

## INFORMATION TO TOWN OF MEDINA RESIDENTS REGARDING APRIL 3, 2018 CLERK REFERENDUM

**The Referendum Question will read: “Shall the person holding the office of town clerk in the Town of Medina be appointed by the town board?”**

In April of 2019, Ron Jacobson, our current clerk will be stepping down from his position. As a result, in August 2017 the Town Board unanimously passed an ordinance to place this referendum on the April 3, 2018 ballot and supports its approval. When a Clerk position is elected, he or she may not have the background and knowledge required to be effective in the role. As with any turnover in personnel, there is significant time and cost to educate and train a newly-elected Clerk. An elected Clerk can only be compelled to fulfill those duties outlined by State Statute. An appointed Clerk would be assigned additional duties by the Town Board to assure effective management of the Town.

What’s the difference between an appointed clerk and an elected clerk?

	Appointed	Elected
Directly reports to:	Town Board	Town Residents
Qualifications:	Experience as a clerk with education, training	<b>NONE</b>
Required Duties	Statutory PLUS duties Assigned by Board	Statutory Duties Only
Residency Requirement:	None	Yes (must live in Medina)
Length of Term	At the discretion of the board, but no more than 3 years	2 years

In recent years, the Clerk has become a much more technical position that requires advanced education, administrative skill, experience and ongoing training. In just the past year, election laws, procedures and reporting requirements have become increasingly demanding. Effective January 2017 Dane County relinquished their “Provider” role forcing reliers like Medina to manage all of the election requirements directly and independently. There are additional responsibilities that would be delegated to an appointed Town Clerk that would directly benefit Town residents.

An appointed Clerk would report to the Town Board. The Board will have control over wages and benefits, can dismiss the individual if the person’s performance is not beneficial to the Township, and will have the opportunity to select the best candidate for the position as the need arises. This is not the case with an elected Clerk, who reports to the people and serves their term regardless of quality of work. Also, the pool of qualified candidates is much greater because residency is not required.

In April 2017, 12 municipalities (all Towns) had Elected Clerks on the ballot. None had more than one candidate and one had no candidate. Furthermore, the towns that have Elected Clerks are not Full-Time positions; they are either Part-Time or by appointment only positions. All Cities and Villages (and 21 Towns) have appointed Clerks. There have been multiple municipalities in the past couple of years that have changed from elected to appointed Clerks.