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**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING
CARLINVILLE PRIMARY REFERENDUM**

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Carlinville - On March 15th, the voters in the City of Carlinville have an important question on the ballot regarding city primaries. Numerous voters have called into the Election office with questions regarding this referendum. In an effort to provide answers to the most frequently asked questions, Macoupin County Clerk Pete Duncan has released this information sheet. This is for informational purposes only and it is NOT intended to persuade anyone about how they should vote.

What is the question about?

The City of Carlinville currently nominates candidates for city offices such as mayor, city clerk and alderman through a partisan primary if two or more candidates file from the same party for the same office. This referendum if approved will mean the City will only have a primary if 5 or more candidates file for the same office.

Why does this matter?

If the referendum is approved, the odds of taxpayer dollars being spent on a primary would be dramatically lower. This would save significant County tax dollars.

Why does this save taxpayer money?

Anytime there is an Election, the County Clerk's office must spend money on things like printing ballots, hiring pollworkers, running required notices in the newspaper, getting supplies for the polling places, etc. If there are fewer primaries in the City of Carlinville, there will be less taxpayer money spent. It costs anywhere from \$5,000 to \$10,000 to run a primary in the City of Carlinville.

But shouldn't voters having their voice being heard be more important than saving money?

That is an important point, unfortunately, voters don't seem interested in voting in these primary elections. . In 2011, out of 1022 voters in Ward 1, only 123 voters turned out. That's a 12% turnout. In 2015, out of 1,052 voters in Ward 2, only 114 voters turned out. That's a 10% turnout. The voters in this Election will need to weigh the right of a voter to be heard with the amount of money it costs for so few voters to vote.

How much is does it really cost for a voter to vote?

The last two Consolidated Primaries cost a lot per voter. In 2011, 123 voters turned out. The total cost was \$5,736.13. That's \$46.63 spent per voter. In 2015, 114 voters turned out. The total cost was \$5,422.13. That's \$47.53 spent per voter.

Aren't we denying voters the right to vote for the candidate they want in office?

Not really. If two candidates run as Democrats for Mayor, currently, only one of them will win the primary and be on the Consolidated Election ballot, when normally closer to 20 to 30 percent of voters turnout. If the referendum is approved, both of those candidates would be listed on the April Consolidated Election when those voters will be able to decide between them.

If the referendum is approved, there is still the possibility of a primary in the future?

Yes, though it is unlikely. If the referendum is approved, if 5 or more candidates file for the same office there will be a primary. Currently if 2 or more file, there is a primary. Looking at the primary results on file, there has never been 5 or more candidates file for the same city office in Carlinville. This means instead of there being numerous primaries having been held in the past, there would have been no primary elections. Based on that history, it seems like a primary happening in the future would be highly unlikely.

If I want to change the way primaries happen in Carlinville, do I vote yes or no on the question?

The question is worded asking "Shall candidates for the offices of Mayor, City Clerk, City Treasurer, and City Council Members of the City of Carlinville, Macoupin County, Illinois, be elected in nonpartisan consolidated elections and only be required to run in nonpartisan primary elections when required by the Illinois Compiled Statutes?" If a voter wants to change to nonpartisan primaries, they would vote yes. If a voter wants to keep the current primary system, they should vote no.

What if I have further questions?

Please feel free to contact my office or the Illinois State Board of Elections.

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