



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Board of Commissioners

Barbara J. McGowan Vice President

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Vice President Barbara McGowan has served as a MWRD Commissioner since 1998. She was the first African American Vice President at the MWRD, and she served as the first interim African American female President in December 2012 and December 2014. She is the Chairman of the Affirmative Action Committee and the Procurement Committee. She is also Vice Chairman of the Public Information and Education Committee and the Real Estate Development Committee.

As Chairman of the Affirmative Action Committee, Vice President McGowan has been active in ensuring that minority and women contractors have an opportunity to perform work on MWRD contracts and are treated fairly. With the support of the Board of Commissioners, she took the lead in introducing changes to the MWRD's MBE/WBE Affirmative Action Ordinance to include penalties for contractors that violate the ordinance. Vice President McGowan initiated the banking partnership with GN Bank (formerly ISF Bank) where the District has \$4 million on deposit to aid its efforts to invest in the community and economic development in Chicago neighborhoods. She also took the lead on investing certificates of deposits with local African American community banks.

Vice President McGowan is a lifelong Democrat and has worked on several local and national Democratic political campaigns. She served as the Office Manager of the Political Education Project created by the late Mayor Harold Washington; Assistant to the Deputy Executive Director at the Chicago Housing Authority; and she worked as an Assistant to a Commissioner at the MWRD.

MWRD Committees

Chairman

*Affirmative Action
Procurement*

Vice Chairman

*Public Information & Education
Real Estate Development*

Vice President McGowan was elected as a delegate to the 1996 Democratic Convention and was a delegate to the 2000 Democratic Convention. Vice President 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 MWRD's Tunnel and Reservoir Plan is completed.

Commissioner McGowan has been recognized for her exemplary support and commitment to the minority, women, and small business community and has been honored and received numerous awards including: Cook County Democratic Women HERO Award; Austin Chamber of Commerce Better Business Award; Chicago Park District Teen Leadership Outstanding Volunteer Award; the 2005 & 2009 Westside Ministers Coalition Outstanding Service in the Community Award; the 2006 Public Service Award by the Federation of Women Contractors; the 2007 Public Services Award by the African-American Contractors Association; the 2009 Public Service Award presented by the Cosmopolitan Chamber of Commerce; the Coalition for United Community Force Affirmative Action Advocate of the Year Graduate Award; the 2012 Suburban Minority Contractors Millennium Builders Award; the 2012 Chicago Minority Supplier Development Council, Inc. President's Award; Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County 2015 Women History Month Celebration Award; the 2015 Chicago Defender Newspaper Women of Excellence Award and the Austin Voice Newspaper Walmart Community Builder's Award for Outstanding Public Service; the MWRD Trailblazer Award for Continued Commitment to Diversity and Inclusive Opportunity; the Danny K. Davis 2017 Outstanding Leadership Award; the National Council of Negro Women Chicago Trailblazer Award; and the Top Ladies of Distinction Sparkling Jewels Humanitarian Award 2018 for Outstanding Humanitarian Service to Youth, Seniors and Community.

Recovering resources, transforming water.