Consolidation and Shared Services Position – Local League Toolbox

LWVIL Pre-Convention Workshop – June 9, 2017

1. Intro, Overview of Materials Provided, State Legislation, Transform Illinois and State Task Force Resources – Hilary Denk

2. Observing Leading to League Study Of Township - Engage new and veteran members – Laura Davis

3. Study Leading to Position, Advocacy and Follow up – Increasing League Visibility – Pris Mims

4. Proposed Legislation and Passage to Eliminate a Township - How LWV Educated the Public – Betty Hayford

5. Surveys and Their Uses In Engaging the Public and Stakeholders – Kay Shelton

6. Issues and Questions Raised About Governmental Units based on Mosquito Abatement District Research - Renee Gladstone and Jane Ballengee

7. Shared Services Study by McLean County League – Report To Come & Questions Used/ CEC Work – Hilary Denk

8. Q & A

Resources:

Transform Illinois – Mission Statement
Through coordinated research, advocacy, legislative and policy implementation, Transform Illinois will improve the efficiency of government service delivery in Illinois, and expand awareness of the economic impact of the current structure of government in the state. This will include support for both voluntary and required measures to share services among units of government, eliminate redundant and ineffective units, revise funding mechanisms to incentivize efficiency, and discourage the creation of new, single-purpose units of government unless there are demonstrable efficiency gains from doing so. www.transformillinois.org

Citizen Efficiency Committee – Springfield/Sangamon County
http://co.sangamon.il.us/departments/a-c/citizens-efficiency-commission

Local Government Consolidation and Unfunded Mandates Task Force
https://www.illinois.gov/ftg/issues/localgovernments/Pages/Resources.aspx
Consolidation of Governmental Units and Sharing of Major Governmental Services

2015

LWVIL Position:
The League of Women Voters of Illinois supports the efficient and effective operation of government. Consolidation of governmental units and the sharing of major governmental services may be a way of promoting the efficient and effective operation of government. In achieving this goal, the League supports a cooperative and transparent process, in which citizens have sufficient and timely information with which to make informed decisions about proposed actions, and well-defined channels for citizen input and review. Administrative and fiscal efficiency should be included in the criteria by which local governments consider whether to consolidate or share major services.

The League supports a system of state-funded grants to local governments to study the feasibility of the consolidation of governmental units or sharing of governmental services.

In determining whether to support a consolidation/shared services proposal at the local level, as a way of making government more efficient and effective, local Leagues must consider both the adequacy of the process and the likely effects of the proposal’s implementation.

In determining whether to support a consolidation/shared services proposal as a way of making government more efficient and effective, local Leagues should apply the following criteria. While it is not necessary that each standard be met, the League recognizes that these standards represent potential benefits of consolidation, leading to more efficient and effective government:
- Will the proposal result in projected cost savings and a positive effect on taxes over the long term;
- Will the proposal either result in an increased quality and/or efficiency of services or, at a minimum, maintain services at existing levels;
- Will the proposal fairly address disparities in employee contracts;
- Will the proposal result in increased social and economic justice;
- Will the proposal result in a reduction in the number of governmental entities?

As used in this position, consolidation refers to both the process of consolidation and the process of dissolution.

Background:
Adopted at the 2015 Convention by concurrence with a New York LWV position

Action:
It is anticipated that Local and County Leagues will take action under this position, as well as LWVIL.
Bill Status of HB0607  100th General Assembly

Short Description: TRANSPORTATION-TECH

House Sponsors
Rep. Sam Yingling - Tom Demmer - Deb Conroy - David McSweeney - Kathleen Willis, Grant Wehtli, Martin J. Moylan, Allen Skillicorn, David A. Welter, Carol Sante and Thomas Morrison

Senate Sponsors
(Sen. Julie A. Morrison - Karen McConnaughay - Laura M. Murphy, Tom Rooney, Dan McConchie and Cristina Castro)

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Statutes Amended In Order of Appearance

615 ILCS 5/5 from Ch. 19, par. 52

Synopsis As Introduced
Amends the Rivers, Lakes, and Streams Act. Makes a technical change in a Section concerning the jurisdiction of the Department of Natural Resources under the Act.

House Committee Amendment No. 2
Deletes reference to:
615 ILCS 5/5
Adds reference to:
605 ILCS 5/6-134 new

Replaces everything after the enacting clause. Amends the Illinois Highway Code. Provides that by resolution, the board of trustees of any township located in a county with less than 3,000,000 inhabitants may submit a proposal to abolish the road district of that township to the electors of that township at a general election or a consolidated election. Provides for the form of the ballot. Provides that if the majority of the electors vote in favor of the proposal, then the road district shall be abolished by operation of law no more than 90 days after vote certification by the governing election authority. Provides that on that date, all rights, powers, duties, assets, property, liabilities, obligations, responsibilities, and taxing authority of the road district shall vest in and be assumed by the township. Provides that the township shall exercise all duties and responsibilities of the highway commissioner under the Code and may enter into a contract with a county, municipality, or private contractor to administer the roads under its jurisdiction.

