

News from Cook County League:

Known Changes Following Nov. 6 Election: All 17 Cook County Board Commissioners are up for election, but we know that there will be at least 5 new Commissioners as a result of sitting Commissioners choosing not to run or being defeated in the March Primary. Because David Orr chose not to run again, there will also be a new County Clerk. Will there be more changes? You'll have to see the results of the election.

Controversy over the Bradford Vacancy at the MWRD: There are also 5 positions on the Metropolitan Water Reclamation Board up for election: 3 for 6-year terms and 2 for filling unexpired 2-year terms. One of those 2-year terms is to fill the vacancy created by the death of Commissioner Timothy Bradford, who died just days before the candidate filing deadline last December. Governor Rauner, who has the right under Illinois law to fill a vacancy with an appointment until the next general election, has taken the position that his appointment earlier this year should remain in place until November 2020 since there was no time for candidates to file petitions for this seat. The MWRD has filed suit in court for a declaratory order determining whether the winner of the November 2018 election (either M. Cameron "Cam" Davis or Geoffrey Cubbage) or the Governor's appointee should fill the seat through November 2020.

Cook County President Submits \$5.9 Billion Budget for 2019: While the proposed budget is \$700 thousand more than last year, there are no new or increased rates for revenue sources in this election year. The extra revenues to pay for this increase are to come from increases in sales tax collections and, primarily, increases in payments from the State for the County Care managed care program due to additional people's health care being provided under that program. Cook County League members have observed the meetings that the Cook County Board's Finance Committee has had with each of the County's departments. The reports may be found on the League's web site under "Our Work/Eyewitness": <https://www.lwvcookcounty.org/cook-county-board-eyewitness>. Commissioners will consider amendments to the proposed budget in November, with final approval of a budget expected prior to Thanksgiving by the current Board.

-- Priscilla Mims