

IVI-IPO 2006 WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 1

DATE: January 1, 2006

PARTY: Democratic

NAME: Debra Shore

VOTING ADDRESS: 9232 Avers Avenue, Evanston, IL 60203

HOME PHONE: (847) 677-2472

BUSINESS PHONE: (847) 965-9275

CAMPAIGN ADDRESS: P.O. Box 4674, Skokie, IL 60077

CAMPAIGN PHONE: (847) 922-0622

FAX: (847) 937-2561

EMAIL: debra@debrashore.org

WEBSITE: www.debrashore.org

CAMPAIGN MANAGER: David Cooling

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED: 20,194 NUMBER REQUIRED: 7,996

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

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

To date, I have never held public office.

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

I was slated to be a delegate to the Democratic National Convention (2004) for Howard Dean from IL-9th CD.

C) What is your primary occupation?

Editor and publisher, *Chicago WILDERNESS* Magazine and Director of Development, Chicago Wilderness

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

Since the early 1990's, I have been an active volunteer in the efforts to restore habitat in the Cook County forest preserves. This work led me to become an advocate for better management of our public lands in Cook County, meeting with members of the Forest Preserve Board, testifying at budget hearings, and helping to found a group called Friends of the Forest Preserves. In 1997, Cook County Commissioner Cal Sutker appointed me to serve on Cook County Board President John Stroger's Community Advisory Council on Land Management (on which I continue to serve, having been reappointed by Commissioner Larry Suffredin). I was also appointed to the board of the Illinois Environmental Council and serve as vice-president of the board of the Council for US Landcare Initiatives.

In 2004-05, I served on the board of IVI-IPO for one term. I am also a board member of the Democratic Party of Evanston.

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 longtime volunteer engaged in habitat restoration in the Cook County forest preserves, I have firsthand knowledge of the natural communities of this region -- the woods, waters, and wetlands. As a leader in the regional conservation consortium called Chicago Wilderness, I have a broad perspective on the issues and challenges facing the greater Chicago metropolitan area with respect to water quality and supply, natural resource protection, and biodiversity conservation. Chicago Wilderness operates on a model of consensus decision-making, so I know how to

take the time to build a constituency of support for a particular program or policy and to listen to and value differing views. I know many of the conservation leaders in the Chicago area, as well as many of the planners working to develop sustainable communities here.

Second, I have experience, as an investigator for eight years with the Better Government Association, rooting out waste and corruption in government and pushing for transparency and accountability in budgeting and contracting.

I know how to conduct research on government agencies and use the Freedom of Information Act to obtain public documents.

As a longtime journalist and freelance writer, I know how to ask questions and not feel embarrassed if I don't know all the answers.

My experience as a member of President Stroger's Community Advisory Council has afforded me an opportunity to work with a diverse group of community members from throughout Cook County and to work toward reaching agreement. It has taught me the important of exerting leadership on sometimes-contentious land management issues and of basing public policy decisions on sound science.

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

Brian McPartlin – candidate for Cook County Board of Commissioners (2002)

I donated money and canvassed neighborhoods for Brian's campaign.

Forrest Claypool – candidate for Cook County Board of Commissioners (2002)

I contributed to Forrest's campaign, canvassed neighborhoods, wrote more than 100 letters to people in his district urging them to vote for him, and worked all day on primary Election Day passing palm cards outside the Latvian Community Center in Chicago.

Howard Dean – candidate for Democratic nomination for President (2003-04)

I attended the first Meetup in Evanston in March 2003 and became a co-host of the Evanston Meetups; hosted house parties (2) to raise money for Dean's campaign; passed out flyers at farmer's markets; wrote letters to voters in New Hampshire and Iowa; served on the host committee for several Chicago fundraisers; contributed money; advocated on Dean's behalf at several endorsement sessions; marched in several parades with a Howard Dean group; was slated as a delegate for Dean from Illinois' 9th Congressional District; traveled to Iowa twice (Keokuk and Davenport) to canvas for Dean; traveled to Wisconsin to canvas and phone bank for Dean.

Melissa Bean – candidate for US House of Representatives from IL 8th Congressional District (2003-2004)

I contributed funds to Bean and co-hosted a fundraiser for her campaign; canvassed neighborhoods several times in her district; worked on Election Day November 2004 passing out palm cards in Wonder Lake.

Barack Obama – candidate for US Senate from Illinois (2003-04)

I contributed funds to Obama's campaign and helped to organize and co-host a fundraiser for him in Evanston in September 2004 (raised more than \$40,000); canvassed on his behalf in Evanston; made phone calls to get out the vote on primary election day 2004.

John Kerry – Democratic candidate for President 2004

I contributed money to Kerry's campaign and did some phone banking on his behalf.

I have contributed funds to many other candidates at the federal, state, and county level, including (but not limited to) Jan Schakowsky, Dick Durbin, Jeff Schoenberg, Elaine Nekritz, Julie Hamos, Susan Garrett, Bobbie Steele, Larry Suffredin, Mike Quigley, Tom Tunney, Tom Daschle, and others.

