

## **OPPOSE THE DISTRICTING REFERENDUM**

*Provided for by James Hughes Trustee Village of Winfield Illinois*

Winfield Citizens will be voting on a **BINDING REFERENDUM** in the **March 20<sup>th</sup> 2012** Election

The **REFERENDUM QUESTION** as placed on the BALLOT:

### **VILLAGE OF WINFIELD**

#### **Shall the Village be divided into 6 districts with one trustee elected from each district?**

The Districting Referendum is being voted on because a resident petitioned for the referendum. *The resident also happens to be Tim Allen, who is a Winfield Village Trustee.*

The Referendum is binding, meaning that if the majority of voters approve the referendum, the Village will have six (6) districts.

The Winfield Village Board chose not to provide information for a couple of reasons:

1. We would have had to agree on the method of communication and the content. Based on how the Village Board is cooperating, this would most likely have been very difficult and taken too long.
2. If the Village decided to either support or oppose the referendum item, the Village would be required to comply with election contribution laws. These laws require filing and extra work for Village staff. We did not have the available staff to do this task.
3. We generally thought that since this referendum has been brought forth by a resident, the voters should decide the issue. We also recognized that individual Village Board members would be free to support or oppose the referendum.

#### ***REASONS FOR OPPOSING THE DISTRICTING REFERENDUM:***

- Winfield is too small to be districted.
- Winfield has struggled to get quality candidates for Village government. The citizens (voters) should be allowed to be concerned with voting for the best-qualified candidates to represent the Village. If districted, strong, quality candidates may be eliminated, solely on the basis of where they live.
- Citizen's will have the greatest influence and representation if they are allowed to continue to vote for non-districted Trustees. We will vote for three (3) Trustees, every two (2) years. The Village President will be elected as is now, once every four years, and every citizen votes.
- If Trustees can make decisions that affect you, your family, and your home, we should be able to vote for all of them.
- Districting could lead to abuses such as a majority of Trustees, while not living within your district, supporting an issue that directly affects you, against the vote of your districted Trustee.
- Citizen's should be allowed to be more concerned about ***"Who they elect"*** rather than ***"How they are elected."***

## **VOTE "NO"**

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