

## 110. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

We support the principle of strong local government with the assignment of responsibility for government services to that unit of general government which best serves the people and can economically provide the service.

We support maximizing efficiency and eliminating waste in all units of government.

We support legislation:

1. Providing uniform requirements, including the printed full name of the voter, for signers of all public petitions.
2. Permitting consolidation of additional county functions between counties.
3. That ensures that any electronic registry of mortgage loan information shall not affect the current system of recording documents affecting title to real property with the county clerk or recorder.
4. Providing for salaries of all local officials to be set by the appropriate local unit, rather than by the state legislature.
5. Requiring at least 15 percent of registered voters as signers on petitions within any territory proposed to become a new taxing district or within any area proposed to be annexed to an existing taxing district.
6. Requiring that a referendum to expand a taxing district be approved by a majority of voters in both the existing district and in the area proposed to be annexed. When a new taxing district is to be created encompassing both incorporated and unincorporated areas, the referendum should require approval by voters within the incorporated area and a separate approval by voters in the unincorporated area.
7. Extending the time limit from 30 days to 60 days to get the necessary percentage of registered voters' signatures on petitions concerning backdoor referendums.
8. More clearly defining what issues are appropriate for non-binding advisory referenda for units of local government.
9. Prohibiting individuals from serving concurrently as an elected mayor and an elected county board member.
10. Allowing townships with annual revenue less than \$850,000, when required to have a CPA audit, to have the audit performed on a cash basis rather than an accrual basis.
11. That provides for the absorption, consolidation, disconnection, and dissolution of units of local government by front door referendum. Only that unit's governing board or registered voters residing within the unit of government should be allowed to initiate the front door referendum.
12. Waiving the residency requirement for the office of Highway Commissioner in a road district with a population of less than 500, if and only if, no qualified candidate willing to serve the office exists within the township. All other requirements for the office shall remain.
13. Requiring special purpose units of local government, excluding drainage districts, that go dormant (no projects or expenditures) for more than two years to go before the voters within the district to determine if the unit should continue in existence.
14. To codify case law dealing with prohibited activities to include serving on a unit of local government board and be an employee of that unit of government.

We will seek legislation to provide for:

1. Selection of special district board members by election.
2. Uniform fiscal years, classification of accounts, budgets and audits for all taxing bodies.
3. Additional authority for forest preserve districts to sell real estate, including farmland.
4. A referendum of registered voters in the township or townships to approve the site where municipalities propose to annex property for the location of any type of waste disposal facility, prison or other entity which could directly affect the lives of people residing in the area.
5. The requirement that any municipality or any other unit of local government considering annexation of farmland notify affected landowners by registered or certified mail at least 30 days prior to the filing of such annexation.
6. The capability of counties, townships, and special districts to levy impact fees to support local services during the time between construction of a project and when tax revenues would normally

be received and to levy impact fees to support local infrastructure improvements in areas of new development.

7. The elimination of the liability of bonded indebtedness to areas that are annexed and then vote by referendum to disconnect from a taxing district which had previously incurred debt before the annexation. The annexed and then disconnected territory would only be liable for indebtedness occurring while they are a part of the district.

We support:

1. The shifting of additional responsibilities from the federal government to state governments if, at the same time, adequate access is made to the tax structure to allow for the financing of such programs by the states and a commensurate reduction is made in federal taxes. We will support state and local governments in the development of their capabilities to discharge these added responsibilities.
2. The shifting of responsibilities from the state government to local governments only if the state government reduces its taxes proportionately or provides local governments the resources to carry out such responsibilities.
3. Improvements in state agency programs which provide needed training and education for local government officials. Such programs should include management and financial training related to local government.
4. Efforts by local government officials, county Farm Bureaus and other organizations to increase public participation in the overall functions of local government.
5. Efforts to ensure that citizens who do not currently live in a library district but wish to receive library services can receive equal and affordable access to the public library system.
6. Encouraging local governments to make compensation breakdowns and pension sweeteners more readily available to public scrutiny.
7. Amending the Cemetery Oversight Act, so that the provisions of the law are not overly burdensome for cemeteries.
8. Elected and appointed government officials being held to ethical standards including prohibiting nepotism.

We will strongly oppose all efforts to mandate inclusion of areas not currently served by a library district into existing library districts.