

**RESOLUTION TO PRESENT A PUBLIC QUESTION VIA A COUNTYWIDE REFERENDUM
ABOLISHING THE OFFICE OF THE MADISON COUNTY RECORDER OF DEEDS**

WHEREAS, Madison County government continues to make concerted efforts to address current and future budgetary constraints by streamlining governmental operations, improving efficiency and eliminating redundancy in operations, among other measures; and

WHEREAS, the Madison County Recorder of Deeds is tasked with keeping accurate records of land transactions for public and private review; maintaining official records of Uniform Commercial Code (UCC), liens and lien releases; and recording and maintaining other official records; and

WHEREAS, the key functions of the Madison County Clerk include maintaining vital records and other official records, administering elections, handling tax redemptions, and calculating tax rates; and

WHEREAS, functions that are narrowly drawn and administrative in nature provide an excellent opportunity for consolidation with another office; and

WHEREAS, record-keeping is an administrative function shared by both the County Clerk's Office and the County Recorder of Deeds, with many of the Recorder's duties aligning with already existing divisions under the Clerk; and

WHEREAS, very few of the 102 counties in Illinois have a separately elected Recorder of Deeds and Clerk, with the largest county, Cook County, voting to eliminate the Recorder of Deeds as a separate office in 2016; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that a merger of the Madison County Clerk and Madison County Recorder of Deeds could save the County hundreds of thousands of dollars annually through a more efficient provision of services while also centralizing record-keeping and improving customer service; and

WHEREAS, Article VII, Section 4(c) of the Constitution of the State of Illinois states, "Any office may be created or eliminated and the terms of office and manner of selection changed by county-wide referendum"; and

WHEREAS, 10 ILCS 5/28-8.1(a) states, "Whenever a proposition required by law to be voted upon before its adoption, other than a constitutional amendment, is submitted to the people, it is the duty of the Secretary of State to prepare a statement setting forth in detail Section or Sections of the law sought to be amended by the vote, together with statements and suggestions as may be necessary for a proper understanding of the proposition. The statements and suggestions shall be submitted to the Attorney General for his approval"; and

WHEREAS, it is a fundamental underpinning of our great country to provide taxpayers the opportunity to have input as to the functioning of their government and use of their tax dollars; and

WHEREAS, allowing the voters of Madison County the opportunity to determine the propriety of the proposed consolidation via a binding referendum is an opportunity to engage residents directly in our democratic process; and

WHEREAS, in order to consolidate and improve services by merging the functions and responsibilities of the office of the Recorder of Deeds into the office of the Madison County Clerk, the Madison County Board seeks to place a question before the electorate via a referendum on the November 6, 2018, countywide ballot seeking to eliminate the office of the Madison County Recorder of Deeds and merge its functions into those of the Madison County Clerk, as follows:

“Shall the Office of the Madison County Recorder of Deeds be eliminated and all duties and responsibilities of the Office of the Madison County Recorder of Deeds be transferred to, and assumed by, the Office of the Madison County Clerk by December 7, 2020.

Yes

No”


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Madison County Board that the aforementioned question be presented to the electorate via a countywide referendum on the November 6, 2018 general election ballot; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Madison County Clerk notifies the Secretary of State, and the Attorney General of this request for action.

Approved and adopted this 21st day of February 2018.



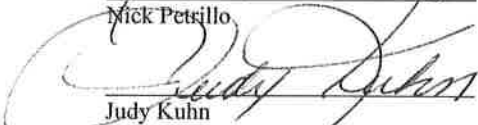
Don Moore



Mick Madison



Nick Pettilo




Judy Kuhn




Erica Harriss

Michael Holliday, Sr.

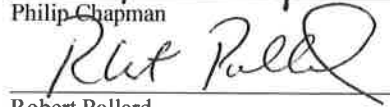
Government Relations Committee
MARCH 12, 2018

Lisa Ciampoli



Don Moore



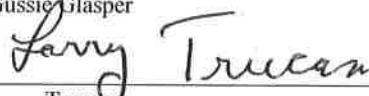
Philip Chapman



Robert Pollard



Tom McRae

Gussie Glasper


Larry Trucano

Finance & Government Operations Committee
February 14, 2018