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Don / May
Sangamon County Clerk

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**RESOLUTION OF THE SANGAMON COUNTY BOARD
ESTABLISHING A REFERENDUM TO CREATE A 708 MENTAL HEALTH BOARD**

WHEREAS, one in five adults experience a mental health illness in a given year; and

WHEREAS, the Sangamon County Board seeks to improve the health and well-being of all residents through high-quality mental health services, in partnership with the Sangamon County Department of Public Health, healthcare providers, and community organizations; and

WHEREAS, the tragic killing of Sonya Massey by a former Sangamon County deputy in July 2024 underscored the inadequacy of mental health infrastructure within law enforcement and the broader need for mental health training for our first responders and services for the citizens of our community, as recognized by the Massey Commission; and

WHEREAS, Sangamon County health care, nonprofit, and law enforcement institutions face significant challenges in addressing mental health needs, including the availability of services, the growing demand for mental health support, and the necessity for coordinated care across various service providers; and

WHEREAS, the Massey Commission has recommended the establishment of a Mental Health Board under the Illinois Community Mental Health Act (405 ILCS 20) to provide an effective and accountable mechanism for the planning, funding, and delivery of mental health services within local communities; and

WHEREAS, a Mental Health Board is empowered to devote a portion of local property tax proceeds to fund critical mental health services, ensuring sustainable and targeted financial resources to address these needs; and

WHEREAS, additional steps, such as conducting community assessments and educating voters about the benefits of a Mental Health Board, are essential to ensuring the success of this initiative; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 405 ILCS 20/5, the County of Sangamon is authorized to submit to the voters a question at an election, held in accordance with the general election law, as to whether the County shall be authorized to levy and collect a tax at a rate not to exceed 0.15% for the purpose of providing community mental health facilities and services for individuals with mental health conditions, developmental disabilities, or substance use disorders.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Sangamon County Board, Illinois, that the board will establish a commission of not more than nine citizens nominated by the Board Chairman and approved by the Board. This Commission shall study and assess the need for mental health services in our community, study the successful implementation of a Mental Health Board in other communities, and educate our community about the costs and benefits of establishing a Mental Health Board for Sangamon County, in session this 13th day of January, 2025.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Commission on Mental Health Services for Sangamon County shall conduct its meetings in full transparency and in accordance with the provisions of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, and shall provide a full and final report to the community of its findings and recommendations not later than December 1, 2025.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board does hereby appropriate an initial sum of \$50,000 to be used by the commission to create an analysis and share with the community its findings and recommendations.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board will place before the voters the question of creating a permanent Mental Health Board and levying and collecting a tax to provide community mental health facilities and services for individuals with mental health conditions, developmental disabilities, or substance use disorders shall be submitted to the voters of Sangamon County at the next Gubernatorial Primary Election.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the proposition shall be in substantially the following form:

Shall Sangamon County levy an annual tax not to exceed _____% for the purpose of providing community mental health facilities and services including facilities and services for persons with a developmental disability or a substance use disorder?

* The following supplemental information is provided in accordance with 405 ILCS 20/5:

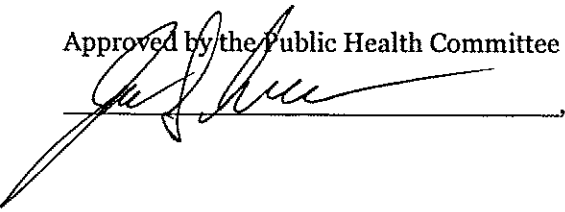
- 1. The approximate amount of taxes extendable at the most recently extended limiting rate is \$_____, and the approximate amount of taxes extendable if the proposition is approved is \$_____.
- 2. For the _____ levy year the approximate amount of the additional tax extendable against property containing a single family residence and having a fair market value at the time of the referendum of \$100,000 is estimated to be \$_____.

Chairman, Sangamon County Board

ATTEST:

County Clerk

Approved by the Public Health Committee January 8, 2025

 _____, Chairman