



### Upcoming Dates:



**Mid March:**  
"Invitation to Respond" mailed from Census Bureau. (This includes the link you will need to complete your survey online.)

**April 1:**  
US Census "Count Day"

**April 14\*:**  
Annual Town Meeting

**May 1:**  
Deadline for Rural Nurse Practitioner Scholarship Applications

**Late May:** Census Bureau begins visits to those who have not responded to the survey through mail, phone or online.

**May 25:**  
Memorial Day



### Did You Know...?

*It is believed that townships around the state held their first Annual Town Meeting in 1850.*



## Tax Bills

*by Brenda Matherly*

Tax bills are right around the corner. When should you expect yours? That question is best answered using words like "generally" or "usually".

Illinois law does not specify a deadline in which counties must send out their tax bills to property owners, with the exception of January 1 for Cook County. Without a deadline in place, property owners can only assume, based on the previous years' mailings, when they will receive their bill. The law does say however, that "a tax bill shall be mailed at least 30 days before the taxer payer payment is due."

Property taxes are usually paid in two equal installments. In that case, the first installment is usually due on



June 1 and the second on September 1. Given the 30-day payment window, that suggests many counties have their tax bills out by May 1.

If the tax bills are mailed later than May 1, then the first installment of taxes is due 30 days after the date on the bill.

In some counties, the county board has adopted, by resolution or ordinance, an accelerated billing method. By law, Cook County also operates under this billing method. Under this

*(See Bills on page 2)*

## "Search" for opportunities to stay involved at the local level:

Start with referenda results

*by: Brenda Matherly*

The primary elections are over, and voters were engaged. This was especially true in areas where local residents were asked to vote on questions of public policy. A question of public policy appearing on the ballot is known as a referendum; referenda in plural form.

of tax policy impacting revenue generation for local units of government. It's these questions that bring voters to the polls and generate citizen interest in the outcome. Opportunity to weigh in on a tax increase is an incentive to cast your vote in support or opposition. But, once those votes are cast and the election is over, how can voters search for the outcome.

Often these referenda are questions

*(See Referenda on page 3)*

**Bills**

two-installment method, the first payment is determined by using 55% of last year's tax bill. The second payment, mailed later in the year, is for the remaining taxes due. Using the accelerated billing method, counties can often get that first installment out earlier. In Cook County, that first installment date is March 1. In other counties, the first installment date is January 31. However, a county board may set a due date as late as June 1. The second installment is due August 1.

While not often used, all Illinois counties also have the option of establishing a four-payment method.

More rigid is the requirement that your tax bill include specific

information. While the "look" of the tax bill might differ from one county to the next, the information contained on the bill or in a separate insert must include:

- Property Index Number (PIN) or other suitable description of the property
- The property's assessed value
- The estimated fair cash value of a single-family residence (except in Cook County)
- Amount due for each installment
- Total amount due
- The tax rate for each taxing district
- A separate column or state-

ment showing the amount of taxes levied under the IL Pension Code or any other public pension or retirement purpose by a municipality or township

- Total tax rate
- Comparison of the total tax and tax allocated to each taxing district from the previous year
- Equalization factors and the resulting assessed value.

Timely mailed tax bills that provide accurate information are vital to those taxing bodies serving the community. Many of the services they provide depend on the collection and allocation of those property tax dollars.

