used to elect commissioners?

I'm unclear on the question being asked, upon clarification from IVI-IPO, I will respond accordingly.

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?

As an attorney, I have represented clients that have been adverse to the MWRD on land transactions. In addition, I represent developers throughout Cook County and collar counties.

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

I believe the law is clear as to campaign donations. I will follow the law and believe in full disclosure of donations.

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

There are different circumstances that arise when it may be appropriate to engage outside professional services. First, if the service being sought is a specialty service and the District does not have the expertise. Another circumstance is if the District does not have the personnel to address the service needed because of staffing shortages.

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

I believe that all bidding should be competitive. That does not mean that the District must engage the lowest bidder. Depending on the task, it may be appropriate to engage the most responsive bidder based on clear criteria set forth in the RFP.

c. Please comment on any existing abuses.

I am not aware of any abuses but the Board and Staff should always be evaluating its own policy and procedure to ensure that abuses don't exist.

6. Do you support Patronage in hiring and promoting public employees?

I believe in hiring the most qualified person for the position. The MWRD has a procedure in place that requires testing of all employees.

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

I believe that job opportunities should be made available to everyone and that will also attract a more diverse and talented applicant pool.

8. Do you support Affirmative Action?

Yes.

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

I think it is extremely difficult to have a career at the MWRD and another job.

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

If an employee has a contract with an entity doing business with the MWRD, I believe this creates a serious potential for a conflict of interest. This must be transparent and carefully evaluated. I cannot think of a scenario where this would be permitted.

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

I believe the District has a good financial base. That being said, I also think we need to review the pension obligation deficit that continues to grow. That will be a major concern for MWRD into the future. I also think we need to prepare for the capital cost of disinfection.

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

As previously mentioned, my unique background in commercial real estate and practicing real estate law, gives me a

perspective that does not exist currently on the Board. All of the 9,000+ acres of land should be evaluated. If there are opportunities to engage land for recreation use or for commercial development and it does not have a negative impact on land that is crucial to the MWRD, then we should explore everything.

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

The MWRD has jurisdiction over the watercourse throughout the County of Cook. Therefore, the MWRD should have a very prevalent role. Starting with storm water management, since 2005, to handling affluent, the MWRD is the responsible government body that should be in charge. This of course requires working with local governments throughout the District to coordinate handling the discharge and storm water. For example, the City of Chicago announced expanding boat houses on the river and I commend the City for doing so. However, in order to encourage usage of the canals and river, the water quality must be cleaned to a level that is safe.

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

The MWRD must work in conjunction with local government. The District has expertise in water quality but may not have the infrastructure to manage permitting and construction. That would need to be the local governments involvement.

14. a. Do you support expansion of the MWRD's role into areas of habitat restoration and conservance and creatuion of public parks and trails?

Yes. As I mentioned previously, the District owns over 9,000 acres of land. A tremendous amount of that land is in close proximity to the water and therefore may be a good environment for habitat creation. The increased habitat along the river and canals, from beavers to fox and numerous bird species enhances all of our communities and I would encourage an expansion.

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

If this question pertains to the property owners docks and whether they should be allowed to continue to use them, it is my understanding that the litigation remains open and I am not aware of the agreement. I understand the District's concern about liability since the docks are on District property, but I also empathize with property owners who have used the docks for years. I believe a solution can be reached and I would immediately work to resolving the dispute.

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

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

I am for using green technologies to manage storm water. Not only does green technology improve the overall quality of life for all of us but green roofs, permeable pavers and rain barrels (to name a few examples of green technologies) will mitigate the storm water being put into the system. I also think we should explore using more solar power to operate systems at MWRD.

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

We live in a unique and wonderful Great Lakes Water Basin where approximately 20 % of the world's fresh water is contained. It is a tremendous natural resource. However, I believe that water will be to the next 100 years as oil was to the last. Therefore, we must be vigilant and responsible with this water resource. We should develop opportunities to utilize rain water as well as grey water the District currently discharges in to the watercourse and flows down the Mississippi River. Many industrial users are in need of water for manufacturing various products. Many times, that process does not require drinkable water and therefore perhaps the grey water can be utilized.

c. Please explain your answers.

See above 17a and 17b.

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

What we can do to exceed is a function of priority and budgetary constraints. We have a mission to provide the highest quality water and safety for the residents of the District, but that balanced with the fiduciary obligations to our taxpayers.

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

One of the first actions I would take as a Commissioner would be to accelerate the completion of the TARP. The McCook Reservoir is not expected to be completed until 2027. We must look at alternative solutions both temporary and perhaps permanently.

20. How should the MWRD implement the disinfection of effluent?

The District is currently evaluating the various processes for disinfection. I think we must explore UV as well as treating the water with more traditional methods.