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

Sierra Club, Illinois Chapter (<http://illinois.sierraclub.org/vote/index2.html>) -- the first time the Sierra Club has endorsed in the MWRD race in nearly 20 years

The Victory Fund (see <http://victoryfund.org/index.php>) – a national group devoted to supporting gay and lesbian candidates for public office

Democracy for America: Edgewater/Rogers Park DFA and Quenchers DFA groups

List of elected officials supporting Debra Shore for Metropolitan Water Reclamation District:

Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky
Congresswoman Melissa Bean
Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr.

Cook County Commissioner Larry Suffredin
Cook County Commissioner Mike Quigley
Cook County Commissioner Bobbie Steele
State Senator and Evanston Township Committeeman Jeff Schoenberg
State Senator Carol Ronen
State Senator Susan Garrett
State Representative Julie Hamos
State Representative Elaine Nekritz
State Representative Sara Feigenholtz
State Representative Larry McKeon
State Representative Kathy Ryg
State Representative Karen May
Evanston Mayor Lorraine Morton
Chicago Alderman Ric Munoz
Chicago Alderman Joe Moore
Chicago Alderman Tom Tunney
Northfield Township Committeeman Mike Krelloff
Wheeling Township Committeeman Pat Botterman
Palatine Township Committeeman Sue Walton
Former Commissioner of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Joanne Alter

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 believe I am uniquely qualified to serve on the board of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District.

First and foremost, I am the only candidate with a conservation background. As a longtime volunteer engaged in habitat restoration in the Cook County forest preserves, I have firsthand knowledge of the natural communities of this region -- the woods, waters, and wetlands. As a leader in the regional conservation consortium called Chicago Wilderness, I have a broad perspective on the issues and challenges facing the greater Chicago metropolitan area with respect to water quality and supply, natural resource protection, and biodiversity conservation.

Moreover, no other candidate is poised to engage as many different constituencies as I am. I have support from the conservation community, the Jewish community, the gay and lesbian community, progressive Democrats, elected officials, and women throughout the county.

And I believe I represent the progressive ideals and values that IVI-IPO has fought for since its founding.

I'm running for commissioner because I want to help the District become a leader in education about water. I want to see the District promote innovative policies for water conservation and demonstrate best practices at its facilities and on its lands for water conservation. The District is a vitally important — and altogether overlooked — public agency. With an annual budget of more than \$800 million it deserves more scrutiny. Its responsibility to treat wastewater and to manage storm water for the five million residents and many industries in Cook County makes it essential to our quality of life. Yet few people know what the agency does and how it uses public money. In the next 20 years or so we will find substitutes for fossil fuels, especially oil, but there are no substitutes for fresh water. The eyes of the nation and of the world will be upon those of us who live in the Great Lakes cities, looking to see if we are wasteful with this precious resource or not. I believe we cannot be merely users or abusers of natural resources. We must be caring stewards.

That's why I hope to see the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District claim its proper role as the leading agency with regard to water conservation and education about water quality and supply in this region. It should be a leader in adopting best practices with respect to managing stormwater runoff and promoting a variety of means to keep more fresh water here in the Lake Michigan basin. The District should be more transparent about its operations and budgeting and be more accountable to the public.

I would also like to see the District conduct a study of manufacturing and business potential for products and services consonant with the District's mission; produce a job development plan involving public/private partnership and potential use of District land to foster businesses and industry in Cook County and demonstrate how MWRD purchasing could drive a market for such products and services (examples include manufacture of permeable paving and paving bricks, cisterns, rain barrels, low-flow toilets, green roof installation).

I would like to work to decrease no-bid contracts; to ensure that bonding and banking are done with local financial institutions, not sent out of state; and introduce a requirement that bidders describe HOW they will get work done (we tend to pay for mechanization rather than employment – we need to develop incentives for employing people rather than machines).

Finally, I'd like to examine ways to contain health insurance costs, possibly through joint purchases with other government agencies of employee prescription drugs (this has produced significant savings for the city of Chicago, Cook County, and the Chicago Park District already).

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

My campaign budget is \$300,000. To date, we have raised \$150,00, and have more than \$100,000 cash on hand.

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

As of today, I have a campaign staff of three, a Campaign Manager, a Deputy Campaign Manager and a Finance Director. Pete Giangreco of The Strategy Group is a consultant for political strategy and direct mail.

More than 270 volunteers circulated petitions to help me get on the ballot and we have more than 300 volunteers who have signed up with help with my campaign.

IVI-IPO 2006 WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 2

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

Electing Commissioners by district would promote accountability on the part of MWRD commissioners,

would promote greater minority representation, and would foster a deeper connection between commissioners and residents of their districts. I would support commissioners being elected by districts.

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?

