

Vernon Township

Highway District Consolidation

October 11, 2017

Local Government Consolidation

- Illinois has 6900 units of local government-more than any other state
- Majority of local governments are funded via property taxes, resulting in higher tax burden on residents
- Recently passed legislation recognizes that decisions as to individual community needs should be made at the local level
 - Takes the decision whether or not to consolidate out of the hands of the State legislature and places it in the hands of local officials and residents

Goals of Consolidation

- Streamline the provision of services by eliminating duplication and waste
- Improve efficiency and accountability
- Reduce overhead and extra costs associated with multiple departments doing the same thing (i.e. HR, legal, etc.)
- Save taxpayer money while providing the same or higher level of service to constituents

Road District Consolidation

- New law allows townships statewide to abolish road districts via voter referendum
- Public Act 100-106 and Public Act 100-107
 - Prior to passage, only permitted in Cook County

Consolidation Process

1. Township Board passes a resolution authorizing a referendum to be submitted to voters at next election (November 6, 2018)

1. Referendum submitted to voters as follows:

“Shall the Road District of the Township of Vernon be abolished with all the rights, powers, duties, assets, property, liabilities, obligations, and responsibilities being assumed by the Township of Vernon?”

- If majority of electors vote in favor of the abolition of the Road District:
 - The Road District is abolished as of the end of the term of current highway commissioner (May, 2021)
 - Township assumes all duties and responsibilities of Road District, including: road maintenance, snow plowing, tree removal, and other related duties
 - Township assumes all budgetmaking and taxing authority of the Road District