

TESTIMONY FOR THE APRIL 18, 2019 MWRD BOARD MEETING

**VOTE TO ADOPT AN INSPECTOR GENERAL ORDINANCE - AND –
VOTE TO APPROVE A PURCHASE ORDER WITH COOK COUNTY FOR AN
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT THAT WILL BEGIN THE OVERSIGHT AND
HIRING PROCESS**

Good morning. I am Diane Edmundson, Director of the League of Women Voters of Cook County and coordinator of the League's MWRD Observer Corp.

The League last spoke before you at your May 2017 Study Session to strongly support the creation of an Inspector General function for the District. And although it has been a long road to get to this day, the League commends the Commissioners and staff for your persistence and commitment to bring a professional, respected, and independent Inspector General operation to the District.

The League urges that, **TODAY**, you adopt the necessary Ordinance that will govern the operation of the MWRD's Inspector General function - and approve the Purchase Order with Cook County covering the inter-governmental agreement that will begin the oversight and hiring process.

While the League has stated our preference for a stand-alone Inspector General office for the MWRD (and we continue to believe that this is the best long-term option), we hope that the District will take advantage of the highly respected Cook County Inspector General's oversight for at least two years. This will give the new staff time to gain experience, establish district-wide coverage, and install mandated reporting requirements.

League of Women Voters of Cook County
Co-Presidents: Peggy Kell and Nancy Marcus