

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Email: jillb@shestokas.com



Chicago Tribune Endorses Jill Shestokas for MWRD Commissioner

Editorial Board Recognizes Experience, Independent Oversight and Commitment to Taxpayer Transparency

COOK COUNTY, IL — October 15, 2026 — The *Chicago Tribune* Editorial Board has endorsed Jill Shestokas for Commissioner of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) in the November 3 general election, recognizing her firsthand knowledge of the agency and practical proposals to strengthen public accountability.

The editorial board wrote:

“... the opportunity to elect a Republican watchdog with insider knowledge to this important post is too good to pass up.”

It cited Shestokas' service as the MWRD's principal spokesperson from 2007 to 2010, noting that her work had gained national recognition from an international water association.

The Tribune championed greater transparency and accountability, pointing to two of Shestokas' practical proposals for achieving both:

- **A Public Project Accountability Dashboard:** A publicly accessible system displaying original and current project costs, authorization dates, schedules, progress, anticipated completion dates and reasons for delays. Residents would be able to follow how infrastructure dollars are spent and whether projects are delivered as promised.
- **After-Action Reviews Following Major Storms:** Evaluations identifying what worked, what failed and what must change to improve flood protection, guide future investments and strengthen emergency preparedness.

The editorial drew attention to Shestokas' call to hold the MWRD board accountable for “**languishing projects**” and “**distorted financial realities**,” language drawn directly from her responses to the editorial questionnaire.

The Tribune's response was unequivocal:

“Amen to that, as one-party rule in Cook County is an enemy of accountability.”

The editorial connected those concerns to the value of **Shestokas' experienced, discerning eye for independent oversight** at an agency responsible for major infrastructure investments, flood protection and billions in public resources.

“I am deeply grateful to the Chicago Tribune Editorial Board for recognizing that experience, transparency and independent oversight matter,” said Shestokas. **“The MWRD's mission is too**

important to devolve into a political springboard. Cook County residents deserve effective flood protection, responsible stewardship of their tax dollars and a government that answers to them.”

The Tribune also welcomed the presence of the three serious Republican challengers, calling the competition good news for Cook County and acknowledging their coordinated campaign.

Shestokas is running alongside **Timothy Rueckert and Michelle Pennington**, who share a commitment to fiscal responsibility, transparent government and improved flood protection. Together, the three candidates are advocating a stronger culture of accountability at an agency whose decisions directly affect homeowners, communities and taxpayers throughout Cook County.

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Flooding is not partisan. VOTE FOR ACCOUNTABILITY — NOVEMBER 3, 2026

Jill Shestokas #53 • Timothy Rueckert #52 • Michelle Pennington #51

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Read the full *Chicago Tribune* editorial: [Tribune Editorial Board's 2026 endorsements](#)