

To: IVI-IPO

From: Dean Maragos

Date: January 6, 2006

Re: Candidate Questionnaire Response

Attached is my response to the Candidate Questionnaire. I am also faxing a copy to your office. Thank you.

**IVI-IPO 2006 WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT QUESTIONNAIRE –
Section 1**

DATE January 6, 2006

PARTY: Democrat

NAME: Dean Maragos

VOTING ADDRESS: 230 Church Road, Winnetka, IL 60093

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CAMPAIGN MANAGER: Lloyd Betourney

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED: 19,300 **NUMBER REQUIRED:** 7,950

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

- A) Elective or appointive public or party offices previously held including dates.
- B) Other elective offices for which you have been a candidate.
- C) What is your primary occupation?
- D) Briefly list your civic activities of the past ten years.
- E) **What subjects have you studied and what experience have you had which will be most helpful to you in the office you seek?**
- F) What candidates have you supported? Please be specific in describing your role in each campaign.
- G) **Please list all endorsements you have received so far.**
- 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) What is your campaign budget? How much have you raised to date?
- J) How many people are on your campaign staff? How many volunteers are on your list?

IVI-IPO 2006 WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT QUESTIONNAIRE –

Section 2

1. Should Commissioners be elected at-large or by district?
2. Should cumulative voting be used to elect commissioners?
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?
4. Will you accept or have you accepted campaign donations from current or potential suppliers, employees or outside contractors?
5.
 - a. In what circumstances should the District contract for outside professional services?
 - b. In what circumstances should competitive bidding for contracts be required?
 - c. Please comment on any existing abuses.
6. Would you support contracts for outside services with companies located outside of Cook County? Why or why not?
7. Should MWRD tradespersons be paid the prevailing wage rate?
8. Do you support patronage?
9. Do you support Affirmative Action?
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?
11. Do you favor permitting MWRD employees to hold other public sector employment concurrently?
12. Do you favor permitting MWRD employees to have outside employment or contracts with entities which do business with the district?
13. Is the District in good financial condition? Please comment on both expenditures and sources of revenues.
14.
 - a. What should be the MWRD's role in policy on lakefront, riverfront and canal development?
 - b. What responsibility should it have for planning or monitoring such development?
15.
 - a. Do you support public access to the Chicago River and should access be a priority for the MWRD?
 - b. Do you support the existing agreement between the district and the property owners on the North Branch of the Chicago River?
16. Are present systems for monitoring and eliminating water pollution from industrial and domestic waste adequate and appropriate? Please elaborate.
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?

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

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

Section 1

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

None.

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

I was a candidate for Alderman of the 44th Ward, City of Chicago, February 2003.

C. What is your primary occupation?

Attorney and Accountant, Maragos and Maragos. My practice focuses on land use, public finances, corporate law, probate and municipal law.

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

Over the past ten years I have been active in the Hellenic Bar Association, I am a member of the Lakeview Citizens Council, a member of the Sierra Club and a member of the Friends of the River. I am an active volunteer at St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church, St. Andrews Church and St. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church. I am an active member of the 44th Award Democratic Organization, the New Trier Democratic Organization and I was appointed to serve as the attorney for the Chicago Greektown Special Service Area Tax Commission and am a member of the City of Chicago Community Development Advisory Committee and the Economic Development Subcommittee. I recently joined the steering committee for CeaseFire, the campaign to stop the shooting and Jason Foundation, a not-for-profit Suicide Prevention Educational Program.

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

I have a B.A. from DePauw University with a triple major in History, Philosophy and Political Science. I studied accounting at DePaul University in preparation for my CPA examination and I received my law degree from Northern Illinois University School of Law graduating Magna Cum Laude.

The experience that I have that will be most helpful to me in the office I seek, is that I previously worked as an attorney focusing on land use law at the MWRD and am familiar with the District and the important issues facing the Commissioners. I feel my legal land use background combined with my accounting experience will be very helpful to me if I

am elected as a Commissioner of the MWRD. At this time there are no attorneys or accountants serving as Commissioners, yet the MWRD deals with and will deal with complex legal and accounting issues. My legal and finance background will be invaluable.

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

I was introduced to politics by my father, the late Samuel Maragos. He served as a State Representative, State Senator and a Cook County Circuit Court Judge. I worked on every one of his political campaigns and on the other federal, state and local campaigns that took place during his elections. My activities for my dad's campaigns included going door to door, telephone banking and working at a polling place on election day. Candidates I have supported either financially or by volunteering on the campaign include Lisa Madigan for Attorney General, 2002; Paul Vallas for Governor, 2002; Barack Obama for US Senate, 2004; Dorothy Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court, 2000 and 2004; Jesse White, Secretary of State, 1998 and 2002; John Stroger, County Board President, 1994, 1998 and 2002; Mary Ann Smith, Alderman 48th Ward; Richard Daley, Mayor, 1989 through 2003 election; Carol Ronen for State Representative and State Senate; Gene Schuler, Alderman; and I have financially supported Tom Tunney, Alderman, 44th Ward.

