

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY CLERKS AND RECORDERS

April 28, 2014, Legislative Meeting

I. School Board Elections

The Illinois Association of School Boards has requested that we designate a group to communicate with them regarding changes taking place this year in the election process for school boards. The Legislative Committee is recommending volunteers Larry Reinhardt, Bruce Clark, Scott Erickson, Gretchen DeJaynes, and a designee of Cook Co.

II. Recording

- **Electronic revenue stamps.** [HB5613](#) (Rep. Rich Brauer, R-Sangamon Co.) - drafted by the IL Dept. of Revenue in consultation with the IACCR's Recording Committee - allows for the use of paper or electronic stamps. A county delinquent in remitting the state's share, could be disallowed by IDOR to the electronic process. *Passed the House; now Senate.* **IACCR position: support.**

III. Budget and Stipends

The State Board of Elections is requesting \$799,500 for stipends and \$5,043,000 for reimbursements to counties for election judges for the three elections coming in the next fiscal year. Budget hearings are ongoing toward passage of a state budget by May 31.

IV. County Issues

- **Assumed business names.** [SB3557](#) (Sen. Donne Trotter, D-Cook Co.) provides for the renewal of assumed business names every 5 years in counties with a population of more than 4,000,000 inhabitants. The provision is permissive for smaller counties. A fee of \$25 would be collected upon each 5-year renewal. *Passed the Senate and sent to the House.* **IACCR position: support.**
- **Compatibility of offices.** [HB5812](#) (Rep. Brian Stewart, R-Stephenson Co.) authorizes a county officer to hold a position on the board of a not-for-profit corporation that is interested in a contract, work, or business of the county. Sets limitations on participation if a county officer is appointed to represent the interests of the county. *Passed the House and sent to the Senate.* **IACCR: no position.**
- **Public records.** [HB4216](#) (Rep. Anthony DeLuca, D-Cook Co.) provides that anyone who knowingly, without lawful authority and with intent to defraud, alters, destroys, defaces, removes, or conceals any public record commits a Class 4 felony. *Passed the House and sent to the Senate.* **IACCR: no position.**
- **E-mail addresses for county officials.** [HB5623](#) (Rep. Ron Sandack, R-DuPage Co.) and [SB3106](#) (Rep. Michael Connelly, R-DuPage Co.) would require local governments that maintain a website to provide a means for the public to transmit correspondence electronically to each elected official. *Both passed their respective first chambers and were sent to the second.* **IACCR: no position.**
- **Property Taxes.** [HB5311](#) (Rep. David McSweeney, R-McHenry Co.) establishes a Township Property Tax Extension Freeze for the 2014 levy year for townships with a population of 100,000 or less located within a county subject to the Property Tax

Extension Limitation Law. *Passed the House and sent to the Senate.* IACCR: no position.

V. Elections

- **Schools as polling places.** [HB5755](#) (Rep. Kelly Cassidy, D-Cook Co.) establishes in law that a school district is encouraged to (i) close the school or (ii) hold a teachers institute on that day with students not in attendance for the day of an election. Provides that a government agency which makes a public building under its control available for use as a polling place shall allow the election authority to administer the election as authorized under the Election Code. *Passed the House and sent to the Senate.* IACCR position: support.
- **17-year old voters.** [SB2997](#) (Sen. Terry Link, D-Lake Co.) authorizes a 17-year-old to vote in a consolidated primary election if he or she will be 18 years old by the following regular election - just as they can now do in general primary elections. *Passed committee and sent to the full Senate.* IACCR: no position.
- **Election judges.** [HB4581](#) (Rep. Mike Fortner, R-DuPage Co.) stipulates that an employer may not require an employee to use earned vacation time or any form of paid leave time to serve as an election judge. *Passed the House and sent to the Senate.* IACCR position: support.
- **Voter discrimination.** [HJRCA0052](#) (Rep. Michael J. Madigan, D-Cook Co.) would amend the Suffrage and Elections Article of the Constitution to stipulate that no person can be denied the right to register or vote based on race, color, ethnicity, status as a member of a language minority, sex, sexual orientation, or income. *Adopted by the House and Senate for the November ballot.* IACCR: no position.
- **Possible issues for an elections omnibus.**
 - 1) Extending grace period registration and voting to election day (see [SB2805](#) (Sen. Mike Frerichs, D-Champaign Co.);
 - 2) Expanding early voting hours on the final weekend of voting before the election;
 - 3) ERIC – the Electronic Registration Information Center, a non-profit organization established to help states improve the accuracy of their voter rolls and increase access to voter registration for eligible citizens.

VI. Issues from the Legislative Committee

- **Recount fee.** Should the fee for a discovery recount be raised from \$10/precinct to \$50/precinct?
- **Clustering.** Should the IACCR pursue legislation for clear authority to cluster precincts in any election?
- **Voting centers.** Should the IACCR pursue legislation to allow use of voting centers like some other states?
- **Combining early, absentee and grace period voting.**
 - a. **Publication costs.** Change requirement to publication on local public website if one is present. If no public website, to be posted the SBE website; and posted at several local publications locations