House Floor Amendment No. 3
Adds reference to:
605 ILCS 5/6-130
605 ILCS 5/6-133

Replaces everything after the enacting clause. Reinserts the provisions of the bill as amended by House Amendment No. 2 with the following changes. Amends the Illinois Highway Code. Provides that no township road district may continue in existence if the roads forming a part of the district do not exceed a total of 4 centerline miles (rather than 4 miles) in length. Provides that if a majority of the electors of a township board of trustees votes in favor of a proposition to abolish a road district in Cook County, Illinois, the road district shall be abolished by operation of law effective January 1 of the calendar year immediately following the calendar year in which the proposition was approved by the electors or on the date the term of the highway commissioner in office at the time the proposition was approved by the electors expires, whichever is later. Provides that in a county with less than 3,000,000 inhabitants, a road district shall be abolished by operation of law effective 90 days after vote certification by the governing election authority or on the date the term of the highway commissioner in office at the time the proposition was approved by the electors expires, whichever is later (rather than only 90 days after vote certification by the governing election authority).

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Short Description: LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONSOLIDATION

Senate Sponsors
Sen. Thomas Cullerton - Melinda Bush - Julie A. Morrison - Donne E. Trotter, Mattie Hunter, Laura M. Murphy and Martin A. Sandoval

House Sponsors

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Statutes Amended In Order of Appearance

10 ILCS 5/3-7 new
10 ILCS 5/28-1 from Ch. 46, par. 28-1
55 ILCS 5/Div. 2-4 heading
55 ILCS 5/2-4006
55 ILCS 5/5-44010
55 ILCS 5/5-44020
55 ILCS 5/5-44043 new
60 ILCS 1/10-25
60 ILCS 1/Art. 22 heading new
60 ILCS 1/22-5 new
60 ILCS 1/22-10 new
60 ILCS 1/22-15 new
60 ILCS 1/22-20 new
60 ILCS 1/Art. 23 heading new
60 ILCS 1/23-5 new
60 ILCS 1/23-10 new
60 ILCS 1/23-15 new
60 ILCS 1/23-20 new
60 ILCS 1/23-25 new
60 ILCS 1/25-15
60 ILCS 1/25-25
60 ILCS 1/Art. 29 heading new
60 ILCS 1/29-5 new
60 ILCS 1/29-10 new
60 ILCS 1/29-15 new
60 ILCS 1/29-20 new
60 ILCS 1/29-25 new
60 ILCS 1/65-20
70 ILCS 605/10-12 new
605 ILCS 5/6-130 from Ch. 121, par. 6-130
605 ILCS 5/6-130.5 new
Synopsis As Introduced
Amends the Local Government Reduction and Efficiency Division of the Counties Code. Provides that the Division applies to all counties (currently, only applies to DuPage, Lake, and McHenry Counties). Excludes specified boards from the definition of "unit of local government". Provides how the status and rights of employees, including those represented by an exclusive bargaining representatives, are affected by the dissolution of a unit of local government under the Division. Provides for the assumption of obligations of the dissolving unit of local government by the entity absorbing the dissolving unit as they relate to representation rights and collective bargaining agreements. Amends the Township Code. Removes a restriction limiting townships to 126 square miles. Provides for the consolidation of 2 or more townships which share a boundary, the merging of one township into 2 other townships, and the dissolution of all townships (currently, only allowed in specified townships) within a coterminal, or substantially coterminal, municipality. Makes other changes. Amends the Election Code. Specifies procedures for township consolidation, merger, and discontinuance referenda. Amends the Illinois Drainage Code. Provides that specified counties may, by resolution, dissolve drainage districts wholly within their borders and drainage districts only partially within its borders under specified circumstances. Amends the Illinois Highway Code. Provides that specified township road districts may be abolished by public referendum. Effective on January 1, 2018, but this Act does not take effect at all unless Senate Bills 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13 of the 100th General Assembly become law.

Senate Floor Amendment No. 2
Removes provisions that were being added in the Illinois Drainage Code that would have allowed specified counties, by resolution, to dissolve drainage districts wholly or partially within their borders.

Senate Floor Amendment No. 3
Replaces the effective date Section. Effective January 1, 2018, but this Act does not take effect at all unless Senate Bills 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, and 16 of the 100th General Assembly become law.

Senate Floor Amendment No. 4
Replaces the effective date Section. Effective January 1, 2018.

