

## **Village of Orland Park Ballot Includes Public Question** *Question Addresses Public Safety Pension Reform*

ORLAND PARK, IL – Village of Orland Park voters are being asked to consider a public question when casting their ballots for the November 2 General Election.

The State of Illinois recently adopted some pension reform that applied to new hires in the state and in municipalities, pushing the retirement age back a few years, changing contributions and addressing some challenges to the structural pension composition.

“The Illinois Legislature didn’t include public safety pension funds in its reforms,” explained Mayor Dan McLaughlin.

Orland Park’s public question asks voters if the Illinois General Assembly should implement public safety pension reforms, having already reformed the pension systems for all other public employees.

“Like other communities across the state, Orland Park has experienced a rapidly growing increase in required contributions to fund the pensions of eligible municipal employees,” the mayor added.

Legislatively mandated pension benefit increases, investment losses, cumulative wage increases and other factors have contributed to the increasing costs of funding pensions.

“These increasing costs continue to take a significant portion of the village’s municipal budget, threatening the long term sustainability of the pension fund and the continuation of existing levels of public safety services,” McLaughlin said.

“Orland Park’s public question is advisory in nature,” explained Village Clerk David Maher. “We’re asking the voters if the General Assembly and Governor should take steps to implement public safety pension reform, taking the burden off of local taxpayers,” Maher explained, adding, “These reforms would apply to new hires only.”

Orland Park’s public question reads, “Shall the Illinois General Assembly and Governor take immediate steps to implement meaningful public safety pension

reform which will relieve the extensive burden on local taxpayers now that the General Assembly and Governor have reformed the pension systems for all other public employees?”

Early voting in Orland Park continues through 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 28. Polling place information for the November 2 Election Day is available by calling the Village Clerk’s Office at 708/403-6150.