



Winnebago County PRESS RELEASE

Date: December 18, 2017

Topic: Winnebago County Clerk Resigns - Democratic Seat Vacancy

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

After 36 years of service to Winnebago County government – the last 11 years as County Clerk – Margie Mullins is resigning from her elected position. In a letter dated, December 15, 2017, Mullins states, “This has been a very difficult decision for me, but for personal reasons I will be stepping down. Working for the County and being the County Clerk has been very rewarding.”

Mullin’s last day with the County is set for January 31, 2018. Mullins term expires with the November 2018 general election. She previously announced that she would not be seeking a fourth term. Four candidates will appear on the ballot in the March 20th primary election.

Winnebago County Board Chairman Frank Haney on Margie Mullins: “Clerk Mullins has been professional, impartial, and deeply committed to serving our community. Although she was not seeking re-election and a new clerk will be elected in November of 2018, I am sad to see her go early. She has been a good partner to me as Chairman and to the County Board. On behalf of a grateful board, county, and community, I wish Margie and her family the very best in the future.”

Clerk Mullins on her team: “I have great confidence in our existing staff and their ability to effectively serve the community in both their day-to-day activities as well as on election day,” said Mullins.

Regarding whether a candidate in the Clerk’s race should be considered for appointment: “As I stated in my campaign for Chairman, regardless of party, I oppose appointment of candidates to an office they are in the process of running for. This is especially important in high profile races like County Clerk, Sheriff, States Attorney, and Chairman. It is my goal to keep the

appointment process separate from the upcoming election. This approach is the right thing for citizens of Winnebago County, avoids the potential of a distracted appointee who is busy campaigning, and prevents people from unfairly asserting that the position was vacated to engineer an election outcome. Let the candidates on the ballot compete and the winner will earn incumbency rather than handing it them. My focus on filling the short-term vacancy with someone who is willing to serve until the elected Clerk takes office after the November 2018 election,” said Haney.

At their January 11 board meeting, the County Board will officially declare the position of County Clerk vacant effective January 31. Although the position can and will likely will be filled sooner, the vacancy must be filled within 60 days. Similar to other county appointments, the Chairman will recommend an appointee for approval by the County Board, a twenty-member governing body elected by district inside Winnebago County.

The selection criteria for the appointment will be based upon the applicant’s professional background, experience relative to the responsibilities of the position, ability to meet the time requirements of the position, and demonstrated willingness and ability to work with others.

Election code requires that prospective appointees:

- must reside within Winnebago County
- must be a registered voter
- shall serve the remainder of the unexpired term (until December 3, 2018)
- must be a member of the same political party as the person he succeeds was at the time of his election (Democratic Party)
- shall be otherwise eligible to serve

To be considered for appointment: Letters of interest will be accepted December 18, 2017, through January 15, 2018, addressed to Winnebago County Board Chairman Frank Haney, 404 Elm St, Rm 533, Rockford, IL 61101 or BoardOffice@wincoil.us. To apply for the County Clerk appointment, applicants must provide:

- cover letter
- resume
- proof of residency
- voter registration
- evidence of Democratic party affiliation

Names of applicants will be made available to the public.

For more information about the roles and functions of the County Clerk’s Office:

- Winnebago County Clerk’s website: <http://www.winnebago-countyclerk.com/>
- State of Illinois Counties Code ([55 ILCS 5/3-2](#)) Clerk
- State of Illinois Election Code ([10 ILCS 5/25-11](#))

For interviews and further comment: Clerk Mullins and Chairman Haney will be available for comment at 11:30 am in the Winnebago County Clerk's Office.

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