

IVI-IPO

2006 WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT QUESTIONNAIRE

Section 1

DATE: 1/6/2006

CANDIDATE FOR: Commissioner for Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRDGC)

PARTY: Democratic

NAME: Terrence J. O'Brien

VOTING ADDRESS: 6346 North Legett Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60646

HOME PHONE: 773-775-9012

BUSINESS PHONE: 312-339-3674

CAMPAIGN ADDRESS: 6346 N. Legett Avenue, Chicago, IL 60646

CAMPAIGN PHONE: (888) TOB-MWRD

FAX: 312-831-2191

EMAIL: TerryO@K-Plus.com

WEBSITE: www.terrencejobrienmwrld.com

CAMPAIGN MANAGER: Daniel James and Julie O'Brien

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED: 15,137

NUMBER REQUIRED: 7996

Terrence J. O'Brien

Please use an additional sheet to complete the following background information:

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

1983 – Elected to Board of Directors of the Warren Park Advisory Council

1988 – Elected Commissioner for Water Reclamation District – 6 year term

1994 - Re-elected Commissioner for Water Reclamation District – 6 year term

2000 – Re-elected Commissioner for Water Reclamation District – 6 year term

1997, 1999, 2001, 2003 and 2005 – Elected President by MWRDGG Board of Commissioners – 2 year term

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

I have never been a candidate for any other office.

C) What is your primary occupation?

From 1986 to present, I have been an environmental consultant and project manager for various consulting firms, most recently, K-Plus Environmental in Chicago, Illinois.

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

Professional Organizations:

Industrial Water, Waste and Sewage Group * American Public Works Association * Association of Metropolitan Sewage Agencies * Water Environment Federation * Illinois Association of Wastewater Agencies * Federation of Environmental Technologists * Ground Hog Club of Chicago (subsurface contractors), 2004 President * City Club of Chicago * Indo American Democratic Organization, Honorary Member * Past Member, Sewer and Tunnel Laborers, Local No. 2 * Past Member, SEIU, Local No. 46.

Community Activities

St. Mary of the Woods, Holy Name Society * Loyola Academy Fathers Club * Regina Dominican High School, Booster Club * St. Scholastic Academy, President's Council * Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago, Board of Directors * John Carroll University, President's Council * 50 th Ward Democratic Club * Warren Park Advisory Council, Past Member * City Colleges Advisory Council for Student Environmental Exchange Program, Past Member * Howard W. Carroll Foundation, Past Director * Special Olympics Program for Misericordia Homes, Past Coordinator (HWC Foundation) * Northwest Side American Cancer Society Board, Past Member.

Awards

International Union of Operating Engineers, Local No. 150, Statesman of the Year, 2000. * Illinois Committee for Honest Government Award, 1996 * Michael Bruton's Workplace Safety Award, 2001 * Excellence in Community Service Award from John Carroll University, 1999.

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

Education

- 1974 Loyola Academy, Wilmette, Illinois.
- 1978 B.A., Sociology, John Carroll University, Cleveland, Ohio.
- 1986 Certified Environmental Inspector – Environmental Assessment Association, Scottsdale, Arizona.
- 1988 40 Hour [OSHA] Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Safety Training – CFR 29 1910.146. (Annual Recertification).
- 1988 24 Hour, Confined Space and Rescue Training [OSHA] CFR 29 1910.146 (Annual Recertification).
- 1988 CPR and First Aid Certifications (Annual Recertification)

During the past 27 years, my work experience in the environmental field has centered on the following activities:

- Permitting for treatment, disposal and transportation of hazardous, non hazardous and toxic materials.
- Project management on USEPA Superfund cleanup sites, Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) sites.
- Decommissioning of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB) transformers from Utilities, US Department of Energy and private corporations.
- Asbestos and lead abatement projects.
- Phase I and II Environmental Site Assessments for real estate companies, law firms, lending institutions and corporate clients as part of the Illinois Responsible Property Transfer Act (IRPTA).
- Construction of James Kirie WRP in Des Plaines.
- Construction of the Tunnel and Reservoir Plan (TARP).