LINK

**Example of a Property Tax Bill**

John Smith Sample County Treasurer 1 Courthouse Square		FIRST DUE DATE 07/27/2018	SECOND DUE DATE 09/07/2018	Sample COUNTY REAL ESTATE TAX BILL 1484.12	
		FIRST INSTALLMENT \$481.78	SECOND INSTALLMENT \$481.78		
TAX YEAR 2017	FORFEITED \$0.00	LENDING CODE		PERMANENT PARCEL NUMBER ##-##-###-###	
LEGAL DESC: Parcel description		PIN ##-##-###-###		PROPERTY CLASS	0060
Property Owner Address Illinois				ACRES	0.00
				TIF TAX VALUE	0
				FAIR CASH VALUE (NON-FARM)	28,380
				TOWNSHIP FACTOR	.9614
				<b>FORMULATION FOR TAX CALCULATION</b>	
				LAND ASMT	9,460
				BUILDING ASMT	0
				HOME IMP/VET EXEMPTION	- 0
				STATE FACTOR	X 1.0000
				EQUALIZED ASSESSED VALUE (EAV)	= 9,460
				OWNER OCCUPIED EXEMPTION	- 0
				SENIOR CITIZEN EXEMPTION	- 0
				SENIOR ASSESSMENT FREEZE	- 0
				DISABLED VET HOMESTEAD	- 0
				DISABLED PERSONS EXEMPTION	- 0
				RETURNING VET EXEMPTION	- 0
				VET/FRAT EXEMPTIONS	- 0
				FARM LAND ASMT	+ 0
				FARM BUILDING ASMT	+ 0
				TAXABLE VALUE (TV)	= 9,460
				TAX RATE / PER \$100 TV	X 10.18550
				TOTAL TAX	= \$963.56
				ENTERPRISE ZONE ABATEMENT	- \$0.00
				DRAINAGE	+ \$0.00
				FORFEITED TAX	+ \$0.00
				<b>TOTAL AMOUNT DUE</b>	<b>\$963.56</b>
				16486	

Taxing Body	COUNTY		TOWNSHIP	
	Prior Year Rate	Prior Year Tax	Current Rate	Current Tax
CES EXTENSION SERV	0.03600	\$3.42	0.03670	\$3.47
AMB	0.04978	\$4.73	0.05905	\$5.61
COUNTY TAX	1.27151	\$120.78	1.33277	\$126.10
LINCOLN/AND COLLEGE	0.50297	\$47.77	0.48752	\$46.10
ROAD DIST	0.01870	\$58.78	0.02466	\$59.09
TWP	0.25911	\$24.62	0.25770	\$24.38
UNIT 3	5.12513	\$486.89	5.32178	\$503.44
CORP	1.88544	\$179.12	1.91522	\$181.18
LIBRARY	0.15030	\$14.25	0.15000	\$14.19
TAX INCMT	0.00030	\$33.66	0.00000	\$0.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>9.89854</b>	<b>\$974.02</b>	<b>10.18550</b>	<b>\$963.56</b>

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE \$217.19

TAX DISTRICT PENSION AND SOCIAL SECURITY TAX AMOUNTS ARE INCLUDED IN ABOVE CURRENT TAX.

Please see reverse side for important information.

**Collection & Allocation of Property Tax Dollars**

The county treasurer collects and distributes your tax dollars to each of the taxing districts serving your property. That distribution is made within 30 days of the payment due date and every 30 days thereafter for delivery of late payments.

In Cook County, taxes are distributed beginning June 1 and the first day of the month thereafter.

Refer to the September/October 2019 publication of LINK for a full description on the roles and responsibilities of the county treasurer.

## Referenda

(Continued from page 1)

The Illinois State Board of Elections is a great resource for that.

Follow the steps provided below to search voter results on local referenda. If your curiosity extends beyond your county boundaries, you can also search referenda results across the State.

### Step 1:

Link to the Illinois State Board of Elections website: <https://www.elections.il.gov/>

### Step 2:



Click on the "Information for Voters" tab in the upper left-hand corner.