To the best of my knowledge, I have no business relationship or financial interest with any entity that does business with either the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District or any governmental bodies in Cook County.

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

To the best of my knowledge, I have not accepted campaign donations from any current or potential suppliers, employees or outside contractors.

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

When it does not have the expertise in house to perform a task or needs additional help in doing so.

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

Competitive bidding should be required in almost all cases, except when only one vendor exists for a particular task or product.

c. Please comment on any existing abuses.

The best way to address abuses is to prevent them from happening in the first place through competitive bidding and adequate oversight per a. and b. above.

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

Only if no companies within Cook County can perform the services or if the costs are significantly higher from companies in Cook County.

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

8. Do you support patronage? **No.**

9. Do you support Affirmative Action? **Yes. In many cases it has been an important mechanism to rectify past wrongs.**

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?

I'd have to see the exact proposal, but basically yes.

11. Do you favor permitting MWRD employees to hold other public sector employment concurrently? **No.**

12. Do you favor permitting MWRD employees to have outside employment or contracts with entities which do business with the district? **No.**

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 MWRD is one of the few public agencies with a AAA bond rating, testifying to sound financial management. The Civic Federation has supported the District's budgets in the past and praised the District's proposed 2006 budget for the following reasons:

- The District has reduced the gross property tax levy by 1.1% (or \$4.4 million dollars)
- The District has streamlined personnel, reducing the staff by 36 positions through retirements
- The District has begun requiring employees to contribute more to the costs of their health insurance, staggering these increases over time to make them more manageable.

The District should complete the Deep Tunnel project. Yet funding for its completion may be in jeopardy as large federal grants may be a thing of the past. The District needs to build a much more diverse and broad constituency of support for its work to help secure funding in the federal arena. The District has proceeded cautiously in its new responsibilities for stormwater management for Cook County and has been careful with its expenditures for that purpose. This is commendable.

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

Along the lakefront, the role of the District should be to ensure water quality so that drinking water is protected and future beach closings and swimming bans become a thing of the past. On riverfront and canal development, the District must ensure that any development enhances water quality rather than degrades it. Incentives could be developed by the District to promote use of best practices for stormwater management, habitat restoration, landscaping and so forth. Plans should include public access, where appropriate, and should first and foremost protect the public interest.

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

The District should assume primary responsibility for monitoring development on its own lands and should require best practices for any developments with respect to stormwater management, protection and restoration of habitat, public access and so forth. The District can also provide information for its service communities to better plan development within their jurisdictions, which in the long-run will make the best use of District infrastructure, operations, and taxpayer dollars.

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

I support public access to the Chicago River, where appropriate for recreational purposes. The District should adopt innovative ways to reduce District (and therefore taxpayer) liability, such as through land leases to service jurisdictions, park districts, and other local units of government.

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

I have not seen the existing agreement between the property owners and the District. I am aware of a dispute between present day homeowners with property between Lawrence and Montrose and the District over the issue of construction, use, maintenance and repair of docks and other structures and a lawsuit stemming from this dispute. As I understand it, the District has legitimate concerns about liability and must protect its (and the taxpayers') interests in this regard. However, I believe there may be ways to resolve the issue of liability, to establish reasonable standards for any structures, and to resolve the dispute. Moreover, I believe the District could treat property owners as emissaries, enlisting them in helping the District to fulfill its mission (by undertaking habitat restoration along the riverbanks and serving as stewards, for example, or by agreeing to further the District's education goals by speaking at schools, churches, community groups, etc.) rather than treating them as adversaries.

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

The District has made important strides toward protecting water quality over the past several decades, but we can do better. For example, 23 other major cities in the United States disinfect their wastewater discharges. The MWRD does not. This puts public and aquatic health at risk from pathogens, viruses, and other disease-causing microbes.

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?

The District should stay focused on water pollution primarily because we still have work to do in this area. For example, I support eliminating phosphates from automatic dishwashing detergent, which is a source of water pollution. By banning these kinds of agents on the “front end” of the process, that is before they even enter the waste stream, we save District treatment costs—and therefore taxpayer money—on the “back end” as part of the wastewater treatment process. Reducing phosphates will markedly improve the health of our aquatic ecosystems.

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

The tunnel portion of TARP is scheduled to be completed in March 2006; the reservoir portion will not be completed until 2012 and then only if funds are made available. Even when the full TARP system is completed, I do not believe that it will adequately or fully address flooding and pollution problems in Cook County.

To save taxpayers money by making the best possible use of TARP, we should ban certain pollutants that go into the system, thereby costing taxpayers money (such as phosphates mentioned above) and undertake water conservation measures (after all, if we conserve water in our homes and businesses, that’s less pollution and wastewater we as taxpayers have to pay to treat).

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

The District should undertake habitat restoration as “green infrastructure” around District waterways and TARP reservoirs. This is a good stewardship practice and will help reduce the amount of wastewater—and therefore taxpayer expense—that the District must treat.