House Committee Amendment No. 1

Deletes reference to:
605 ILCS 5/6-130.5 new

Adds reference to:
65 ILCS 95/4 from Ch. 24, par. 1604
65 ILCS 95/5 from Ch. 24, par. 1605
65 ILCS 95/21 new
70 ILCS 3305/11
605 ILCS 5/6-133
605 ILCS 5/6-135 new

Replaces everything after the enacting clause with the engrossed bill with the following changes: Requires that resolutions and notices of hearings regarding consolidation or merger be published on the main page of the townships' websites, if any. In provisions concerning merger of townships, provides that no tax rate may be extended for any fund of the consolidated district for the first levy year of the consolidated district that exceeds any statutory maximum set forth for that fund, unless the referendum also conforms to the requirements of the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law or other statutory provision setting forth that limitation. Makes changes to provisions of the Illinois Highway Code related to abolishing a road district in Cook County, and specifies that the new provisions related to abolishing road districts do not apply to Cook County. Amends the Home Equity Assurance Act. Provides that beginning after the effective date of the amendatory Act, a home equity commission shall consist of 7 commissioners (rather than 9). Provides that a governing commission may employ full-time or part-time employees. Allows a governing commission to establish a Tax Reimbursement Program. Amends the Street Light District Act. Allows the consolidation of a street light district into the township in which the district sits if the entire district is located within the township. Effective on January 1, 2018.

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<td>1/12/2017</td>
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Frank Haney
County Board Chairman
County of Winnebago

ACT Initiative: Become the most accountable, collaborative, and transparent unit of government in the state of Illinois.

We will re-align local government to better serve taxpayers in the 21st Century through professionalization and best practice. The ACT Initiative outlines a number of topics on which I will report progress to the community during my first year in office.

1. Restructure the County Administrative Leadership Team. Includes but is not limited to positions that impact other county departments. County Administrator, Deputy County Administrator, Chief Financial & Budget Officer, and others upon further evaluation.

2. Implement the Winnebago County Government Report Card. Develop and report on a series of departmental priority measures to evaluate the taxpayer return on investment. Taxpayer dollars will be rigorously assessed to ensure a focus on outcomes beneficial to the community and to develop a culture of continuous improvement free of political influence.

3. Extend Winnebago County Government Report Card to include entities and programs that the county funds through their budget. Host Fee, 1% Public Safety Tax, and other revenue distribution programs will be held accountable for the allocation and results generated by the funding provided through the County.

4. Reform external appointment process. A systematic procedure for appointing (with advise and consent of the County Board) community members to represent the County on non-elected boards will be implemented to provide highly-qualified, well-aligned representatives.

5. Evaluate County Board committees. Create a Policy Committee for ongoing review of County Code and to ensure the Board’s governance model and practices are consistent with best practice. Utilized the Committee process to de-emphasize caucus practice.

6. Conduct an extensive internal and external efficiency and effectiveness audit. Review and implement joint purchasing and other resource sharing opportunities to eliminate duplicate services and functions. Certain findings may lead to pursuit of consolidation of local government units with increased accountability and transparency.

7. Eliminate the real and perceived culture of cronyism and nepotism. Evaluate the role of leadership, human resources policies, enforcement, and transparency.
8. Administration - Board dynamic. Treat all board members with respect for their service to the community as elected representatives of citizens. Provide the Board with processes and materials that enable them to govern effectively and wisely.

9. Meet with all elected County officials on a regular, scheduled basis. Build trust, break-down silos, and create understanding of organizational opportunities and challenges.

10. Increase communication with the community. Rather than a single State of the County event, presentations and updates will be provided throughout the year.

11. Establish the Chairman’s Advisory Council. Ensure increased transparency and gain access to outside subject-matter expertise; members will not have other business with the County and input will be purely advisory.

12. Establish the Chairman’s Youth Advisory Council. Engage young leaders before they graduate high school and leave for college.

13. Review Finance Department - Internal Audit relationship. Revisit recent decision to transfer some finance duties to the County Auditor’s office in which audits of one department are conducted within the same.

14. Conduct annual review of finance and human resource systems and processes. This includes budget amendment process, bid process, risk management, and ethics policies. Benchmark against best practice in other county governments, municipalities, and private-sector.

15. Discuss amending Board lay over policy. Discuss the possibility of lowering the number of affirmative votes needed to lay an item over.

16. Discuss implementation of State Comptroller’s vendor/campaign donor program. Consider requiring vendors to disclose campaign contributions.

17. Explore board training program. Conduct new board member orientation and on-going training.

18. Local, state, and federal elected synergy. Work with local, state, and federal elected officials to ensure a new era of partnership and better results for taxpayers. Communicate, align, and speak with one voice as a region to impact future state and federal statues and funding.

