

# Lake County Illinois

*Lake County Health Department  
3010 Grand Avenue, 3rd Floor  
Waukegan, Illinois 60085*



## Meeting Minutes - Final

Wednesday, July 19, 2017

8:30 AM

Central Permit Facility

### Lake County Commission on Government Reform and Accountability

**1. Call to Order**

*Chair Foremen called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.*

**Present** 11 - Ex-Officio Member Rummel, Member Foreman, Member Ryg, Member Osmond, Member Roberson, Member Lamphere, Member Link, Member Shaw, Member Msall, Member Kim and Member Darch

**Excused** 4 - Member O'Connor, Member Bensinger, Member Magalis and Member Schaafsma

*Others Present:*

*Barry Burton, County Administrator*

*Paul Fetherston, Assistant County Administrator*

*Dakisha Wesley, Assistant County Administrator*

*Jennie Vana, County Administrator's Office*

*Sonia Hernandez, County Administrator's Office*

*Aaron Lawlor, County Board Chair*

*Jeff Werfel, Board Member*

*Kevin Knutson, Management Partners*

*Ruth Greenwood, Senior Legal Counsel Voting Rights & Redistricting*

*Annabelle Harless, Senior Legal Counsel Voting Rights & Redistricting*

*Annie McGowan, Civic Federation*

*George Tzanetopoulos, Partner at BakerHosteller*

**2. Approval of Minutes**

**2.1 [17-0771](#)**

Minutes from June 21, 2017.

*Commissioner Msall entered the meeting at 8:58 a.m.*

**A motion was made by Member Darch, seconded by Member Shaw that the minutes be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 11 - Ex-Officio Member Rummel, Member Foreman, Member Ryg, Member Osmond, Member Roberson, Member Lamphere, Member Link, Member Shaw, Member Msall, Member Kim and Member Darch

**3. Chair's Remarks**

*Chair Foreman welcomed members to the third meeting of the Lake County Commission on Government Reform and Accountability. He thanked all of the County representatives in the room for their efforts during the recent flood. Barry Burton gave update on the flooding issues in the area.*

**4. Public Comments (items not on the agenda)**

*There were no public comments. Chair Foreman asked for public introduction.*

**5. Old Business**

*There was no old business.*

**6. New Business**

6.1 [17-0772](#)

Update on Commission activities since the June 21st meeting.

*Chair Foreman introduced Kevin Knutson from Management Partners, who gave an overview of the Lake County Commission on Government Reform and Accountability Background and Research Materials document that was circulated to members prior to the meeting. The document contains a listing of relevant research, background materials, and organizations that will assist members in understanding the issues before the Commission. Each has a link to a website or to a document located in a Dropbox directory established for the Commission. The document will be updated monthly and will indicate additions by inserting "[NEW]" after each added entry.*

6.2 [17-0773](#)

Presentation by Ruth Greenwood, Senior Legal Counsel for Voting Rights and Redistricting at the Campaign Legal Center.

*The Commission heard a presentation on "Redistricting Reform Options for Lake County." Ms. Greenwood discussed considerations in the modification of redistricting practices, including: Goals of county board representation; Choosing an electoral system; and Choosing a redistricting process.*

*Ms. Greenwood described county demographics and offered several observations about them, including that there is a good distribution of race and ethnicity across the county; that more than half of recent elections were among multiple candidates, although many remained uncontested; that the margin of victory showed many races were not competitive; and that the county had fairly high voter turnout.*

*For the electoral system, Ms. Greenwood made a case for using ranked choice voting instead of the current single vote system. This approach allows voters to select more than one candidate, in a ranked order, to reduce the potential for "split votes." It has been used successfully in a number of jurisdictions across the country and she provided examples.*

*Ms. Greenwood recommended and described the use of an independent redistricting commission to assist county officials in future redistricting efforts. Her comments focused on the elements of determining the commission membership; strategies for assuring public participation and transparency; and the mechanics of the map approval process. She recommended members view the film Gerrymandering, produced by Kathay Feng, Executive Director, California Common Cause and National Redistricting Director, Common Cause.*

*Members asked questions about how the county could improve racial and ethnic candidacy, how ranked choice voting works in practice, and how gerrymandering impacts competitiveness of elections. Ms. Greenwood was also asked to comment on the Supreme Court's Gill v. Whitford case she is involved in.*

6.3 [17-0774](#)

Presentation by George Tzanetopoulos, Partner at BakerHostetler.

*The Commission heard a presentation on "Redistricting: Selected Legal Issues." Mr. Tzanetopoulos provided an overview of potential legal challenges inherent in the redistricting process and recommended that the county seek legal representation in the development of their approach and process to ensure defensibility.*

*He discussed the principles behind districting, including compactness, contiguity, preservation of political subdivisions, preservation of communities of interest, and compliance with the Voting Rights Act, among others. A key to successfully responding to dilution claims is consistent application of the principles.*

*Mr. Tzanetopoulos provided background on the Voting Rights Act and the 14th Amendment of the US Constitution, the "equal protection" clause. He also defined some of the common gerrymandering techniques used in single-member districts, called "packing" and "cracking."*

*He outlined the issues in partisan gerrymandering and explained why it has been difficult to adjudicate claims associated with the practice. Lastly, he described the efficiency gap calculations used by academics to estimate the partisan fairness of districts.*

*Members asked questions about whether disaffected voters were ever considered in efficiency gap calculations, how "independent" boards can be created, and how has incumbency affected redistricting in Illinois.*

**6.4 [17-0775](#)**

Discussion of Commission research agenda.

*Members reviewed the research topics for the Commission's work and requested additional information on the potential for local government consolidation efforts at the State legislature, as well as historical information on consolidation efforts of the Recorder and County Clerk functions, and the Sheriff and Coroner functions.*

*Commissioner JoAnn Osmond left meeting early.*

**7. Adjournment**

*Chair Foreman adjourned the meeting at 10:36 a.m. Motion was made by Member Kim, seconded by Member Darch.*

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*Minutes prepared by Kevin Knutson and Sonia Hernandez.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

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*Chairman*

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*Vice-Chairman*

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*Lake County Commission on Government  
Reform and Accountability*