

RESOLUTION 26- 44

A Resolution Providing for the Submission of an Advisory Public Policy Referendum to the Voters of Ford County, Illinois Regarding the Separation of Downstate Illinois from the State of Illinois

WHEREAS, Article VII of the Illinois Constitution and the Illinois Election Code authorize the submission of advisory public policy questions to the electors of a governmental unit; and

WHEREAS, the Ford County Board recognizes that many citizens have expressed concerns regarding the economic, fiscal, legislative, and public policy direction of the State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, residents of Ford County have voiced concerns that the interests and priorities of rural and downstate Illinois are frequently overshadowed by those of the greater Chicago metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, the Ford County Board believes the citizens of Ford County should have an opportunity to express their opinion regarding whether the Illinois General Assembly should pursue measures that would allow downstate Illinois to separate from the State of Illinois and form a new state, subject to all constitutional requirements; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this referendum is solely to ascertain the sentiment of the voters and shall not itself alter any governmental boundaries or legal status.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Board of Ford County, Illinois, as follows:

Section 1.

That the following advisory public policy question shall be submitted to the voters of Ford County at the **General Election to be held on November 3, 2026**, in substantially the following form:

"Shall the Illinois General Assembly pursue legislation and constitutional measures to separate the City of Chicago and Cook County from the remainder of the State of Illinois, creating a new state, subject to approval by the Illinois General Assembly, the Congress of the United States, and all other constitutional requirements?"

☐ YES

☐ NO

Section 2.

The County Clerk is hereby directed to certify this resolution and the advisory referendum question to the appropriate election authorities in accordance with the Illinois Election Code.



Section 3.

The County Clerk and all appropriate County officials are authorized and directed to take all actions necessary to effectuate the submission of this advisory public policy question to the electors of Ford County.

Section 4.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

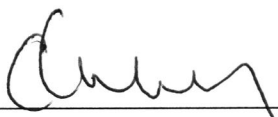
PASSED by the County Board of Ford County, Illinois, this 10th day of August, 2026.

AYES: 8 Mr. C. Vaughn - abstain

NAYS: 1

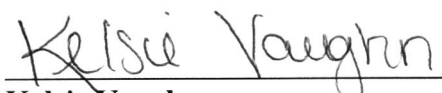
ABSENT: 1

APPROVED:



Chase McCall
Chairman, Ford County Board

ATTEST:



Kelsie Vaughn
Ford County Clerk & Recorder

