BE INFORMED: ELECTION DAY IS NOV. 6

At its July 30 meeting, the Village of Oak Park Board of Trustees voted to approve placing this nonbinding referendum on the Nov 6. ballot:

> "Shall the merger and consolidation of Oak Park taxing bodies be considered, including, but not limited to, the Village of Oak Park, Oak Park Township, the Oak Park Public Library and the Park District of Oak Park, to determine if there would be efficiencies, the elimination of redundancies and/or property tax reduction for the residents of Oak Park?"

? *What is a nonbinding referendum?* This is a question included on a ballot during a village-wide election. A nonbinding referendum is often used to provide evidence of community support before projects are planned or actions are taken.

? *What data are there that would result in a property tax reduction for Oak Park taxpayers?* At this time, there are no known data.

? *In what ways do these agencies demonstrate fiscal responsibility now?*

- **Oak Park Public Library:** By 2021, taxes collected by the library are expected to be less than those collected in 2015. Here's why: In 2000, Oak Park voters approved a $30 million bond issue to build the current Main Library building and renovate Maze Branch. By 2020, that resulting bond debt will be paid off.
- **Oak Park Township** served the needs of 20,500 individuals in the 2017-18 fiscal year. The township continues to operate within the property tax cap limitations, and has never issued bonds or other debt. The township has consistently kept expenses low through cooperative purchasing, shared services, and outsourcing functions.
- **Park District of Oak Park** is becoming less dependent on property tax dollars. In 2012, only 29% of the park district's revenue came from fees and charges. In 2017, 49% came from fees and charges, sponsorship and donations, and intergovernmental agreements.

? *What percent of a tax bill is the library, township, and park district?* Together, the library, township, and park district account for roughly 11.5 percent. This would mean $1,380 for a $12,000 tax bill, the median in Oak Park for the 2016 taxes paid in 2017, according to the township.

HOW PROPERTY TAXES ARE DISTRIBUTED

Source: OP/FYI Jan.-Feb. 2018
**Note: Percentages are rounded to the nearest tenth and thus do not add up exactly to 100%.*



District 97: 38.9%

District 200: 24.6%

Village of Oak Park: 10.3%

Fire/Police Pensions: 5.4%

Park District: 4.6%

Library: 4.5%

Cook County: 4.2%

Water Reclamation District: 2.8%

Township: 2.4%

Triton College: 2.3%; Other: 0.1%

This two-sided insert is a collaboration among the Oak Park Public Library, the Oak Park Township, and the Park District of Oak Park as an example of local government leveraging your investment in your community.

Key registration dates

- **Tuesday, Oct. 9:** Last day to register to vote by paper application
- **Wednesday, Oct. 10:** First day of grace period registration (an extension of the regular registration deadline, specific to registrar location)
- **Sunday, Oct. 21:** Last day to register to vote by online application

Registration eligibility

You must be:

- A U.S. citizen,
- At least 18 years old by the general election, and
- A resident of your precinct at least 30 days prior to Election Day.

To register in person, bring two pieces of identification. Neither needs to be a photo ID, but one must include your current address.

Register to vote in person through Oct. 9:

- **At the library:** Call 708.383.8200 or visit oppl.org/civic for details
- **At the township:** Call 708.383.8005 or visit oakparktownship.org/services/voter-registration for details

Registration questions

Find answers fast at
cookcountyclerk.com/service/your-voter-information

OAK PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

OAK PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mission: We share the information, services, and opportunities that fulfill Oak Park's aspirations.

Vision: To empower every voice in our community.

oppl.org

OAK PARK TOWNSHIP

OAK PARK TOWNSHIP

Mission: Providing locally-governed supportive services to our community

Vision: To be a well-known and respected community partner and the leading provider of proactive, responsive and relevant supportive services for all residents at every stage of life.

oakparktownship.org

PARK DISTRICT of OAK PARK

PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK

Mission: In partnership with the community, we enrich lives by providing meaningful experiences through programs, parks, and facilities.

Vision: We strive to exceed the needs of our diverse community with a collaborative and innovative approach.

pdop.org



Ballot background

How is local government structured? Oak Park government consists of six taxing bodies, each with its own independently elected board of trustees: the Village of Oak Park, the Park District of Oak Park, the Oak Park Public Library, Oak Park Elementary School District 97, Oak Park and River Forest High School District 200, and the Oak Park Township.

All of these taxing bodies are affected by tax caps.
In 1991, Illinois passed a tax cap law that places a ceiling on the amount of taxes the park district, library, and township may levy without a referendum. In addition, under current Illinois state law, the Oak Park Public Library is not a separate library district but is a municipal library. This means that the Village of Oak Park must approve all of the library's tax levies and that the library cannot go to referendum independently of the village.

Do you want to learn more about a particular issue? Find sources you can trust. Your public librarians use their research capabilities and local expertise to deliver fact-based information to meet your needs. See areas of expertise at **oppl.org/staff**.