



ADDRESSING MISINFORMATION ABOUT THE BALTIMORE COUNTY INSPECTOR GENERAL APPOINTMENT PROCESS

“The citizens of Baltimore County have raised serious concerns for months about the integrity of County Executive Kathy Klausmeier’s shifting approach to appointing a new Inspector General.”

County Executive Klausmeier’s approach to appointing a new inspector general has not changed. From the beginning, the Inspector General Selection Panel was charged with interviewing applicants and providing recommendations of the best candidates to the county executive for consideration.

“The inspector general selection process should have been run by an independent panel.”

In December 2023, this same County Council passed a charter amendment that put this process in the Baltimore County charter. This process—which names the county executive as the appointing authority—was passed unanimously by this council and, subsequently, Baltimore County voters.

County Executive Klausmeier elected not to automatically reappoint the incumbent inspector general. She chose to exercise her authority under the County code to conduct an open search process for the most qualified candidate to be appointed or reappointed as Baltimore County’s inspector general. Baltimore County’s current inspector general was encouraged to apply.

“County Executive Klausmeier chaired the second interview panel. Any county executive could become the subject of an IG investigation. That’s a clear conflict of interest.”

The County Council voted unanimously on language detailing the county executive’s role in appointing the inspector general when the office was enshrined in the County Charter in December 2023. The issue of whether it is a clear conflict for both the county executive and the county council members, who are also subject to investigation by the inspector general, is a policy discussion worth having in the future.

The county executive was obligated to follow the current County Charter which requires the County Executive to nominate the IG and the County Council to confirm the nominee.

“County Executive Klausmeier should not have been part of the inspector general selection process.”

The County Charter, which was amended by Bill 83-23 less than 2 years ago and unanimously supported by all seven members of this County Council, explicitly requires the county executive to appoint or reappoint Baltimore County’s inspector general. While CE Klausmeier selected an independent panel to interview all eligible applicants, the [process always included recommendations](#) (p. 6/14) of the best candidates that would be shared with her for consideration.

Once those recommendations were shared with her, CE Klausmeier elected to participate in a second round of interviews with the recommended candidates to ensure she completed a thorough evaluation of their qualifications.

“Critics have expressed concerns over the perceived influence of Klausmeier in the final interviews, warning that such involvement jeopardizes the independence of the Inspector General’s position.”

As County Executive Klausmeier is required by law to appoint Baltimore County’s inspector general, meeting and conducting interviews with final candidates prior to making a decision is a critical step in the selection process.

“Ms. Walker has spent much of her time auditing programs to measure their effectiveness; the county’s inspector general job is different, focusing on waste, fraud and abuse across municipal government, including high-level political malfeasance.”

The County charter [requires auditing experience](#) for the inspector general position. Ms. Walker has extensive experience leading audits of large federal programs, a commonplace and valuable skill for inspectors general. Auditors are well trained in identifying waste, fraud, and abuse. Moreover, Ms. Walker has demonstrated experience leading both audits and investigations.

Additionally, inspector general audits and investigations are closely related: both rely on data analysis and information gathering, they often occur in tandem, and have the same goal of identifying and preventing fraud, waste and abuse in government. Ms. Walker has been intimately involved in both.

“Ms. Walker’s history at the EPA while panel member Arthur Elkins served as inspector general should have precluded him from participating in this process.”

Ms. Walker interacted with Mr. Elkins fewer than five times on EPA case work when Mr. Elkins was the chief inspector general from 2011 to 2018, but never on a one-on-one basis. She hasn’t seen or spoken with Mr. Elkins in nearly a decade.

Notably, there were more than 300 employees of the EPA’s OIG offices in 12 locations at that time. Mr. Elkins was in the Washington, DC office while Ms. Walker was in the Chicago regional office.

“Panel member Elkins was the former inspector general of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, and he worked closely with Klausmeier’s chief of staff, Amanda Conn.”

As the inspector general for WSSC Water, Mr. Elkins led an independent office with its own lawyer and reported directly to the WSSC Water Commissioners, not to the General Counsel’s Office that Ms. Conn led. Ms. Conn did not work closely with Mr. Elkins, and has had no contact with him since his departure from WSSC in 2021.

Ms. Conn was not involved in the process of interviewing of candidates by the Inspector General Selection Panel and was not involved in the interview process with the County Executive and Mr. Elkins.