This background along with my experience as a Pollution Control Officer for the District enabled me to quickly become an effective member of the Board of Commissioners. Of course, 17 years of service as a Commissioner and 9 years as President of the Board of Commissioners is probably the most helpful experience.

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

- 1988 – I was an independent candidate for Commissioner of MWRDGC.
- 1986 – Edward Mazur for Cook County Commissioner
- 1990 – James Nally for Cook County Commissioner
- 1996, 2000, 2004 – James Houlihan for Cook County Assessor
- 1996, 2000, 2004 – Richard Devine for Cook County State's Attorney
- 1996, 2002 – U.S. Senator Richard Durbin

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

Labor Organizations

- Chicago Federations of Labor
- Chicago and Cook County Building Trades Council
- National Conference of Firemen and Oilers, Local No. 7

- **State and Municipal Teamsters and Chauffeurs Union, Local No. 726**
- **International Union of Operating Engineers, Local No. 399**
- **International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local No. 9**
- **Architectural and Ornamental Ironworkers Union, Local No. 63**
- **International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, Local No. 126**
- **International Brotherhood of Electrical workers, Local No. 134**
- **International Union of Operating Engineers, Local No. 150**
- **Painters District Council No. 14 of the International Brotherhood of Painters and Allied Trades**
- **Bridge, Structural and Reinforcing Ironworkers, Local No. 1**
- **Chicago Journeyman Plumbers, Local No. 130**
- **Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters**
- **Pipefitters' Association, Local No. 597**
- **Sheet Metal Workers International Association, Local No. 73**
- **International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Asbestos Workers, Local No. 17**

Township Organizations

- **Cook County Democratic Central Committee**
- **Hon. Patrick Botterman – Wheeling Township Democrats**
- **Hon. Tom Bradford – Rich Township Democrats**
- **Hon. Joan Brennan – Elk Grove Township Democrats**
- **Hon. M. Maggie Crotty – Bremen Township Democrats**
- **Hon. Wilbert Crowley – New Trier Township Democrats**
- **Hon. Donald Harmon – Oak Park Township Democrats**
- **Hon. Charles Hernandez- Cicero Township Democrats**
- **Hon. Michael Kreloff – Northfield Township Democrats**
- **Hon. Steve Landek – Lyons Township Democrats**
- **Hon. Dennis Magee – Worth Township Democrats**
- **Hon. Robert Martwick – Norwood Park Township Democrats**
- **Hon. Daniel McLaughlin – Orland Park Township Democrats**
- **Hon. Eugene Moore – Proviso Township Democrats**
- **Hon. Laura Murphy – Maine Township Democrats**
- **Hon. John Rita – Calumet Township Democrats**

- **Hon. Jeffrey Schoenberg – Evanston Township Democrats**
- **Hon. Samuel Simone – Palos Townships Democrats**
- **Hon. Edward Smollen – Lemont Township Democrats**
- **Hon. Calvin Sutker – Niles Township Democrats**
- **Hon. Rocco Terranova – Schaumburg Township Democrats**
- **Hon. Louis Viverito- Stickney Township Democrats**
- **Hon. Sue Walton – Palatine Township Democrats**

