

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

DATE January 12, 2006 PARTY: Democratic

NAME: Lewis W. Powell, III

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CAMPAIGN MANAGER: Al Kindle

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED: 19,000 approx. NUMBER REQUIRED: 7,969

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

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

None

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

**Commissioner Of The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Of Greater Of Chicago**

C) What is your primary occupation?

**Attorney & Adjunct Law School Professor**

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

- **President, Cook County Bar Association, 1994-1995**
- **General Counsel, Cook County Bar Association, 1999-2001**
- **Chicago Bar Association, Board of Managers, 2001- 2003**
- **Board Member, Metropolitan Housing Development Corporation (Not For Profit, 501 (c) (3) Affordable Housing Organization), 1999-Present**
- **Board Member, South Side Help Center (Not for Profit, 501 (c) (3) Health Organization), 1996-Present and Chairman of the Board of Directors, 2003 - Present**
- **Board Member, Rebecca Crown Youth Center, 1996-Present**
- **Board Member, Cook County Legal Assistance Foundation, 1993-2000**
- **General Counsel, Teens N Transition, (Not For Profit 501 (c) (3) Youth Organization), 2001-Present**
- **Corporate Counsel, The Austin African American Business Networking Association, 2003 – Present**
- **Board Member, Center For Conflict Resolution, 2003-Present**
- **General Counsel/Board Member, Euclid Park Advisory Council, 2003-Present**
- **Board Member, Institute For Positive Living & Advisory Board Of Open Book Program, 2003-Present**
- **Vice-President/Board Member, Economic Development Association Of South Suburban Cook County, 2004-Present**

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

**I have a Masters of Public Affairs, with an Emphasis on Urban Management. I have ten years experience in working for governmental agencies such as the Village of Streamwood, Village of Robbins, City of Chicago, and Chicago Housing Authority. My experience in Contract Administration, City Planning and Economic Development will be asset to me as a Commissioner**

**In addition, I have taken an Real Estate Environmental Class In The Real Estate LLM Program At The John Marshall Law School**

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

**I have been active in the Campaign of Alderman Toni Preckwinkle, Alderman Leslie Hairston and Alderman Freddrenna M. Lyle. I have contributed money and have been active as a volunteer**

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

**Alderman Toni Preckwinkle 4<sup>th</sup> Ward, Alderman Leslie Hairston 5<sup>th</sup> Ward, Alderman Freddrenna M. Lyle 6<sup>th</sup> Ward, Alderman Anthony Beale 9<sup>th</sup> Ward, Alderman Theodore (Ted) Thomas 15<sup>th</sup> Ward, Alderman Thomas Murphy 18<sup>th</sup> Ward, Alderman Howard Brookins Jr. 21<sup>st</sup> Ward, Alderman Michael D. Chandler 24<sup>th</sup> Ward, Alderman Carrie M. Austin 34<sup>th</sup> Ward, and Alderman Emma Mitts 37<sup>th</sup> Ward.**

**Former Alderman Wilson Frost 34<sup>th</sup> Ward, Former Alderman Leonard DeVille 21<sup>st</sup> Ward, State Representative Monique Davis 27<sup>th</sup> District, Eugene Moore Committeeman Proviso Township, Mayor Keevan Grimmet, Representative Constance Howard, Calvin Jones Commissioner, Senator Kwame Raoul, Commissioner Larry R. Rogers, Jr., Commissioner Debra Simms, Commissioner Bobbie Steele, Alderman Arenda Troutman, Representative Art Turner, Mayor Dwight Welch**

- 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 I should be endorsed because my work experience of over twenty years has been in both the private and public sector gives me the advantage in knowing how government works as well as running a business. My goals for the office would be to continue the efforts for the completion of the Tunnel and Reservoir Plan (TARP). Also I would encourage a coordination of efforts where possible in the suburban area for a separated sewer system, one where rainfall flows into a separate storm water system rather than mixing with sewage. In addition, I would want more storm water reservoirs built throughout the Cook County area.**

**Please note that I will push for more federal funding for the purpose of more storm water reservoirs.**

**In addition, I advocate that the MWRD participate and coordinate MWRD their efforts more with other State and Federal Agencies in the conservation and cleanup of the State waterways, lakes, rivers, etc...**

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

**My campaign budget is \$80,000.00. I have raised \$30,331**

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

**I have five people on my staff. I have approximately one hundred volunteers on my list.**

## IVI-IPO 2006 WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 2

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

**By District**

2. Should cumulative voting be used to elect commissioners?

**No**

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?

**To the best of my knowledge I have not accepted a donation from a current or potential suppliers, employees or outside contractors.**

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

The District should Contract for outside professional services when it is more cost efficient for the services to performed by an outside service rather than in house.

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

**Competitive Bidding should be used as most as possible. Sole Source Bidding should be limited**

c. Please comment on any existing abuses.

**I am not aware of any abuses at this time. However, I will continue to talk to employees to determine what if any abuses exist.**

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

**I would only support contracts for outside services with companies located outside of Cook County, only as a last resort when a appropriate company that is needed can not be found 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?

**No**

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**

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.

**The district appears to be in a good financial position. The district's net assets totaled \$2,575,676.00 as of December 2004, which represents the amount the District's assets exceed it's liabilities**

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

**The MWRD must be a part of decision making process in the development of policy on Lakefront, Riverfront and Canal Development. The Chicago public lakefront is a treasured asset of our community and should continue to remain forever clear of commercial buildings and the development of residential units should be limited. In regards to the riverfront I am in favor of Mayor Daley proposed plans for commercial development similar to the City of San Antonio Texas**

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

**The responsibility of the District should include planning or monitoring in areas of pollution and flood control.**

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 access should 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?

**I support the agreement provided that it protects the public interest in regards to access and safety**

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

**No, it has recently come to my attention that there is a possible problem of disposal of drug pharmaceutical products in our sewer system**

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**

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

**Terrence J. O'Brien, President of the Board of Commissioner's has announced that the District's 109.4-mile Deep Tunnel is nearing completion, Mining work is finished on the 7.9 mile Little Calumet Leg of the Deep Tunnel System. Final connections are estimated to be completed in February or March 2006. The tunnel is 15' in diameter, lined with concrete and is located at a depth of 150-300 feet below ground in limestone rock.**

**The residents of the communities of Dixmoor, Riverdale, Harvey, Phoenix, Dolton, South Holland Calumet City and Lansing will benefit because polluted stormwater will go into the tunnel rather than into the Little Calumet River. Eventually, all the captured stormwater will flow by gravity to the Thornton Reservoir, and then will be pumped to to the Calumet Water Reclamation Plant for treatment. Capturing combined sewer overflows will keep the waterways healthy and reduced flooding in the area."**

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

**The standards or precaution utilized by both the Federal and State Environmental Protection Agencies.**