Gov. Bruce Rauner recently appointed David J. Walsh as a commissioner of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. The appointment fills the vacancy of former Commissioner Patrick Daley Thompson, who was elected earlier this year to serve as alderman of Chicago’s 11th Ward.

Since 2011, Walsh has worked as head of business development at Mark J. Walsh & Company, a Chicago-based commodities trading advisor. A resident of the western suburbs, Walsh was born in Chicago. He earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1985. While there, he served as an elected member of the faculty-student senate.

After graduation, he served three terms as a director of the University of Illinois Alumni Board. In 2000 he successfully completed the General Management Executive Education program at the Harvard University School of Business in Boston, Mass.