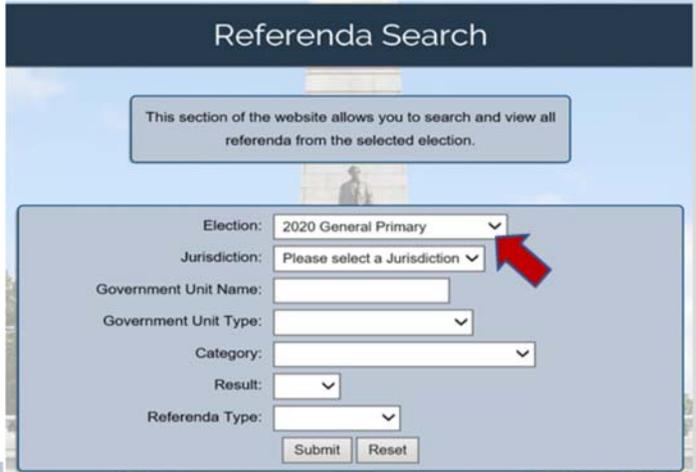


### Step 3:

Scroll down and click on "Referenda Search"

### Step 4:

Use the dropdown box to select "2020 General Primary"



From this point, you will be able to set your search criteria and jurisdiction by using the dropdown boxes. The more criteria you set, the narrower your results will be. This might lead to a search that doesn't produce the referenda results you're looking for. If that's the case, expand your search by selecting only a couple of dropdown boxes. For a very inclusive search, select only your county in the "Jurisdiction" box. The results will include all questions of public policy within the county. To narrow your search, you might include your county and the Government Unit Type, such as school.

While experimenting with the search option, you might find not every jurisdiction has a referendum. In that case, you will receive a message that says, "no records available". Don't give up there. Select an earlier election and practice with the search functions.

Some other referenda you might see on the ballot, and later in your search criteria, include questions on consolidation, local government structure, and bond proposals.

Begin your search today!

LINK

# Annual Town Meeting

by Brenda Matherly

Our March/April publication of LINK would not be complete without sharing information on the upcoming Annual Town Meeting. If you haven't already done so, mark your calendars for April 14\* and plan to attend your township's Annual Town Meeting. In the meantime, read through the information below to better prepare yourself for the event.

In Illinois, every township must hold an Annual Town Meeting on the second Tuesday of April\*. It should be held after 6:00 p.m. (unless the electors fix some other time) at a place in the township picked by the township board.

Notification of the meeting is to be given by the township clerk by posting written or printed notices in three of the most public places in the town at least 15 days before the meeting, and if there is an English language newspaper published in the town, by at least one publication in that newspaper, before the meeting. That notice shall also include the meeting agenda.

While anyone is welcome to attend these meetings, only the electors of the township (persons registered to vote in the township) are eligible to vote on questions put before the assembly. All questions on motions are determined by a majority of the electors present and voting.

A moderator, elected from among all electors at the meeting, presides over the meeting making announcements of the business, preserving order, and deciding all questions of order. The moderator has the same power as an election judge.

At the Annual Town Meeting, the township clerk is the only official holding any official capacity. Everyone else in attendance, whether they are an elected official or not, including township trustees and the township supervisor, are there as a voting citizen and have an equal vote in each topic voted on.

After a moderator has been elected the meeting will proceed to hear and consider re-

*(See Meeting on page 5)*

## Referenda Type

There are two types of referenda that voters might run across on the ballot. They are "advisory" and "binding".

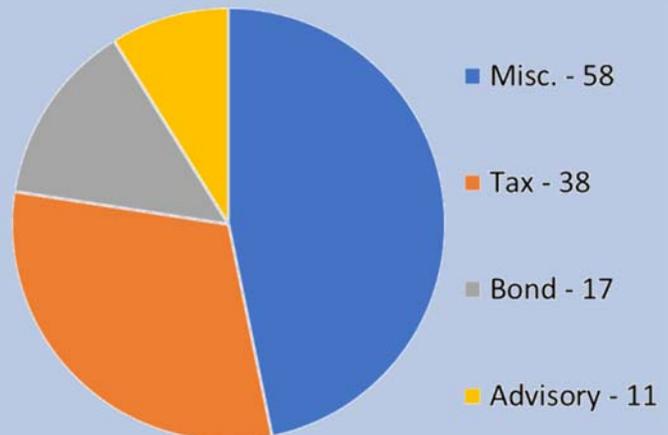
An "advisory" referendum, often referred to as a "non-binding advisory" referendum, is a question to the voters that does not carry with it the force of law. An "advisory" referendum gives voters the opportunity to share their opinion on issues without requiring government action.

