

Vote March 20, 2012 – an opportunity to seek lower electric bills

In 2010, the Illinois State legislature gave municipalities a tool to help taxpayers save money. As approved, Villages are able to seek competitive pricing for the provision of electricity to resident and small businesses. In order to seek competitive prices for electrical services in one contract, the Village needs approval from registered voters through a referendum.

On August 23, 2011, the Long Grove Village Board unanimously approved a resolution authorizing the Village to place a referendum on the March 20, 2012 election ballot. The referendum is a requirement by state law which, if approved, would allow the Village the ability to seek competitive pricing for the provision of electricity to residents and small businesses.

The referendum question on the March 20, 2012 election asks Long Grove voters if the Village should have the authority to seek competitive pricing bids for electric services under a single contract. Specifically it asks:

Shall the Village of Long Grove have the authority to arrange for the supply of electricity for its residential and small commercial retail customers who have not opted out of such program?	YES _____	NO _____
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The referendum asks citizens if the Village should have the authority to seek competitive pricing bids for electrical services under a single contract that would include residents and small businesses. It is believed that by combining electrical service for all individual customers into a single bid, consumers will have lower electric bills and save money. Long Grove is partnering with six other municipalities through an inter-governmental agreement. The communities include Arlington Heights, Buffalo Grove, Lincolnshire, Palatine, Vernon Hills, and Wheeling. Collectively, the communities have more than 260,000 residents. By pooling resources, the Village believes that we will be able to leverage greater benefits for the communities we serve. If the referendum is approved, Long Grove would continue to work with six other area communities to collectively issue one Request for Proposal for competitive electricity prices.

The Village receives no financial benefit from the bidding process. The purpose of pursuing this initiative is to lower electricity costs for the benefit of businesses and residents. If the referendum is approved, the Village would issue a Request for Proposal from Illinois Commerce Commission certified wholesale electric suppliers to seek proposals for this initiative. If the resulting prices are lower than current prices from ComEd, the Village Board would accept the best bid. Each community working with Long Grove would enter into their own contract for service. Since electric prices would be lower, residents and business electric bills would decrease. If individuals do not want to participate in the program, they don't have to change electric suppliers. Each electric customer would be contacted by the selected new electricity supplier. Any customer may opt out of the program and stay with their current electric supplier. If residents and small businesses already have a contract with an electric supplier other than ComEd, they could opt-in when their contract expires.