

# Greens for MWRD – FAQ & Issues

BIG ISSUES: FOR	BIG ISSUES: AGAINST
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active planning for climate change</li> <li>• Rain-absorbing green infrastructure</li> <li>• Open &amp; transparent contracting</li> <li>• Independent inspector general</li> <li>• Smaller MWRD Board</li> <li>• Stricter hiring &amp; influence rules</li> <li>• Public access to MWRD data, staff, and programs</li> <li>• Secure pensions—combined with stricter hiring rules</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single-bidder and no-bid contracts</li> <li>• Industrial leases on taxpayer land</li> <li>• Water polluters on MWRD land</li> <li>• "Friends &amp; family" hiring</li> <li>• Ongoing raw sewer dumps from over-paving and reliance on "Deep Tunnel"</li> <li>• Undisclosed biosolid contents</li> <li>• Biosolids testing at public schools &amp; parks</li> </ul>

## What is the MWRD?

The MWRD is the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, a taxpayer-funded agency with roughly 2000 employees and a billion-dollar budget. The MWRD is responsible for wastewater management, flood prevention, and water quality testing in Cook County.

## Who runs the MWRD/What is the Board of Commissioners?

The MWRD is run by a nine-member Board of Commissioners. Commissioners are elected in partisan elections. For over 20 years, all nine Commissioners have been Democrats.

## What would electing Greens to the Board do?

Electing even one Green to the Board of Commissioners would break up the one-party control. Greens could introduce measures for a vote than the Democrats on the board have refused to even consider, such as an independent Inspector General for the MWRD, or an end to industrial leases on taxpayer land.

If Greens win all five seats in November, they would have majority control, and would be able to immediately begin large-scale, county-wide flood abatement programs, as well as ending industrial leases and "friends and family" hiring at the MWRD.

## Why do we need ballot access petitions?

In November, there will be five MWRD seats on the ballot (a majority on a nine-seat Board). However, one of the vacancies was created after the regular filing deadline. We're now in a special "vacancy of nomination" petition period. We need roughly 3,000 signatures by June 3<sup>rd</sup> to place a Green Party candidate on the ballot for that fifth seat. There are no Republicans running for the seat, so we will be the only opposition party.