While not enforceable, these types of "non-binding" questions can be beneficial. They tend to increase public participation and voter turnout on important issues. They can also be used to identify public sentiment. A vote in support or in opposition of a contentious issue can speak volumes to elected officials.

However, not all ballot questions brought to the

voters are "advisory". Oftentimes, voters are asked to cast their vote on a question that is subject to a "binding" opinion these are called "binding" referenda. And, in contrast to the "advisory" referendum, a "binding" referendum requires the results of the vote to be acted upon or implemented.

124 Referenda Were on March Ballots Across Illinois



## ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

To the legal voters, residents of the Township of \_\_\_\_\_  
in the County of \_\_\_\_\_ and State of Illinois, that the Annual Town Meeting of said Township  
will take place on

**Tuesday, April 14, 2020\***

being the second Tuesday of said month  
at the hour of 6:01 o'clock P.M. at *[Location]*

for the transaction of the miscellaneous business of the said town; and after a Moderator having been  
elected, will proceed to hear and consider reports of officers, and decide on such measures as may, in  
pursuance of law, come before the meeting; and especially to consider and decide the following:

*[Agenda]*

### Meeting

ports of officers, and decide on such measures as may, in pursuance of law, come before the meeting; and especially to consider and decide items presented on the agenda.

The powers that may be exercised by voters at the Annual Town Meeting are extensive and similar to those that might otherwise have to go to referendum. A few of these powers include tax rate increases and disposition of property. For a complete list of those powers, refer to the [Township Code](#). For most of these decisions, prior public notice is required before action can be taken.

Some townships will find that their Annual Town Meeting does not last long and is usually low in

attendance. This lack of participation by the voters leaves the elected township officers to make virtually all decisions affecting township residents.

Although the agendas for some Annual Town Meetings are not long, it's important for residents to attend to voice concerns and aid in making decision that impact the township.

Look for the notice to appear, attend your Annual Town Meeting, and participate in this true form of democracy.

For more on the Annual Town Meeting, visit the Township Officials of Illinois website at: <https://www.toi.org/>

Keep an eye out for the notice above. It will be appearing soon on bulletin boards, light poles, town hall doors and in store windows. It can also show up in local newspapers.

LINK

**\*This year, the Annual Town Meeting date conflicts with the observance of Passover.**

**When that happens, the township board of trustees can postpone the meeting until the first Tuesday after the last day of Passover.**

**That date for 2020 would be April 21.**

# The U.S. Census: Make your community count

by Kristin Huls, Manager, Hancock County Farm Bureau

Have you ever wondered why it is important to complete the U.S. Census or what the data is used for? This population count, legally mandated by the U.S. Constitution, has been completed every ten years since 1790 as an effort to count all people living on American soil.

Not only are the results of the census used for allocation of Congressional seats, but also in determining federal funding for many programs that impact us at the local level. For example, many USDA programs are specifically designed to serve "rural" areas, which is defined as "any areas other than 1) A city or town with a population greater than 50,000 inhabitants; and 2) The urbanized area contiguous and adjacent to such a city or town, as defined by the U.S. Bureau of the Census...." ([www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov))

Why is it important to provide complete and accurate information in the 2020 U.S. Census?

- In Illinois, municipalities receive motor fuel tax (MFT) disbursements based on population. Therefore, an inaccurate count could result in loss of funding for construction and improvements of roads

and bridges in your community.

- As businesses look to grow and expand into your community, it is imperative they secure an accurate workforce. They turn to census data to provide this information. An accurate count helps to ensure there will be enough workers to fill the jobs they create through their potential investment.
- In Illinois, census data is used to help determine location of emergency response units throughout the state. An accurate count helps to ensure these necessary services are within close proximity to residents in your community. This is especially important in rural areas, which continue to face decreasing population.
- Illinois is at risk for losing one, possibly two, Congressional seats as a result of thousands of residents leaving the state. An accurate count helps minimize the impact of this movement, which is not only important for Illinois, but for rural America in general. As legislative matters arise (ex. Broadband connectivity in rural areas, Farm Bill passage, etc.), it is critical to

have ample representation in Washington, D.C. to stand up for the rights of our farmers and rural citizens.