19. Re-brand Winnebago County Government. Renew our image as a community and region by communicating this change process.
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PALATINE AREA
PROPOSAL TO STUDY THE VALUE OF ELIMINATING THE
BARRINGTON TOWNSHIP AND MOVING THE AREA AND
SERVICES INTO THE PALATINE TOWNSHIP

BACKGROUND:
* AT ANNUAL MEETING, MAY 17, 2017, MEMBERS VOTED ON AND
APPROVED TO DO A STUDY
* I HAVE BEEN OBSERVING BOARD MEETINGS OF BARRINGTON AND
PALATINE TOWNSHIP MEETINGS FOR MONTHS
* FEW ACTIVITIES OCCUR IN BARRINGTON TOWNSHIP

TOWNSHIP INFORMATION:
* POPULATION OF BARRINGTON TOWNSHIP IS 3RD LOWEST IN COOK
COUNTY — 15,636 (2010 CENSUS)
* POPULATION OF PALATINE TOWNSHIP IS 112,994 (2010)
* COMBINED POPULATION OF BARRINGTON AND PALATINE TOWNSHIPS
(128,630) IS LESS THAN SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP (131,288) JUST TO SOUTH OF
PALATINE TOWNSHIP
* COSTS IN BARRINGTON TOWNSHIP ARE ASSOCIATED WITH AN OLD
BUILDING
  * REPAIRING PARKING LOT
  * REPAIRING FRONT STEPS AND RAILING
* BARRINGTON TOWNSHIP MANAGES 2 CEMETERIES
* BARRINGTON TOWNSHIP DISTRIBUTES GRANT MONEY TO LOCAL
CHARITIES
* HIGHWAY SERVICES (4 MILES OF UNINCORPORATED ROADS) IS BEING
HANDED BY PALATINE TOWNSHIP
* UNCONTESTED ELECTIONS
QUESTIONS:
* FOUR TRUSTEES BY STATE STATUTE - WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE TRUSTEES IN BARRINGTON TOWNSHIP?
* HOW MUCH TIME IS SPENT BY EACH TRUSTEE IN A MONTH ON TOWNSHIP BUSINESS
* HOW MUCH TIME IS SPENT BY THE SUPERVISOR PER MONTH
* IS THERE A RATION OF TAX LEVY TO POPULATION
* WHAT IS THE COST TO MAINTAIN THE TOWNSHIP BUILDING
* WHAT IS THE VALUE OF THE TOWNSHIP BUILDING AND PROPERTY
* COULD THE TOWNSHIP SERVICES BE MOVED INTO THE VILLAGE OF BARRINGTON BUILDING
* WHAT IMPACT ON SERVICES WOULD THERE BE IF BARRINGTON AND PALATINE WERE COMBINED
* HOW MUCH TAXPAYER MONEY COULD BE SAVED BY COMBINING THE TOWNSHIPS

TIMEFRAME:
* ESTIMATE OF 18 MONTHS

CONTACT:
LAURA DAVIS — LWV Palatine Area
Lauramdavis90@gmail.com
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COOK COUNTY'S
POSITION ON ELECTED VS. APPOINTED
OR CONSOLIDATION OF BODIES OR OFFICES
and
ITS USE FOR STUDY OF MERGING
RECORDE OF DEEDS OFFICE WITH COUNTY CLERK'S

The LWVCC position sets forth the criteria to be considered in determining whether the League will support the consolidation or elimination of an elected position or body or the creation of a new elected position or body. Following are those criteria in italics, along with the findings in regular font contained in the LWVCC's study of the specific issue of whether the elected position of the Cook County Recorder of Deeds should be eliminated and the responsibilities of that office transferred to the Cook County Clerk. Applying the criteria to the facts we learned during our study led the LWVCC to support the referendum on the November 2017 ballot. This referendum passed, and the consolidation will take place following the November election in 2020.

1. Whether the body or official makes public policy decisions, which would tend to be supportive of the need for election, as opposed to that body or official having mainly administrative duties.

Any public policy decisions made by the elected Recorder of Deeds could be made by the elected Clerk if the recording duties were transferred to the Clerk.

2. Whether there will be significant cost savings as a result of consolidation or elimination of the elected body or position, or whether there will be significant increased costs as a result of creating a new elected body or position.

It is reasonable to assume that at least $1 million would be saved annually by moving the recording function to the Clerk's office. Moreover, despite concerns raised by the Recorder, there do not need to be significant dollars spent to combine computer systems in order to consolidate the offices.

3. Whether there will be efficiencies that should lead to better service through elimination of overlapping responsibilities or duties and/or through improved communications between employees of the consolidated body or office.

There should be some efficiencies realized and some additional services offered should the Recording function be transferred to the Clerk through cross-training of employees.

4. Whether there is a need for a trained professional in the role now being elected.

There has not been a requirement in the past for the Recorder to have any special expertise in the function being overseen prior to being elected.

5. Whether there is a need for the body or official to be independent of other elected bodies or officials.
There is no reason to keep the Recording function independent of any of the functions of the Clerk. Neither office serves as a check and balance on the other.

6. **Whether there is some other public interest being served by having a body or official accountable to the voters and/or by having the voters able to select the members of the body or the official through direct election.**

Voters will continue to be able to elect the person responsible for the Recording function should the duties be transferred to the Clerk, and the Clerk will continue to be accountable to the voters.

Following the completion of the study and determination by the LWVCC Board to adopt the position supporting the referendum, the LWVCC issued a press release, wrote letters to the editor, and created a half-page handout which local leagues in Cook County helped distribute to the public. Copies of the Study were given to the Cook County Board, along with the Recorder of Deeds and County Clerk, as well as some members of the press. Representatives of the LWVCC also made presentations at local league meetings, as well as at one community meeting concerning the referenda on the November ballot.

