



The League of Women Voters of Cook County

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August 18, 2017

Mariyana T. Spyropoulos, President
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

The League of Women Voters of Cook County fully supports the creation of an independent Inspector General position and looks forward to offering public testimony at the District's August 31, 2017, Study Session.

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 dollar 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.

Sincerely yours,

Peggy Kell, Co-President
Nancy Marcus, Co-President

CC: Commissioners: Frank Avila, Timothy Bradford, Martin Durkan, Barbara McGowan,
Josina Morita, Debra Shore, Kari Steele, David Walsh

Exec. Director: David St. Pierre