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

To date I am pleased to have received endorsements from the following: SEIU State Council; Joint Council 25 of Teamsters; Teamsters Locals 705, 714 and 726; Electrical Workers Local 134; UFCW Local 881; Operating Engineers Local 399; Engineering Laborers Local 1092; Machinists and Aerospace Workers Local 126; United Transportation Union; Carpenters Local 181; Illinois Hispanic State Law Enforcement Association; and Hellenic American Police Association. The following individuals have endorsed my candidacy: Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White; Cook County Commissioners Roberto Maldonado and Joseph Moreno; Aldermen Thomas Tunney, Howard Brookins, Jr., Manny Flores, Daniel Solis, Eugene Schuler, Ariel Reboyras, Burt Natarus, Thomas Murphy, Patrick O'Connor, Carrie Austin, Representatives Cynthia Soto, John Fritchey, William Delgado; State Senators Iris Martinez and John Cullerton; Democratic Committeeman Frank Zuccarelli, Bernard Hansen, Eugene "Gene" Moore, Tom Sharpe, Joseph Berrios, Matt O'Shea and Randy Barnette; and former MWRD President Nicholas Melas.

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 should be endorsed over the other candidates based on my unique combination of working “hands on” at the District combined with my being the only land use expert seeking the office who also has an accounting and public finance background and experience. I previously used my land use background and dramatically increased the land values in Greektown and the Wrigleyville rooftops and it is this expertise I want to use my knowledge and experience to increase the value of the MWRD land. By increasing revenues we can hold the line on taxes and increase non-tax MWRD revenues. My government and finance experience allows me to understand government budgets, which I worked with extensively as an Assistant Director of Revenue for the City of Chicago in the 1980’s. I feel my land use, legal and finance experience distinguishes me from the other candidates seeking this office.

The goals for the office that are most important to me personally are to increase the land use non-tax revenues for the MWRD since it is the largest land owner in Cook County. I want to implement and support policies that protect our water supply and work to establish more natural uses of cleaning the water so we will better the quality of our drinking water without raising MWRD property taxes. I feel the implementation of regional planning with other government agencies will be important to keep costs down and to avoid duplication of efforts and limited resources. The water filtration and plants must be protected and I will work to ensure that the MWRD’s facilities and operations are as safe as they possibly can be to outside threats such as terrorism. Finally, I will make it a priority to protect the prevailing wage and to create and enforce a Code of Ethics that allows all MWRD employees to be treated fairly and with dignity.

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

My campaign budget is \$400,000 dollars and I have raised approximately \$200,000 dollars to date.

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

I have 5 part time paid staff members and several hundred volunteers.

Section II

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

I believe Commissioners should continue to be elected at-large. Electing Commissioners from geographical districts risks individual Commissioners focusing only on the needs of their district and voters at the expense of taking the necessary, comprehensive actions that will best serve all of the constituents countywide. With the new \$25 million Storm Water Management bill, the MWRD Commissioners are responsible for distribution of money to all districts and must listen and assist all of Cook County equally. At-large elections also provide a safe guard against politically powerful geographic areas from dominating the Board of Commissioners and the MWRD agenda.

2. Should cumulative voting be used to elect commissioners?

No, I do not feel cumulative voting should be used to elect commissioners because every voter casts three votes for three commissioners under the current system and I feel this accomplishes the same end that cumulative voting would strive to achieve. Under the current system if a voter wants to vote for only one or two candidates he/she may do so.

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?

I do not have a business relationship with any entity doing business with the MWRD or any other governmental body in Cook County.

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

I have not accepted, nor will I accept, campaign donations from current or potential suppliers of the District or its employees.

- 5. a. In what circumstances should the District contract for outside professional services?**
b. In what circumstances should competitive bidding for contracts be required?
c. Please comment on any existing abuses.

I believe the District should contract for outside services only when its own staffing availability and expertise cannot best provide for the services required and there is a clear material monetary benefit to the MWRD. One case example might be in the instance of legal services. There is the potential for the District to need representation in order to defend itself where its own legal staff either does not have the resources or expertise to adequately represent the District, and in this situation it might make sense to contract out

for these expert services. However, outside professional service contracts should be a last resort.

I feel strongly that all contracts for outside services should be competitively bid unless the need for outside professional services is so unique that only one entity can provide it.