What can our county Farm Bureaus (CFBs) do to encourage members to complete the U.S. census in a timely manner?

- Offer computer assistance at your office to Farm Bureau members or members of the general public to complete the online census form. (Added bonus: promote Farm Bureau membership benefits to those who aren't current members)
- Promote and encourage census participation at upcoming programs or trade show booths.
- Promote and encourage census participation through your CFB newsletter or publication.

Be sure to mark April 1, 2020, on your calendar as official "count day" for the 2020 U.S. Census. Uphold your obligation as a U.S. citizen and make your community count!

LINK

## Why is the Census important?

- \$675 billion in federal funding will be distributed to support vital state, county & community programs. Education, fire, emergency services & transportation will be among the impacted areas.
- Seats in the US House of Representatives will be reapportioned determining how many seats each state receives.
- State officials will redraw legislative boundaries adapting to population shifts.

United States®  
Census  
2020

## Get to Know Your Local Official: County Engineer

(Source: *Inside the Courthouse*  
Illinois Association of County Board Members)



### Primary Duties

The county engineer is the caretaker of the county's network of roads. The engineer is responsible for the maintenance, repair, widening, resurfacing and construction of all roads and bridges on the county highway system. In counties with a population over 3 million, the position is called "county superintendent of highways."

County Highways are roads that meet the criteria for secondary arterial highways as established by State law, having been designated by the county board and approved by the State of Illinois. Similar to state highways, county highways crisscross each of the 102 counties in the state and extend through municipalities.

In Illinois, the county engineer is responsible for the safe operation of over 16,000 miles of designated county highways. Under the direction of the county board, the engineer works to carry out a wide variety of obligations including preparing plans for the use of motor fuel tax funds. In addition, the engineer is fully responsible for bridges on both county and township highway systems. The county engineer performs an annual inspection and evaluation of the condition and load-carrying capacity of each bridge.

The county engineer works closely with townships and municipalities to assist with maintenance of streets within their boundaries. The county engineer serves as the engineering advisor to the township trustees for the maintenance and repair of their highways. Maintenance duties include traffic control, safety projects, guardrail repair and replacement, mowing and snow removal. County engineers are required to keep records of all township road contracts in excess of \$5,000. The engineer also serves as representative of the county's interest with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).

Any two or more counties may, with the approval of IDOT, appoint the same person as county engi-

neer or superintendent of highways for each of the counties and may by agreement provide for the proportionate share of the salary and expenses of the appointee to be borne by each county.

### Other Responsibilities

The county engineer is the tax map draftsman for the county and generally serves on the local regional planning commission. Regional planning commissions provide advocacy, planning, technical assistance and project development in areas such as transportation, housing, land use and solid waste. In some counties, the engineer serves as the county sanitary engineer, working with the county board to supervise the construction of sewer and water lines. Approval and operation of landfills may also be a function of the engineer's office.

### Training

Illinois requires county engineers to be graduate, licensed professional engineers. This accreditation requires a minimum of a college degree in engineering. In addition, many county engineers are also licensed registered professional surveyors.

### Term

County engineers, as provided by Illinois law, are appointed by the county board to a six-year term and must be approved by the IDOT.

[LINK](#)

# 2020 Rural Nurse Practitioner Scholarship Program: *Apply Now!*

by Brenda Matherly

Applications are now available for the 2020 rural nurse practitioner scholarships. This year Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) will now offer ten \$4000 scholarships to qualified applicants.

The scholarship program, now in its 28<sup>th</sup> year, helps encourage and develop a pool of rural health practitioners to help meet primary health care needs in rural Illinois. Students who receive scholarships agree to practice for two years in an approved rural community in Illinois.