*For more information, contact*

The League of Women Voters of Cook County
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312-839-8395, ext. 27
www.lwvcoukcounty.org

Priscilla Mims
312-861-0166
mimspa@aol.com
Dissolution of Evanston Township

In March, 2014, Evanston voters approved a referendum to dissolve the township and shift the township services to the city.

- Structurally this was quite simple. The township was coterminous with the city, and the elected township supervisors were also the elected city aldermen. The measure passed by 65% in favor to 35% opposed.
- The process took several years, beginning with an advisory referendum in 2012.
- Illinois law and the Illinois constitution have contradictory guidelines for dissolving government units. Legislation promoted by State Senator Daniel Biss was required to clarify the authority of Evanston voters to make this change.
- The initiative for the referenda came from members of the city council.
- The actual transition went swiftly and smoothly, partly because of several changes which had already taken place.

Role of LWVEvanston. LWVEvanston did not have a position on the proposed dissolution and did not do a study.

- Many LWVE members were sympathetic to dissolution, but felt there was not sufficient time to do a study, particularly since some members felt the issue was sensitive. Members agreed that the league could play an important role in educating voters.
- The first step taken by the league was to press the Evanston Mayor and City Manager to clarify their plans for assuming responsibility for township services. The City Manager provided a response at the end of October, 2013, explaining in some detail plans to continue General Assistance, Emergency Assistance and Assessment programs, where the programs would be housed, how the programs would be funded, efforts to continue employment for township staff, and plans for transition.
- On its own initiative and at the request of several aldermen, the league provided information on the issues, focusing on a referendum fact sheet and a public forum with a panel focusing on a presentation of the facts and responses to questions from citizens. Organizers of the forum made an effort to meet with individuals and groups opposed to the referendum to emphasize our neutrality.
- The rationale for dissolution was that the city could provide the services more efficiently and perhaps at lower cost. The unstated concerns were that recent leadership of the township had been erratic. A significant block of Evanston residents were opposed to the change and feared services provided by the city in place of the township might be reduced or might be administered less sympathetically.

Evaluation of the transfer of services to the city. The current provision of General Assistance and other programs is judged to be effective. Management of the program was assigned to a competent and widely respected city official. She has instituted supportive services and enrolled clients in ACA funded medical programs. Public criticism of the transfer has not been expressed.

For more information, contact Betty Hayford, LWVE, ehayford@gmail.com
Consolidation of Governmental Units Survey
Sub-Committee on the Consolidation of Governmental Entities
League of Women Voters of Illinois
Spring 2017
Brief Results Overview

45 Total League organizations within Illinois
45 Survey respondents
24 Different League organizations represented by those 45 respondents

Limitations of the Survey
- There is not representation everywhere in Illinois by the League of Women Voters of Illinois. Of 45 total League organizations within Illinois, thirteen of them are from south of I-80.
- Of 24 different Leagues responding to the survey, only three are from south of I-80.

Types of Units

911 Dispatch Services
Deerfield Area: Deerfield, Riverwoods and Bannockburn already consolidated the police/fire dispatch services. We’re just under that—24,300. The problem we’re having is that the state specified a minimum of 25,000 population—not considering the fact that this area has about 60,000 daytime population with all the office buildings. Our dispatch center is updated and better than nearby communities. We’ve asked for an exemption from state law. That’s on hold. The original consolidation was cost-saving and more efficient. What the state is requiring would cost us $1,000,000 if we have to consolidate with another community. Consolidation with a larger community—Highland Park or Glenview, for example, would erode our service time and be quite expensive as the equipment is very different. State-mandated consolidation is probably not the way to go, based on our experience.

Glenview/Glenco: Glenview 911 dispatch consolidated with three other neighboring towns. For 911 dispatch, the estimated annual cost savings were $300,000 for all four towns, combined. It took twelve months to finish.

Lake County: I don’t believe the consolidation has taken place for 911 Dispatch Service yet but it is in the planning stages.
DeKalb County: 911 services consolidated in parts of DeKalb County in 2002 and Sandwich will consolidate this year with DeKalb County. The previous consolidation that took place in 2002 took five years of fiscal cooperation. Sandwich does not plan to cut any jobs at their dispatch center. They currently share services with Kendall County but 85% of calls that come in are for locations within DeKalb County. The calls will be coordinated with DeKalb County instead of Kendall County. A new call center planned for the Sandwich Police Station will still be built. The planned consolidation for Sandwich should take several months. DeKalb County had two complete outages of the 911 service, in September of 2016 and again in April of 2017. The blame for the outage in September fell on Frontier’s software and there were outages in other counties. Callers had to use the non-emergency local numbers and 911 dispatchers called back those who tried to call. The outage in April was to Verizon and U.S. Cellular wireless customers, not landlines. While the consolidation did not cause the two complete system failures, the outages affected more people simultaneously.