I feel that when awarding contracts it is critical that appropriate safeguards are in place to protect the public. Currently, the MWRD does a better job of this than other government entities, but all contracts should be designed to include sufficient representation of true MBE and WBE contractors.

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

I would support contracts for outside services with companies located outside of Cook County ONLY and ONLY IF no Cook County company was able to provide the service. In all situations, I feel Cook County businesses should be awarded the contracts because the people of Cook County are paying the bills.

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

Yes. I believe tradespersons should be paid the prevailing wage rate. It is the law and it must be enforced.

8. Do you support patronage?

No, I do not support patronage.

9. Do you support Affirmative Action?

Yes, I strongly support affirmative action.

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?

Yes, I favor restructuring the wage scale of MWRD employees to correct disparities based on gender by instituting equal pay for jobs of comparable worth. I feel this is long overdue and should be the way employee pay is handled everywhere not just at the MWRD.

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

No, MWRD employees should not hold other public sector employment concurrently. I am not opposed, however, to MWRD employees who are active in public service in their community, such as school or library board and community counsel involvement or other non-paid volunteer activities.

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

No, I do not favor permitting MWRD employees to have outside employment or contracts with entities which do business with the District.

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

I believe the MWRD is in good financial condition. They are proposing in the 2006 budget to lower property taxes which I wholeheartedly support. However, I am concerned about the increases in short-term debt, unfunded liabilities, the decrease in pension fund ratio and the investment rate of return. I am also concerned that the MWRD is not using alternative service delivery systems and it is imperative that we increase non-property tax revenues. I am also concerned about the increasing health care and pension fund costs to the District and the impact this will have on their financial condition.

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

I believe the MWRD should take a leading role in any lakefront, riverfront and canal development. The MWRD should give first priority to public-use development, such as parks and nature conservatories. To the extent the MWRD leases its land for corporate or residential use, it must do so in a manner that ensures that no pollutants or toxins be discharged into the canalways. The MWRD should also be increasing non-property tax revenues through private recreational and commercial environmentally safe uses that will increase the public access to the Riverfront.

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

I believe the MWRD should work with other municipalities in striving to dedicate as much of its useable land to public use. When it comes to private use and development, the MWRD must be the primary watchdog to ensure that the land is being used in an environmentally responsible manner.

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

Yes, I support public access to the Chicago River and I feel it should be a priority for the MWRD. The Chicago River has long suffered from a reputation of being dirty and unclean. The MWRD has done an excellent job of cleaning up the Chicago River. Canoe launches, such as the ones on the North Branch at Addison and at Oakton, are prime examples of what the MWRD should do in order to allow public access to the Chicago River in an environmentally conscious manner. I would further increase recreational and commercial environmentally safe uses as stated above in 14A.

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

I support equal access to the river for the general public in all future use and I supported the Senior Citizens Exemption to fees imposed on homeowners due to the fact many seniors live on fixed incomes. Regarding the Agreement, it is currently the subject of litigation and I feel any further opinion is inappropriate at this time.

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

Yes, I feel the present systems are adequate and appropriate because the MWRD's monitoring of industrial and domestic waste discharge and monitoring of water quality meets or exceeds EPA standards. However, the MWRD must remain vigilant in responding to the EPA's move towards increased quality of bio-solids that are ultimately used as fertilizer.

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?

I do not feel the MWRD should assume responsibility for solid and other wastes in addition to its current responsibilities to prevent water pollution. The MWRD's current focus is to protect the drinking water supply and to ensure the management of rain water

and flood control. These responsibilities are more than enough to keep the MWRD busy and focused. I do not see how, what would essentially amount to doubling the MWRD's responsibilities with respect to waste, would improve its efficiency and overall service especially under the current budget restrictions.

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

The drilling for TARP was completed in December 2003 and the anticipated date for completion for building renovation is 2017.

I believe, however, that to adequately address flooding and pollution problems in Cook County the MWRD must work in conjunction with the City of Chicago Department of Water Management as well as with Cook County and other local municipalities, including the Collar Counties. Joint efforts of the government entities in an education program designed at informing individual citizens of how they can help prevent flooding is one example of necessary programs. Also, the disconnecting of downspouts is critical in this process, as is the use of asphalt material that allows for "porous" alleyways, that will absorb water in a sponge-like fashion, as opposed to the water going directly into sewers. Issues such as these must be looked at very seriously and in a regional, comprehensive approach.

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

I believe an analysis of safe oxygen levels and the prevention of odor generation is critical. To accomplish this, the MWRD must maintain a rigorous monitoring of ambient air around reservoirs and ground water to ensure that no contaminants will pollute the water supply. Additionally, landscape berms around plants and reservoirs will reduce visual pollutants.