

Referenda Results – November 4, 2008

At the polls in November, Illinois citizens re-enforced their belief that park districts and forest preserves are their preferred units of local government when it comes to the preservation of greenspace and the provision of recreation services.

Of the 21 local park-related measures that appeared on ballots across the state, five proposed the formation of a new park or forest preserve district. The voters approved four. Seven measures sought voter approval on operational issues contemplated by an agency. Questions ranged from proposed annexation to facility construction to the composition of the park board. Citizens affirmed their confidence in the management of their park agencies by voting in the affirmative on six of these seven operational measures.

Not unexpectedly the squeamishness occurred when the check arrived. Nine ballot questions involved tax or bonding issues, and, of the nine, seven were defeated. Voters are more than reluctant to increase their tax burden directly, as all four tax measures went down to defeat. As has been the trend for the past several elections, voters were more willing to allow park agencies to borrow funds. Two of five bond measures met with approval.

The following table summarizes the types of initiatives, the amounts requested and vote totals. Data for this report were obtained from county election authorities and local news outlets after all precincts were counted but before votes were made official. If you are aware of an initiative that is not included, please contact me at pmurphy@ILparks.org.

Park and Forest Preserve Referenda Results

DISTRICT	JURISDICTION	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	PASS/FAIL	VOTES YES/NO
Batavia Park District	City of Aurora, Kane	Bond	Shall the Batavia Park District build and equip a community recreation and aquatics center, including administrative offices;... complete other capital development projects; and issue its bonds to the amount of \$36,000,000 for the purpose of paying the costs thereof?	Failed	Yes = 4,919 No = 9,766
Berwyn Park District	Cook	Misc.	Shall the Berwyn Park District annex all of the territory within the Village of Stickney for park purposes?	No	Yes = 335 No = 1,628
Blue Mound Park District	Macon	Misc.	Shall a new park district, called the Blue mound Park District, comprising the territory of Blue Mound Village, Macon County, Illinois, be formed?	Yes	Yes = 335 No = 131
Carthage Park District	Hancock	Office Term/Size	Shall the Carthage Park District reduce the number of park commissioners from a seven-member board to a five-member board?	Yes	Yes = 863 No = 238
Cary Park District	McHenry	Misc.	Shall the Cary Park District sell the following real estate: up to 87 acres of the westernmost portion of Hoffman Park or any subpart thereof...?	Yes	Yes = 5,607 No = 4,553
Champaign County Forest Preserve District	Champaign	Tax	Shall the limiting rate under the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law for the Champaign County Forest Preserve District be increased by an additional amount equal to .02% above the limiting rate for levy year 2007 and be equal to .0919% of the equalized assessed value of the taxable property therein for levy year 2008?	Failed	Yes = 31,370 No = 42,502
Chicago Ward 21, Precincts 2 and 65	City of Chicago	Misc.	Shall the City of Chicago, Chicago Board of Education and the Chicago Park District work together to build a full service multi-purpose indoor-outdoor track facility in the West Chatham community to train the youth of the community to compete successfully at the highest level in track and field throughout the country?	Yes	Yes = 751 No = 56
Crawford County Forest Preserve District	Crawford County	Misc.	Shall there be organized a Forest Preserve District in accordance with the Order of the judge of the Circuit Court of Crawford County dated September 4, 2008, to be known as Crawford County Forest Preserve and described as follows: "all that real property existing within the boundaries of Crawford County, Illinois?"	Yes	Yes = 4,794 No = 4,013

DISTRICT	JURISDICTION	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	PASS/FAIL	VOTES YES/NO
Erie Area Park District	Henry, Rock Island, Whiteside	Misc.	A proposition for or against the organization and establishment of a general park district to be known as Erie Area Park District.	No	Yes = 780 No = 942
Hanna City Park District	Peoria	Misc.	Shall the legal voters residing in Hanna City, Peoria County, State of Illinois, organize and form a new park district known as the Hanna City Park District?	Yes	Yes = 312 No = 252
Hazel Crest Park District	Cook	Bond	Shall bonds or notes of the Hazel Crest Park District to the amount of Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000) be issued for the purpose of constructing a swimming pool and aquatic center?	Pass	Yes = 3,828 No = 2,842
Hazel Crest Park District	Cook	Tax	Shall the Hazel Crest Park District be authorized to levy and collect an additional tax of not to exceed 0.15% for the purpose of recreational programs including the operation of a swimming pool and aquatic center as provided in Section 5-3a of The Park District Code?	Fail	Yes = 2,439 No = 4,223
LaSalle County Forest Preserve District	LaSalle County	Misc.	Shall there be organized a forest preserve district in accordance with the order of the judge of the circuit court of LaSalle County Forest Preserve District and described as follows: boundaries co-extensive with the boundaries of LaSalle County, Illinois?	Yes	Yes = 27,305 No = 19,134
Lake County Forest Preserve District	Lake County	Bond	Shall the Lake County Forest Preserve District, Lake County, Illinois borrow money and issue bonds to acquire and improve forest preserve lands in order to preserve and restore wildlife habitats, trail and greenway corridors, wetlands, prairies and forests; to provide flood control; and to create and improve public use areas for recreation, education and historic facilities in an amount not to exceed \$185,000,000?	Pass	Yes = 181,974 No = 93,791
Lan-Oak Park District	Cook	Tax	Shall the limiting rate under the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law for the Lan-Oak Park District be increased by an additional amount equal to .100% above the limiting rate for levy year 2006 and be equal to .296% of the equalized assessed value of the taxable property therein for levy year 2008?	Fail	Yes = 2,813 No = 7,753
Lisle Park District	DuPage	Bond	Shall the Lisle Park District build and equip a new community center, demolish the existing community center at Community Park, improve the site thereof and issue its bonds to the amount of \$21,900,000 for the purpose of paying the costs thereof?	Fail	Yes = 5,594 No = 8,100
Park District of Highland Park	Lake	Tax	Shall the limiting rate under the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law for the Park District of Highland Park be increased by an additional amount equal to 0.20% above the limiting rate for levy year 2007 and be equal to 0.4980% of the equalized assessed value of the taxable property therein for levy year 2008?	Fail	Yes = 3,420 No = 12,731
Park District of La Grange	Cook	Misc.	Shall the Park District of La Grange sell all or a portion of the following real estate consisting of the 2.82 acres located at and near the northwestern edge of Gordon Park...?	Yes	Yes = 4,164 No = 3,444
Rend Lake Conservancy District	Jefferson /Franklin Counties	Misc.	Do you want the Rend Lake Conservancy District to enter into long-term leases for the private development of public recreation and commercial facilities (such as marinas, restaurants, shops, water park, walking trails, parks, fishing piers, amusement, or entertainment amenities) and short-term/long-term leasing facilities (such as cabins, cottages, hotels, condominiums, or campgrounds) on the unused property in the Gun Creek area?	Yes	Yes = 17,122 No = 9,198
Village of Riverside	Cook	Misc.	Shall the Village of Riverside initiate and promote environmental best practices and procedures, including encouraging more ecologically sustainable building practices, conserving natural resources through better energy management, recycling, and use of renewable energy technologies, and increasing efforts to protect and preserve Riverside's parks, wilderness areas, and public facilities?	Yes	Yes = 3,480 No = 1,174
Waterloo Park District	Monroe	Bond	Shall Waterloo Park District, in the City of Waterloo for the purpose of a new park acquire approximately 10.82 acres of real estate along Rogers Street, including bond costs, and issue its bonds to the amount of \$385,000 for the purpose of paying the costs thereof?	Fail	Yes = 2,453 No = 2,773