Ward Organizations

- **Hon. Carrie Austin – 34 th Ward Democrats**
- **Hon. William Banks – 36 th Ward Democrats**
- **Hon. Randy Barnette – 39 th Ward Democrats**
- **Hon. Anthony Beale – 9 th Ward Democrats**
- **Hon. William Beavers – 7 th Ward Democrats**
- **Hon. Joseph Berrios – 31 st Ward Democrats**
- **Hon. Edward Burke – 14 th Ward Democrats**
- **Hon. Ralph Capparelli – 41 st Ward Democrats**
- **Hon. Isaac Crothers – 29 th Ward Democrats**
- **Hon. Shirley Coleman – 16 th Ward Democrats**
- **Hon. P.J. Cullerton – 38 th Ward Democrats**
- **Hon. John Daley – 11 th Ward Democrats**
- **Hon. David Fagus – 49 th Ward Democrats**
- **Hon. Terry Gabinski – 32 nd Ward Democrats**
- **Hon. Bernard Hansen – 49 th Ward Democrats**
- **Hon. Thomas Lyons – 45 th Ward Democrats**
- **Hon. Michael Madigan – 13 th Ward Democrats**
- **Hon. Roberto Maldonado – 26 th Ward Democrats**
- **Hon. Antonio Munoz – 12 th Ward Democrats**
- **Hon. Ricardo Munoz – 22 nd Ward Democrats**
- **Hon. Thomas Murphy – 18 th Ward Democrats**
- **Hon. Burton Natarus – 42 nd Ward Democrats**
- **Hon. Patrick O'Connor – 40 th Ward Democrats**

- **Hon. Matthew O'Shea – 19 th Ward Democrats**
- **Hon. Toni Preckwinkle – 4 th Ward Democrats**
- **Hon. Peggy Roth – 43 rd Ward Democrats**
- **Hon. Eugene Schulner – 47 th Ward Democrats**
- **Hon. Thomas Sharpe – 46 th Ward Democrats**
- **Hon. Ed Smith – 28 th Ward Democrats**
- **Hon. Daniel Solis -25 th Ward Democrats**
- **Hon. Bernard L. Stone – 50 th Ward Democrats**
- **Hon. John Stroger, Jr. – 8 th Ward Democrats**
- **Hon. Michael Volini – 48 th Ward Democrats**

Associations

- **Italian American Police Association**

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 feel that I should be endorsed because of my 27 years of environmental experience and understanding of the technical issues that relate to the District. Other Board members look to me for leadership in this area. The goals most important to me are:

- **Resist the constant pressure to increase the cost of operations. In 1989, the Board of Commissioners put a cap on the Districts' annual tax levy. Amid great pressure, the cap has held for sixteen (16) years. In 2006, the Districts total tax levy will be reduced by 1.1%. The District still treats wastewater at the lowest cost per gallon among the largest metropolitan areas in the United States.**
- **Continue our aggressive lobbying efforts for funding for completion of the Tunnel and Reservoir Project (TARP).**
- **Maintain good relations with industry and communities within our service area without compromising our objectives. This means a fair administration of our ordinances. The District must be 'user friendly' in order to keep the industrial base and those jobs here in Cook County.**
- **Maintain our progressive and extraordinary record in the area of Affirmative Action and Women's opportunities in both employment and purchasing practices. The District continues to exceed all other governmental agencies in Cook County and the State of Illinois with its policies.**
- **Continue the implementation of the storm water program by completing storm water management plan and developing a technical guidance manual for detailed watershed studies dealing with flood prevention, improvement of water quality, wetlands preservation, and erosion control for Cook County.**

I) What is your campaign budget? \$250,000

How much have you raised to date? \$180,000

J) How many people are on your campaign staff? 10 people

How many volunteers are on your list? 400 volunteers

IVI-IPO 2006 WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 2

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

Commissioners should continue to be elected at-large. It serves no purpose to elect from single member districts. Indeed, such a change would not only create an unwieldy number of commissioners, but would result in a parochial rather than county wide view of the District projects. Maintaining the at-large method of electing commissioners guarantees that all areas and all residents of Cook County are protected not by where they are located, but by need; i.e., equal representation. The district as it is currently governed and managed is nationally recognized as one of the most efficient and effective agencies of its kind in the nation.

2. Should cumulative voting be used to elect commissioners?

No, cumulative voting should not be used to elect commissioners. The State of Illinois, general assembly changed this methodology of voting for the State Representatives in the early 70's, because it did not work.

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, I do not have a business relationship with any entity doing business with the MWRD or other government bodies in Cook County.

