

Barbara J. McGowan
Commissioner

Commissioner Barbara McGowan was first elected Commissioner of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District in 1998. She is the Chairman of the Purchasing Committee and the Affirmative Action Committee.

Commissioner McGowan is a life long Democrat and has worked on several local and national Democratic political campaigns. She served as the Office Manager of the Political Education Project (PEP) created by the late Mayor Harold Washington; Assistant to the Deputy Executive Director at the Chicago Housing Authority; and functioned as an Assistant to a Commissioner at the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District. She was elected as a delegate to the 1996 Democratic Convention and was also a delegate to the 2000 Democratic Convention. Commissioner McGowan continues to serve as an advocate for all the citizens of Cook County by working with the Board of Commissioners to ensure that the District's Tunnel and Reservoir Project (TARP) is completed.

As Chairman of the Affirmative Action Committee, Commissioner McGowan has been very active in ensuring that minority and women contractors have an opportunity to perform work on District construction contracts and are treated fairly. With the support of the Board of Commissioners, she took the lead in introducing changes to the District's MBE/WBE Affirmative Action Ordinance to include penalties for contractor's that violate the ordinance.