School Districts
Downers Grove–Woodridge–Lisle: K-8 school districts consolidated ten or more years ago with the result of better efficiency – There was a one school only district.

Champaign County: School districts consolidated from just a few years ago with the result of cost savings. There were only the usual issues with school consolidation. The process took several years with the proposal, planning, and election. School districts also consolidated from around ten or more years ago. After a very heated and lengthy strike by teachers, one district dissolved and areas were assigned to other preexisting districts. The very public strike and school board stalemate were well covered by local press. Those seemed to be aggravated by the personalities involved.

DeKalb County: The Somonauk schools are looking into the possibilities of consolidation with other schools and a few schools plan to have a feasibility study for consolidation. Those schools include Leland, Indian Creek, Serena, and Earlville. Currently, the schools are gathering information.

DeKalb County: The DeKalb School District annexed the Malta School District more than ten years ago. Any cost savings were negligible or non-existent. The DeKalb High School became overcrowded a few years later and a new one opened at a cost of $110,000,000 supported by a total population of around 50,000, following three previous failed referendums. The old elementary school in Malta closed after the building of a new elementary school in Cortland and the kids in Malta ride the bus instead of walking. The new elementary school in Cortland cost
$15,000,000. As an unintended consequence of the annexation, but mostly due to poor location planning when a developer offered land for the construction, the new Cortland Elementary School opened across I-88 from a landfill, which subsequently expanded. The location of the new elementary school across from the landfill is very problematical. The Shabbona and Waterman school districts combined into the Indian Creek School District more than ten years ago.

County Recorder of Deeds
Two respondents from Cook County:
A. The Cook County Recorder of Deeds and Clerk will consolidate, to be completed by 2020. This will take four years, 2016 to 2020. Cost savings and efficiencies are expected. There was a problem, just one—several current employees feared job loss.
B. The Cook County Recorder of Deeds elected position is being eliminated as of the end of November 2020, and the office functions are being moved to the Cook County Clerk, per a binding referendum on the November 2016 ballot. The Cook County League did a study using one of our League’s own positions to determine we would support the referendum. We disseminated the highlights of our study to the public through handouts, presentations at forums, letters to the editor, press releases, web site, and Facebook postings, also obtaining assistance from the local leagues in Cook County. The consolidated will not take place until 2020. However, we are planning to follow-up now to see whether planning will begin now and whether some cross training of the County Clerk’s staff could assist with the backlog of recordings that currently exist in the Recorder’s office.

Greater Peoria: The Recorder of Deeds dissolved into the County Clerk’s Office. The League updated a long-standing position and supported the County Board’s referendum on the ballot in November 2014. Cost savings, more efficiencies, and professional assessment of the office resulted, and the County stopped paying a full-time salary to an elected official who spent about fifteen hours per week in her office. The Elected Recorder immediately quit after the referendum passed. The County hired someone part-time who did a great assessment of office needs and made changes prior to the move into the County Clerk’s office. Those changes affected the County’s costs in a positive way. The process took fourteen months from the referendum to moving into the County Clerk’s Office.

Election Commissions
Four respondents from Wheaton:
A. The Election Commission is becoming a department in DuPage County.
B. The County Clerk may absorb the Election Commission.
C. The clerk's office will consolidate with the election commission on the County level. This would save money and use services at a more efficient manner. 

D. One answered "no" to question regarding if any units consolidated or will consolidate.

Greater Peoria: The Peoria City Election Commission and Peoria County Clerk's Election Division consolidated into the Peoria County Election Commission in May 2015. In 2004, we [League] put a referendum on the ballot to dissolve the City Election Commission, which failed. (The Republican-dominated City Council opposed it at that time because the County Clerk was a Democrat.) In about 2014, the County and City got legislation to create the County Election Commission by a referendum passed by the voters. This resulted in cost savings, better efficiency, better service, and lessened the confusion of the two "election offices" whose offices were a half mile apart. The Chief Circuit Judge still appoints the Commissioners, but there are two more than when it was just the City Election Commission. The offices will finally move to their own space in June 2017. Because of so many elections, etc., they have not moved into a space that will have better parking and space for all the equipment.

Mosquito Abatement Districts

Two Respondents from Roselle/Bloomingdale:
A. The consolidation of various mosquito abatement districts in DuPage passed on a November 2016 ballot.
B. Mosquito Abatement District consolidation may have been longer than five years ago ... not sure.

Townships

Palatine Area: Over ten years ago, there was a study by the League to eliminate townships, not to consolidate them into another governing body. Our League represents several villages and we have lost contact with leaders from many years ago. The League did a study and had a public meeting.

McHenry County: Township government consolidation has been seriously considered. The County Board organized a Task Force on township consolidation. Cost savings and legislation issues were the biggest roadblocks. There are levy issues forced by legislation and other limitations on legislation.

Four Respondents from Evanston
A. One answered "no" to the question on if any units consolidated or will consolidate.
B. The elimination of Evanston Township resulted in cost savings, better efficiency but there were community members upset about the potential loss of service.