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

I have accepted donations from suppliers and employees. As a former employee, I have remained friends with former co-workers, many of whom support my candidacy. I do not solicit donations from them and for those who ask to attend our events; our campaign committee has always provided complimentary tickets to the event. The vendors and contractors competitively bid contracts and the lowest qualified responsible bidder is always selected. Being awarded a contract has in no way been determined by whether they have donated to my campaign or attended an event. However, my campaign committee and I monitor all invitations and categorically refuse those which we deem suspect or too excessive.

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

Outside Professional services should be utilized by the District, when District staff cannot perform the work most cost effectively and the work is either specialized in nature, seasonal or an operating emergency.

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

In all cases, competitive bidding should be required unless only one source for product materials or services exist, and an operating emergency

c. Please comment on any existing abuses.

I am not aware of any circumstances where the bid process is or has been abused.

6. Would you support contracts for outside services with companies located outside of Cook County? Why or why not?

Preferably, I would like to see contracts for outside services go to companies within Cook County, but realistically that cannot always be the case, because of the nature of our operations. The reason I feel this way, is companies within the county support our tax base, and secondly, if something were to go wrong with their products or service that they are providing the MWRDGC, we would have immediate access to these suppliers.

7. Should MWRD tradespersons be paid the prevailing wage rate?

Yes, I believe District Tradespersons should be paid prevailing wages. Our trade's people are required to take civil services exams. These men and women are some of the finest crafts people and mechanics in their field.

8. Do you support patronage?

No, the Personnel Rules for the Classified Service of the MWRDGC were adopted on December 18, 1965. The purpose of the rules is to make effective the Statute providing for a merit system of personnel administration, and creating the Department of Personnel and the Civil Service Board. This is the reason we have such a professional staff. Each year we receive numerous awards for our treatment methodologies, financial planning, budgeting and reporting.

9. Do you support Affirmative Action?

Yes, this program ensures the full and equitable participation by minority, small and women's business enterprise in the performance of District construction contracts. In 1990, after the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in the City of Richmond v. Croson, the MWRDGC was the first major Cook County Government to adopt a revised affirmative action ordinance to withstand a court challenge. The District's methodology was chosen by the United States Environmental Protection Agency as an example of excellence for its availability assessment. The model was distributed nationwide to all USEPA grant recipients for their use.

10. Do you favor restructuring the wage scale of MWRD employees to correct disparities based on gender by instituting equal pay for jobs of comparable worth?

No, I do not favor restructuring the wage scale of the MWRDGC, because I do not believe there are any disparities based on gender. There are required job qualifications and a published pay scale for each position at the MWRDGC. As long as the qualifications are met, anyone is eligible to take the civil service exam regardless of gender. If you are hired off an eligibility list, the pay scale is the same for male or female

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

No, other than such entities as a school or library board, which are public services, rather than public sector entities.

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

No, It is would be a conflict of interest for any employee to have outside employment with any company that does business with the MWRDGC.

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

Yes, the District is in good financial condition. The District is not operating with a deficit. For years, the MWRDGC has had a long term strategy to reduce our work force through attrition rather than layoffs. For 2006, the District has reduced its employees by 37 positions. This has reduced the total tax levy by 1.1%. The Districts excellent bond ratings of AAA from Fitch, AAA from Moody's, and AA+ from Standard and Poors have given the District a goal, not only to maintain those ratings but to also establish comfortable margins within the various evaluation factors.

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

The District's criteria for any development of Lakefront and riverfront property are based on this factor; pollutants of any kind must not be allowed to enter any body of waterways.

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

The District has adopted a waterways strategy for its lands. First consideration for District owned canal property is present and future corporate need. In the event that temporary leasing is feasible the considerations are that fair market value be charged to maximize revenue for taxpayers. Also, a sixty-foot water's edge green space is included in the lease.

15. a. Do you support public access to the Chicago River and should access be a priority for the MWRD?

