

**TESTIMONY OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COOK COUNTY  
RE: 19-2242, HEARING OF THE LITIGATION SUBCOMMITTEE  
TO DISCUSS THE STATUS OF *SHAKMAN* COMPLIANCE  
APRIL 23, 2019**

My name is Karin Hribar. I am Vice President of the League of Women Voters of Cook County. I am here in support of the Litigation Subcommittee holding this hearing to discuss the status of the *Shakman* compliance in the Offices of the Assessor, Clerk of the Court, and Recorder of Deeds. The *Shakman* cases require that political considerations not affect decisions regarding the hiring, firing, promotion, demotion, and salaries of all but a handful of “exempt” employees.

Yesterday, the League sent the members of this Subcommittee a short overview of each of the latest reports by the court-appointed administrators for these offices, along with some suggested questions for the administrators and for the representatives of these offices. We hope you have had the opportunity to review this material and will ask these questions today.

The Clerk of the Court has only had a court-appointed administrator since August of 2018. However, it is surprising at how much the administrator has identified must be done in this office given that all of Cook County government has been subject to the requirements of *Shakman* for so many years. There apparently has not even been any training regarding *Shakman* in this office.

There has been a court-appointed administrator for the Assessor’s office since 2012. Sadly, this office did little to come into compliance until 2017. There is much left to be done.

The office of the Recorder of Deeds has had a court-appointed administrator since 2010. Again, however, progress in coming into compliance did not begin in earnest until 2017. There is still much to be done. The League is very concerned about what might result should this office not achieve substantial compliance by December 2020, when this office is to be merged into the office of the County Clerk.

The League hopes this Subcommittee and the Board as a whole will provide the necessary encouragement to these three offices to take the necessary steps to come into substantial compliance sooner rather than later. Having regular hearings of this kind is one way to provide such encouragement.