C. The Township dissolved and the City of Evanston absorbed Township functions. All of the above resulted: cost savings, better efficiency, and better service. We had a League program on the outcome last year and the story is a good one. People who feared the worst found their fears did not prove accurate. It went quite smoothly because of good planning, and City Council and Township Board were identical.

D. Evanston Township consolidated to the City of Evanston, resulting in cost savings, better efficiency, better services, etc. The process required two referenda, advisory first. The African American community objected to the loss of what was correctly perceived to be an African American institution. Community discussion began in 2010, with consolidation in 2014.

**Park Districts**

Glenview/Glencoe: The purchasing function for the Village and Park District consolidated in Glenview.

DeKalb County: In 2016, the City of DeKalb tried to take over the DeKalb Park District. The League did become involved with that attempt and invited the Park District Board for a joint meeting. The League’s materials from the distant past in the 1950s showed that the Park District acreage more than quintupled to 2016 but the total number of employees dropped. The Park District’s budget is more robust compared to the City of DeKalb, although the swimming pool is aging. The Park District resisted any efforts for consolidation at that time. The previous mayor involved with the possible consolidation lost the 2017 election.

**Facilities**

Glenview/Glencoe: The Police Station and Village Hall facilities consolidated in Glenview.

**Regional Office of Education**

Greater Peoria: The ROE created Peoria County Cooperative Purchasing. That resulted in cost savings and efficiency, working together on various city and county endeavors with purchasing (fuel) and E911, and updating the old agreements to current needs/budgets, etc.

**Other Comments**

There are too many forms of government and sacred cows. There is no in-depth investigation by the press or organizations. The Township stepped up after there was an attempt to consolidate.
Based on studies by the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability, I don’t see great savings being realized by consolidation.

Governmental unit consolidation is essential for Illinois to get its economic house in order. This is state issue number one in my opinion.

I think the LWVIL [League of Women Voters of Illinois] should primarily focus on EDUCATING voters about candidates and their views and should NOT be advocating policy. It used to be the last just "civic" organization, trying to be non-partisan and helping people learn about views, not telling what they should think. I have been a LWV member for a long time. I agree with 99% for what LWV/LWVIL stands but DO NOT agree that it is they that should be carrying these banners. Leave it to Sierra Club, etc. other organizations with focused views. Unfortunately, all groups seem to have to be in opposition to something. Let's (LWV) be about encouraging people to be thoughtful and to participate. That is enough.

We currently have five school districts in Skokie. I've always believed they should be consolidated.

I think we should push this at the state level.

I think this is an important issue and I hope LWVIL addresses it.

There are two situations of governmental unit proliferation: A mass transit district was formed as a strategic move to block the existing MTA from expanding. Eventually it was dissolved after several levies where the only expenses were for lawyers. A developmental disabilities board was started because it could levy taxes, but is staffed entirely by the staff of several from the mental health district. One body serving both populations would be more efficient. Also there is a city and a county public health district which can't consolidate because of a difference in tax rates---they are higher in city, and county wants to keep its low rate

--Complied and edited by Kay Shelton
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Font Face Dyslexie, for those with Dyslexia
Mosquito Abatement District Consolidation Research Sub-Committee Report

Our consolidation issues committee knew that we have tons of “districts” in Illinois, many of which we didn’t know much about. When mosquito abatement districts came up in the conversation, we thought it might be interesting to learn about them as a potential target for consolidation. Here is a summary of our journey, parts of which could be used to begin any research. This wasn’t a study, but research to find out if we need a study.

First meeting when you don’t know very much
What questions should we ask? Whom should we ask them of? Do we know anyone personally we could use as a resource? Who on the team is doing what? When should we check in with each other to see how it’s going? How can we ensure that we cover all parts of the research area, which may have very different needs?

One way to begin research
What is your team curious about? What were we curious about? We had seen the trucks spraying for mosquitoes, but what else does a mosquito abatement district do? How many of these are there in Illinois? How and when were they started? Are there places that don’t have them? How much do they cost? Could districts be combined without loss of efficacy? Would it save any money? Do we even need them?

What questions to ask beyond your own curiosity
Start with some basic research and learn what you can from online sources. What is the law? Maybe someone on your committee has background knowledge to get you started. Use your committee to agree on some questions so you’re all asking more or less the same thing when you do research. Learn some terminology on your topic (e.g. nuisance mosquitoes vs. vector mosquitoes, larvicide vs. adulticide), so your first interviews aren’t a complete surprise, like mine were.

Whom to ask these questions
Talking to as many people as possible is essential. If you’re doing a study on the farm bill, talk to some farmers and others affected by it. If you’re doing a study on charter schools, talk to parents, teachers and administrators. Use personal connections. In our case, Hilary gave us someone to talk to in DuPage County, I asked a friend who is a township trustee, Jane had met a mosquito abatement district trustee in her own district. Don’t be shy about asking to speak to the top administrator. If you say you’re with the League of Women Voters, they’ll call you back promptly.

