

## RESOLUTION

### **A RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL OF LEGISLATION BY THE ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY CLARIFYING THE VILLAGE OF OAK PARK'S AUTHORITY TO IMPLEMENT A RANKED CHOICE VOTING SYSTEM**

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Oak Park ("**Village**"), as a home rule unit of local government as provided by Article VII, Section 6 of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, has the authority to exercise any power and perform any function pertaining to its government and affairs except as limited by Article VII, Section 6 of the Illinois Constitution of 1970; and

**WHEREAS**, on November 5, 2024, voters approved a petition-initiated referendum directing certain Village officials to be elected by ranked choice voting ("**Referendum**"); and

**WHEREAS**, ranked choice voting has been successfully implemented in other jurisdictions in the United States and has been shown to promote voter participation and ensure that elected officials are chosen with the support of a majority of votes cast; and

**WHEREAS**, in November 2022, voters in the City of Evanston approved a referendum adopting a ranked choice voting system for municipal elections and in June 2024 the Evanston City Council subsequently enacted an ordinance to implement the ranked choice voting system; and

**WHEREAS**, the validity and implementation of the ranked choice voting system in the City of Evanston is subject to pending litigation ("**Evanston Litigation**"); and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Evanston has joined the Evanston Litigation as a plaintiff and contends, among other things, that the City of Evanston has the authority at this time to adopt and implement a ranked choice voting system; and

**WHEREAS**, the Evanston Litigation is expected to provide clarity with respect to the authority at this time of Illinois home rule municipalities to adopt ranked choice voting systems; and

**WHEREAS**, Senate Bill 2004 pending in the 104th session of the Illinois General Assembly, introduced on February 6, 2025 ("**SB 2004**"), proposes to amend the Illinois Election Code, 10 ILCS 5/1-1 *et seq.* ("**Election Code**"), to allow units of local government to conduct local primary, general, and special elections by ranked choice voting and establish procedures and standards for the administration of ranked choice voting elections; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 1-23 of the Election Code, the Ranked Choice and Voting Systems Task Force ("**Task Force**") was created in November 2023 for the purpose of assessing the implementation and adoption of ranked choice voting in Illinois; and

**WHEREAS**, the Task Force will issue a final report memorializing its findings and recommendations regarding ranked choice voting in Illinois, however, the Task Force has yet to issue its final report; and

**WHEREAS**, the pendency of the Evanston Litigation, together with the introduction of SB 2004 and the absence of the Task Force final report, has collectively created an appearance of legal uncertainty regarding the authority of Illinois units of local government to implement ranked choice voting systems approved by their voters; and

**WHEREAS**, to the extent clarifying legislation is needed to authorize the implementation of ranked choice voting in the Village per the Referendum, the Village Board of Trustees requests approval of such legislation by the Illinois General Assembly;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the President and the Board of Trustees of the Village of Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois, as follows:

**Section 1. Recitals Incorporated.** The above recitals are incorporated herein by reference as though fully set forth.

**Section 2. Request.** To the extent legislative amendments are necessary to implement ranked choice voting in the Village, the Village requests approval of legislation by the General Assembly to clarify the authority of units of local government to adopt and implement ranked choice voting for local elections and to establish clear procedures, standards, and guidelines for the administration of ranked-choice voting elections.

**Section 3. Authorization.** The Village President and Village Manager are authorized to sign, and the Village Clerk is authorized to attest to, any documents relating to the subject matters of this Resolution. Village staff is directed to contact General Assembly members representing the Village and provide them with a copy of this Resolution.

**Section 4. Effective Date.** This Resolution will be in full force and effect after its approval, passage and publication as provided by law.

**[THIS SPACE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK]**

**ADOPTED** this 19<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2026, pursuant to a roll call vote asw follows:

Voting	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
President Scaman				
Trustee Eder				
Trustee Enyia				
Trustee Leving Jacobson				
Trustee Straw				
Trustee Taglia				
Trustee Wesley				

**APPROVED** this 19<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vicki Scaman, Village President

**ATTEST**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Christina M. Waters, Village Clerk

Published in pamphlet form this \_\_ day of May, 2026.

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Christina M. Waters, Village Clerk