



Frankfort Park District Referendum March 20, 2018



The Frankfort Park District will have a Referendum question on the March 20, 2018 general election ballot.

The Public Question. *Shall the Frankfort Park District sell the following described real estate: that property identified as Permanent Index Number 19-09-29-400-013-0000 and commonly known as 10840 Laraway Road, Frankfort, IL?*

- In 2014, as part of the Park District's comprehensive plan, the land at the northwest corner of LaGrange & Laraway was purchased as a potential site to construct a community center.
- The Frankfort Park District issued Non-Referendum (Limited) bonds to purchase the property for \$725,000. There was no increase to the tax rate to purchase the land.
- In 2016, the Park District conducted a mail survey. The resident feedback at that time, was that Residents did not support a tax increase to construct the proposed Community Center.
- Following the survey, the Park District Board opted not to move forward with a Referendum vote to ask Residents to fund the community center project through a tax increase.
- The LaGrange & Laraway property remains undeveloped and the Park District would like to sell the property.
- The Frankfort Park District has debt certificates for the property with an annual payment of \$96,000 through the year 2025 to pay for the site purchased at LaGrange & Laraway.
- Funds allocated to annual debt payment reduces the District's operating funds, reducing the funds that are available for capital projects such as playground improvements, parking lot repairs, roof replacements, etc.
- To sell land over 3 acres, the Illinois Park District code requires that the Park District have approval by the majority of the voters through a referendum which is why the question is on the ballot.
- If the sale is approved through the referendum on March 20th, the Park District can sell the land through a competitive bidding process which allows the District to specify the terms of the sale which includes the authority to reject any and all bids and relist the property.
- If the land is not sold within a 12 month from the first public sale, the Park District must authorize another referendum to sell the land.
- Funds from a sale of the property would be used to pay off the debt certificate and proceeds would be deposited in the corporate fund.

The District continues to evaluate ways to improve existing facilities including considerations to possible improvements to the Founders Center as well as exploring options for partnerships to increase indoor recreation opportunities for residents. Any questions can be directed to Gina Hassett, Executive Director of the Frankfort Park District at 815-469-9400 or at ghassett@frankfortparks.org or to the Park District Commissioners.

Tom Barz, President tbarz@frankfortparks.org
Brian Feehery, Commissioner bfeeherly@frankfortparks.org
Katie Rak, Commissioner, krak@frankfortparks.org
Matt Schedin, Commissioner, mschedin@frankfortparks.org

John Reilly, Vice President, jreilly@frankfortparks.org
Tom Ruvoli, Commissioner, truvoli@frankfortparks.org
PJ Bickett, Commissioner, pbickett@frankfortparks.org