



# Unit District Formation

## Summit Hill School District 161

### Unit District Committee

District Administrative Center

August 15, 2018

Michelle Heninger / [mheninge@isbe.net](mailto:mheninge@isbe.net)

Illinois State Board of Education / School Business Services Division

(217) 785-8779



# Unit District Formation

How can a Unit District be formed?

Any compact and contiguous territory, no part of which is included within any unit district, may be organized into a unit district



# Unit District Formation

- “Consolidation”
- Creation of a new district
  - New Tax Rates
  - New School Board Elected
  - New District Name
  - New District Number



# Affected District

- Any school district with territory included in a reorganization petition that is:
  - 25% or more of the total land area of the district
  - or
  - More than 8% of the student enrollment of the district
  - or
  - More than 8% of the equalized assessed valuation (EAV) of the district



## Unit Formation – Petition Requirements

- A petition to form a new unit district can be filed by:
  - Board resolutions from each affected district
  - or
  - Voter signatures, signed by at least 50 legal resident voters from each affected district
- If petition filed by voter signatures, the circulated signature sheets must comply with the requirements of the Election Code



## Unit Formation – Petition Requirements

- Request to submit question at regular scheduled election
- Description of territory
- Maximum tax rates new district will have authority to levy
- Division of assets and liabilities
- Designate Committee of Ten of the Petitioners
- May include request to elect new school board at same election
- May include request to issue bonds



## Unit Formation – Petition Tax Rates PTELL

- For a new district subject to Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL), the petition must:
  - List all purposes with rates the new district will have authority to levy
  - Specify the Aggregate Extension Base
- In addition, the petition may:
  - Specify the Debt Service Extension Base



## Unit Formation – Committee of Ten

---

- Represents all petitioners
- Volunteers or Appointments
- Must meet qualification for petitioner
- Makes decisions on petition – completes petition – files petition – represents petition at local hearing – proponents of petition
- Must sign petition
- 7 of 10 may amend petition
- Committee can only be 10 members – subcommittees can be formed





## Unit Formation – Election of New School Board

---

- How
  - At Large (default)
  - 7 school board districts, substantially equal in population (must be included in petition)
- When
  - Same election as question to form new district
  - If not requested at same election and new district question approved, school board elected at next regular election
- Effective date for new district must be after new school board elected



## Unit Formation – Petition Approval Process

- Petition filed with Regional Superintendent (ROE)
- ROE publishes notice and holds local Public Hearing
  - Petitioners pay cost of publishing notice and transcript taken at Public Hearing – deposit at time of filing
- ROE approves or denies petition and submits petition, transcript of hearing, and all evidence submitted at hearing to State Superintendent
- State Superintendent reviews the petition and record of the hearing and approves or denies petition
- Administrative Review – Circuit Court
- Referendum Vote
  - Must pass by majority of those voting in each affected district



# Future Election Dates

Petition filed with ROE approximately 6 months prior to election date

- April 2019 Consolidated Election
  - File petition approximately 1<sup>st</sup> week of October 2018
- No November 2019 Election
- March 2020 Primary Election
  - File petition approximately middle of September 2019
- November 2020 General Election
  - File petition approximately 1<sup>st</sup> week of May 2020



## Feasibility Studies – State Funding

- Tool to be used to investigate the advantages and/or disadvantages of reorganization options
- All districts within option being studied must approve taking part in study
  - Board resolution approving initiation of study
  - District superintendents sign-off on agreement
- Districts involved choose study consultant(s)
- Funded on first come-first served basis
  - State allotment based on number of districts in study and combined student enrollment
  - Any study cost beyond state allotment responsibility of districts involved
- Study must be completed by end of fiscal year
- Final study must include all state required study areas



# Questions

---

Contact:

Michelle Heninger

ISBE, School Business Services

(217) 785-8779

[mheninge@isbe.net](mailto:mheninge@isbe.net)