You may get some surprising answers.
For example, I was surprised to find out that one of the expenses in a mosquito abatement district is for a lawyer to attend board meetings. I was REALLY surprised to learn the salary of the director. Reading the laws and codes is quite enlightening. Among other things we learned that “Any contiguous territory having a population of not less than 300 inhabitants and no part of which is already included in a mosquito abatement district may be organized as a MAD.” Only 300 people? Good thing it’s a lot of work to start one.

Unsurprising answers
All the people we talked to were extremely serious about the need for controlling mosquito borne diseases. All the people we talked to said they were very conscious to be careful of spending taxpayer money.

Tidbit of advice
Take notes with names, contact information and dates of your conversations and keep them in a safe, very searchable format so you don’t spend gobs of time looking for a phone number or name, like I did.

In conclusion
Do we know enough to recommend doing a study on consolidation of MADs? No, but if you undertake one, we’ll be glad to forward what we already know.

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Renee Gladstone  rrgladstone@aol.com
SOME FACTS ABOUT MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICTS IN ILLINOIS

What is a MAD? Mosquito Abatement District.

How many MADs in Illinois are there? 21

Are all areas in Illinois in a MAD? No

Who provides services if there is no MAD? County, city, township, or no one

Who creates or dismantles a MAD? Created by referendum of the local citizens under the Mosquito Abatement District Act. It can only be dismantled via referendum as above. Complexities of dismantling a MAD may include long term contracts, unions, strong loyalty of district trustees.

What services does a MAD provide?

- Surveillance, larvicide (treat water areas before hatch) and adulticide (spraying after hatch)
- Full time entomologist
- Public education

Are all MAD services the same?

- No. Some do both larvicide and adulticide, some do only one or the other. Larvicide is more effective, but more expensive.

Who oversees a MAD?

- An unpaid, appointed Board of Trustees
- The IDPH (Illinois Department of Public Health) which has no standards but requires an annual report on control activities and pesticide usage.
- EPA regulates pesticide use

Do all MADs have the same staffing and costs?

- No. Some have full time management including a Vector Biologist. The number of full time paid employees varies among districts. Costs associated with full time staff include salary, Social Security and health insurance. Other costs include part time staff during the active mosquito season, legal, building and equipment with maintenance costs, products, utilities, education materials, etc.
- Some districts subcontract out to companies that specialize in these services.

Respectfully submitted by Jane Ballengee J.ballengee27@gmail.com and Renee Gladstone rrgladstone@aol.com
League of Women Voters of McLean County
Local Government Study

Questions for officials of special districts, townships, etc.

Background
The League of Women Voters of McLean County is undertaking a study of our local governments with a special interest in how those can be as effective and efficient as possible. We are currently gathering facts, interviewing local officials, etc. to learn about this topic. Based on what we find, we may (or may not) eventually take a position on the topic. But, today we are here to learn from you and your first-hand experiences.

General
How long have you served in this post?

What is the most important function of your governmental entity?

What are the other functions/services of your entity?

Governance
Are you yourself elected or appointed?

Are you governed by a board or other overseer? Who selects those persons?

What are the key decisions that must be made in this entity?

Who makes those decisions?

Do you have any difficulty getting citizens to serve on any boards or commissions – either elected or appointed?

Finances
Intro like 'now we have some budget questions. Let's start with the basics; what is your annual budget? ...
... Is it stable or changing? - and then go onto all the rest of those questions."

How big ($) is your annual budget? Does it fluctuate much from year to year?

How many full time and part time employees do you have? What is the yearly budget for personnel, including benefits?

What comprises the bulk of other major expenditures each year?

Revenue sources:
What are they? How large is each (approx. % is fine)

Are each of these sources stable from year to year?

Are any of the revenues expressly dedicated to a specific activity (ex: often a grant is limited to a specific activity rather than the general functions of the unit)

Overall

What are the greatest strengths of this entity?

What are the biggest problems this entity faces—now and in the years ahead?

Are any particular state laws or regulations especially burdensome for this entity? How so?

Do you currently have any intergovernmental agreements --formal or informal? Are they successful?
Do you believe that there are opportunities to cooperate more effectively with other governmental units?

Ideas to make this entity more effective (i.e., better provide appropriate services)? Please include any short term or longer term ideas, including those that may require changes beyond your individual entity.

Ideas to make this entity more efficient?

How often do citizens contact you with questions or suggestions?

What do you wish the public understood about your entity?

Impact of state budgetary problems on your governmental entity?

Anything else we ought to know?

Other job specific items:

For any elected township officials: Are you a member of the McLean County Elected Officials (townships) Association? What do you see as the role of this group?

For any mayor or village president: Are you a member of the McLean County Mayor’s Association? What do you see as the role of this group?

For any Fire District Official: How many of what size fire trucks, how old are they, what are you budgeting for truck replacement in next 5 years? How many homes and what is the population of the area for which you provide fire protection? (note: can usu get population from warehouse)