

Farm Bureau Communicates Policy Position on the Consolidation of the Office of Recorder of Deeds and County Clerk

Cook County Farm Bureau® sent the following letter to Cook County Commissioners in support of a resolution placing a countywide referendum on the ballot to consider whether the Recorder of Deed's office should be eliminated and its record-keeping duties merged into the office of the County Clerk.

Cook County Farm Bureau®, a countywide farm organization **Supports** Resolution 15-6190 and a countywide referendum asking citizens if they support the elimination of the Office of the Cook County Recorder of Deeds.

Cook County Farm Bureau® policy 301 Cook County Government (page 7, lines 3-5) supports the consolidation of offices providing that there is a savings to taxpayers and services. The policies were most recently re-affirmed in May of 2016.

The consolidation of the Office of the Recorder of Deeds and County Clerk has the potential to save taxpayers financially while more efficiently administering services. Cook County is the only large county with a separate Recorder of Deeds and County Clerk. At the cost of \$11.6 per year, the 206 employees of the Cook County Recorder of Deeds is tasked with record-keeping.



Gerry Kopping, pictured left along with Jim Gutzmer, pictured centered purchased two animals from the Lake County 4-H auction. Kopping and Gutzmer are pictured with Julia O'Brien, a member of the Glenview Clovers 4-H Club. O'Brien raised and sold a 238-pound hog. O'Brien's hog along with a lamb will be donated to Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana and the Oak Park Food Pantry.

-Recorder continued-

Cook County Farm Bureau® supports Resolution 15-6190, which calls for a countywide referendum to determine the future of the Cook County Recorder of Deeds.

Cook County Farm Bureau® is the county's largest farm organization dedicated to bridging the gap between farmers and their urban neighbors.

Resolution 15-6190 was approved by the Cook County Board by a vote of 10-5. The question will appear on the November 2016 ballot.



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In and Around Cook County Agriculture



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**THE
POWER
OF (A)
AWARDS**

Farm Bureau to Host Candidate Coffees for Comptroller and MWRD

Cook County Farm Bureau® Political Action Committee along with Zeldenrust Farm Market is hosting candidate coffees with Susana Mendoza, candidate for Comptroller and candidates for Metropolitan Water Reclamation District. Farm Bureau members and friends are invited to attend one or both conversations.

Mendoza is engaged in a highly contested race for Illinois State Comptroller against appointed-Comptroller Leslie Munger. Munger was appointed after Judy Baar Topinka passed away unexpectedly.

The MWRD is an independent agency of state government with an elected Board of Commissioners. MWRD's main purpose is the reclamation and treatment of wastewater and flood water abatement in Cook County to protect the health and safety of citizens and of area waterways

Comptroller Candidate Coffee Information

Date: September 8, 2016

Time: 6:00 p.m.

MWRD Candidate Coffee Information

Date: October 19, 2016

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location

The candidate coffees will be held in the greenhouse at Zeldenrust Farm Market, 1001 Glenwood-Dyer Road, Chicago Heights.

Additional Information or to RSVP

Please contact Cook County Farm Bureau® at (708) 354-3276 with any questions or to RSVP.

Farm Bureau names 'Friends of Farm Bureau'

The following Cook County Commissioners were named 'Friend of the Farm Bureau' by the Cook County Farm Bureau® Political Action Committee in August.

Commissioner Sean Morrison
 Commissioner Gregg Goslin
 Commissioner Peter Silvestri
 Commissioner Bridget Gainer
 Commissioner Timothy Schneider
 Commissioner John Fritchey
 Commissioner Richard Boykin
 Commissioner Larry Suffredin

To be designated a 'Friend of the Farm Bureau,' Commissioners had to have supported Farm Bureau's key legislative issues and priorities more than 70% of the time.

Commissioners will receive their awards later this fall. All awards are provided by the Political Action Committee and will be reported to both the Illinois State Board of Elections and Cook County Clerk's Office in accordance with state law and county ordinance.



Cook County Farm Bureau board member, Janet McCabe (pictured left) and Micaela Smith, legislative staff member for State Representative Marcus Evans examine a sample of KOVAL gin during a distillery tour and tasting at KOVAL. KOVAL is the first distillery in Chicago since the mid-1800s.



Naaman Gambil with the Westside Bee Boyz shows Staff Exchange participants a honeycomb.

The Westside Bee Boyz, based in Chicago, maintains 80 hives in northeastern Illinois.

The Cook County Staff Exchange Program strives to connect Cook County leaders to agricultural businesses in an effort to broaden their knowledge of farming while enhancing Farm Bureau's relationship with the office.

Upcoming Events

September 8
 Comptroller Candidate Coffee

September 12
 Illinois Farm Families® tour of
 Zeldenrust Farm Market

September 13
 Center for Tax Accountability Policy
 Discussion

October 19
 MWRD Candidate Coffee

Future of Map Amendment Final, Farm Bureau to Continue Efforts to Reform the Mapping Process

In August, the Illinois Supreme Court issued its official ruling on the Independent Map court case and upheld the circuit court's ruling to keep it off the ballot. In the ruling, which was decided by four justices agreeing and three dissenting to the ruling, the inclusion of the oversight of the process being proposed to include the Illinois Auditor General as overseer of the new process was outside of the powers of the Legislative Article of the Constitution.

The Illinois Constitution voter initiative process is very limiting in how a proposed ballot question can be placed. The only section of the Constitution that can be amended is the Legislative Article and the changes must be both "structural and procedural." In the court's ruling it stated that including the Auditor General, who's powers are created in a separate section of the Constitution, we are outside the strict guidelines in the Constitution.

The majority opinion, written by Justice Thomas Kilbride, states; "(T)he framers of our constitution intended this court alone "to determine whether constitutional requirements for a proposed amendment were satisfied." That role does not require us to read between the lines of every proposal in an attempt to discern the propriety of



Amy Hansmann (wearing blue), a member of the Public Relations Committee interacts with families during Summer Nights at the Brookfield Zoo.

the proponent's underlying intentions; **our role is solely to determine whether the proposal comports with the strict limitations set out in article XIV, section 3.**" (emphasis added)

In the end, the final outcome is very disappointing and frustrating.

There is a process that would allow the Independent Map group to petition the Illinois Supreme Court for a rehearing, but the likelihood of the court granting that is very slim.

Farm Bureau's next steps include working with the groups who are seeking to change the redistricting process and see if there is a way to address the court's opinion that could possibly meet their concerns on future voter initiative constitutional amendments.

Farm Bureau will also explore what the possibility is of successfully getting the General Assembly approval for a constitutional amendment on redistricting.

One thing is for sure, Farm Bureau will continue to work to bring about redistricting reform as outlined in the Illinois Farm Bureau® policy book.

Cook County Farm Bureau®
 Farm. Family. Food

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