Absolutely, the Districts waterway strategy adopted more than 20 years ago and is constantly being revisited, emphasizes public access to waterways, and we encourage recreational use of the lands. Bicycle paths, walking paths, parks, canoe and boat launches on our land provides direct access to the waterways. Our sixty foot green space requirement beautifies the water's edge and will ultimately provide a trail along the waterway system.

b. Do you support the existing agreement between the district and the property owners on the North Branch of the Chicago River? **There is no agreement. Presently, these encroachments on MWRDGC and the taxpayer's property currently are in pending litigation. I am not at liberty to discuss this in any great detail.**

16. Are present systems for monitoring and eliminating water pollution from industrial and domestic waste adequate and appropriate? Please elaborate.

The District has a strong Sewage and Waste Ordinance and User Charge Ordinance, along with field surveillance employees equipped with automatic samples to closely monitor industrial discharges. As Chairperson of the Research and Development Committee in 1989, I introduced a resolution to set up a Pollution Hotline telephone number (800)-332-DUMP for the public to report any illegal activities near sewers and waterways. On average we receive about 500 complaints per year. The present systems for monitoring and elimination of industrial and domestic waste are manifested by the fact that the Districts bio-solids are rated for the highest possible recycling and re-use acceptable to USEPA requirements.

17. Should the MWRD assume responsibility for solid and other wastes in addition to its current responsibilities to prevent water pollution? If so, what should be the scope of the responsibility and how should it be exercised?

No, solid waste disposal and water reclamation have nothing in common since one has to do with garbage and the other waster water. The operations and the tax base of solid waste and sewage waste are incompatible and should remain separate. At present, the State of Illinois requires county government to develop a solid waste program. As a local unit of government, the District is an active participant in this program. The mandate given the District at its inception by the State legislature was to protect the drinking water supply and to keep the waterways navigable. It is our expertise and one that has, in this modern age of an exploding population, expanded to include flood control. I do not advocate broadening our area of responsibility to include solid waste disposal.

18. When will TARP be completed and will it adequately address flooding and pollution problems in Cook County?

In March, 2006, the last 8 miles of 109 miles tunnels will go into operation, completing the tunnel phase of the Tunnel and Reservoir Plan (TARP). In October, 1998, the O'Hare CUP Reservoir went on line, and has already pay dividends to the residents in that region with the prevention of pollution, flooded basements, businesses, and flooded roadways. Depending on funding coming out Washington D.C., the Thornton Reservoir (8 billion gallons capacity) is scheduled to come on line in 2014. The McCook Reservoir (10.5 billion gallon capacity) will come on line in phases. The first phase will be completed 2009, 3.5 billion gallons in storage, the second phase, 2015, another 3.5. billion gallons. The final phase is in 2021, with the final 3.5 billion gallons of storage. The TARP project is being constructed to capture the 428 combined sewer outfalls from the City of Chicago and 52 suburban communities. Since the first leg of the tunnel went in operation in 1985, 800 billion gallons of combined sewer overflow has been captured, that otherwise would have polluted the inland waterway system and Lake Michigan. The inland waterway system has made a complete turn around since the implementation of the tunnel. Today, sixty-eight (68) different species of fish are in the river system. Flooding in Chicago has decreased and as will the flooding and pollution in the areas that TARP will eventually service.

19. What precautions, if any, do you believe should be implemented to protect the environment surrounding the TARP waste water reservoirs?

Provisions are made covering all the needs and concerns of the communities being served as well as protecting the environment with all District construction projects. The steps implemented to protect the taxpayers and the environment around the TARP waste water reservoirs include physical barriers which are landscaped berms for the reduction and elimination of visual pollutants; continual maintenance of proper oxygen levels to prevent odor generation; cleaning of reservoirs after each storage event. Water surfaces in the reservoirs will generally be 75 feet below ground level to virtually eliminate the potential for aerosol dispersed from retained water surfaces. Monitoring of the ambient air around reservoirs and ground water in proximity to the reservoirs will assure that no migration of contaminants will occur.

FOR MORE INFORMATION LOG ON TO: www.terrencejobrienmwr.com