

Commissioners

**MARISEL A. HERNANDEZ**, *Chair*  
**WILLIAM J. KRESSE**, *Commissioner/Secretary*  
**JONATHAN T. SWAIN**, *Commissioner*  
**LANCE GOUGH**, *Executive Director*



## **Marisel A. Hernandez** **Chairwoman, Chicago Board of Election Commissioners**

Chicago Election Board Chairwoman Marisel A. Hernandez has served with the Board since February 2007, rising to the post of Chairwoman in December 2015. Chairwoman Hernandez was the first Hispanic to serve on and lead the Chicago Election Board.

The Election Board is one of the nation's largest jurisdictions, serving more than 1.5 million voters. During Hernandez's tenure, the Board has built the systems for hiring high-school and college students to serve as election judges, as well as community outreach and language-assistance programs. Hernandez has overseen modernization of Board systems, including a long-range plan for infrastructure and election administration reforms that resulted in the introduction of Electronic Poll Books and Election Day Registration. This year, the Board has introduced a new generation of voting equipment, combined with a variety of enhanced cybersecurity measures and new tracking and security systems for those who participate in the Chicago's rapidly growing programs for Vote By Mail and Early Voting. The Chicago Election Board also has secured the ability to allow attorneys to earn Continuing Legal Education credits for serving as investigators at the November 2020 General Election.

Hernandez is a partner with the law firm of Jacobs Burns Orlove & Hernandez LLP, where she concentrates on labor and employment law and represents both public and private employee benefit plans and labor organizations. Hernandez previously served as a trial attorney with both the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the National Labor Relations Board.

Hernandez serves on the IIT Kent-Chicago Law School Institute for Law and the Workplace. She previously served on the Gary-Chicago Regional Airport Authority, and on the Boards of the Golden Apple Foundation, the Center for Conflict Resolution, and the Cristo Rey Jesuit High School. Hernandez is a member of the Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois, the Puerto Rican Bar Association and a fellow of the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers.

Hernandez graduated from New York University School of Law in 1982. She received a master's degree in Public Policy and Administration in 1981 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a bachelor's degree from Fordham University in New York City, where she graduated Magna Cum Laude.

Marisel and her husband, Steven, who reside in the Hyde Park area, are the parents of a daughter and two sons.