

LWVCC TESTIMONY FOR THE MARCH 31 MWRD SPECIAL STUDY SESSION.

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
100 East Erie Street
Chicago, IL 60611

RE: Establishment of the Office of an Independent Inspector General – MWRD

I am Nancy Marcus, Co-President of the League of Women Voters of Cook County. The league recently sent the following letter to all the members of the Board in support of the creation of an independent Inspector General.

The League of Women Voters of Cook County fully supports the creation of an independent Inspector General position.

We would urge the Board of Commissioners to review other ordinance models, including Cook County's Ordinance ([Chapter 2, Article IV, Division 5, Section 2-281 through 2-293](#) of Cook County's Municipal Code) to ensure that the office has the authority, independence, resources, and tools that it will need. The Office should be authorized to detect, deter, and prevent corruption, fraud, waste, mismanagement, unlawful political discrimination, and misconduct in the

operation of the District, including the actions and activities of the Board of Commissioners.

The District has earned well-deserved recognition for its work and management expertise across the state and country.

However, it must also adhere to the expectation for large government entities (those with a \$1 billion budget and more than 1,900 employees) that employees and the public have a recourse for concerns that may not be able to be dealt with through other channels. The citizens of the District need the Board of Commissioners to exercise its authority and responsibility as our elected representatives—the time is now to create and fully support an *independent* Inspector General Office for the MWRD.