



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Board of Commissioners

Kari K. Steele President

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President Kari K. Steele was elected November 6, 2012 to her first term as a Commissioner at the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) and re-elected in 2018 for a second term. In January 2019 she was elected President of the Board of Commissioners and was re-elected in 2021 and 2023.

President Steele currently serves as the Chairman for the Affirmative Action Committee and the Maintenance & Operations Committee. She also is the Vice Chairman of the Federal Legislation Committee and the Industrial Waste & Water Pollution Committee.

President Steele is a chemist, licensed real estate broker, an environmentalist and a community leader. She has more than 11 years of experience working as a chemist. She has worked at both the Jardine Water Purification Plant as a water chemist and the MWRD as a water sampler and lab technician. This background makes President Steele uniquely qualified to discuss and analyze proposed operational changes and operational efficiencies.

MWRD Committees

Chairman

*Affirmative Action
Maintenance & Operations*

Vice Chairman

*Federal Legislation
Industrial Waste & Water Pollution*

President Steele is a member of the Illinois Women's Institute of Leadership; member of the 8th Ward Women's Auxiliary Council; member of the Sierra Club; member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority; member of the 27th Ward Regular Democratic Organization; member of Southside Democracy for America (2016); and a member of West Side Black Elected Officials (2017). President Steele was a 2014 Chicago Defender Woman of Excellence Honoree; 2014 Edgar Fellow; 2016 Graduate of the Metropolitan Leadership Institute and a recipient of the University of Illinois at Chicago's Freshwater Lab water award (2017). She is a past member of the Young Democrats of America; past Chairman of the 6th Ward Young Democrats; past Chairman and Treasurer of the Young Democrats of Cook County; and past member of the Society of Cosmetic Chemists.

President Steele has a Pre-med degree in Chemistry from Xavier University of Louisiana.