Illinois residents and be a Registered Nurse accepted or enrolled in an accredited Nurse Practitioner Program. Funding is provided by the Rural Illinois Medical Student Assistance Program (RIMSAP).

Applications and information can be received through your local county Farm Bureau® and have also been placed on the RIMSAP website at [www.RIMSAP.com](http://www.RIMSAP.com).

Once again, we encourage county Farm Bureaus to promote this program locally. Applications are due in the Illinois Farm Bureau office by May 1, 2020.

For additional information, contact Donna Gallivan at 309-557-2350, or via e-mail at [dgallivan@ifb.org](mailto:dgallivan@ifb.org)

LINK

## Scholarship Time Table

May 1	Applications due
June	Illinois Farm Bureau Nurse Practitioner Scholarship Committee recommends recipients to the grant providers
July	Recipients are notified
Sept.	First installment paid to university
Jan.	Recipient submits a one-page progress report to Scholarship Committee
	Second installment paid to university
May	Second progress report is submitted to Committee

Upon graduation, recipient must submit a letter to the Scholarship Committee verifying employment in a rural community. After completion of the two years of service, the recipient must verify he/she has been employed in a rural community.

To date: **89** scholarships have been awarded!

To be eligible for the scholarship, students must be

## 2019-2020 APPROVED PRACTICE COMMUNITIES RURAL NURSE PRACTITIONER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Abingdon	Centralia	Gillespie	Mahomet	New Athens	Salem
Aledo	Charleston	Grayville	Marengo	Newton	Sandwich
Amboy	Chester	Greenville	Marion	Nokomis	Savanna
Anna	Chillicothe	Hamilton	Marissa	Oglesby	Sesser
Arcola	Christopher	Hardin	Marseilles	Olney	Shelbyville
Arthur	Clinton	Harrisburg	Marshall	Oregon	Sparta
Auburn	Coal City	Harvard	Mascoutah	Ottawa	Spring Valley
Batchtown	Dixon	Havana	Mason City	Pana	Staunton
Beardstown	DuQuoin	Henry	Mattoon	Paris	Sterling
Benton	Dwight	Herrin	McLeansboro	Paxton	Streator
Bethalto	Effingham	Highland	Mendota	Pembroke	Sullivan
Braidwood	El Paso	Hillsboro	Metamora	Peru	Taylorville
Breese	Eldorado	Hoopeston	Metropolis	Petersburg	Tilton
Bridgeport	Elmwood	Jacksonville	Millstadt	Pinckneyville	Tolono
Bushnell	Eureka	Jerseyville	Minonk	Pittsfield	Trenton
Cairo	Fairbury	Johnston City	Momence	Polo	Troy
Cambridge	Fairfield	Kampsville	Monmouth	Pontiac	Tuscola
Canton	Farmer City	Kewanee	Monticello	Princeton	Vandalia
Carbondale	Flora	Knoxville	Morris	Rantoul	Villa Grove
Cartinville	Freeburg	Lacon	Morrison	Red Bud	Virden
Carlyle	Fulton	LaSalle	Mt. Carmel	Roanoke	Washburn
Carmi	Galena	Lawrenceville	Mt. Vernon	Robinson	Waterloo
Carriers Mills	Galesburg	Lebanon	Mount Morris	Rochelle	Wateka
Carrollton	Galva	LeRoy	Mount Olive	Rock Falls	West Frankfort
Carterville	Geneseo	Lewistown	Mount Sterling	Rockton	Westville
Carthage	Genoa	Lincnoln	Mount Carroll	Roodhouse	White Hall
Casey	Georgetown	Litchfield	Murphysboro	Rushville	Wilmington
Catlin	Gibson City	Macomb	Nashville	S.Jacksonville	Yorkville

*This list is not all-inclusive. Many smaller Illinois communities are acceptable. Board approval is required before your commitment to an area not included upon this list.*