

1 AN ACT concerning local government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Downstate Forest Preserve District Act is
5 amended by changing Section 13.1 as follows:

6 (70 ILCS 805/13.1) (from Ch. 96 1/2, par. 6324)

7 Sec. 13.1. Tax levies. After the first Monday in October
8 and by the first Monday in December in each year, the board
9 shall levy the general taxes for the district by general
10 categories for the next fiscal year. A certified copy of the
11 levy ordinance shall be filed with the county clerk by the last
12 Tuesday in December each year.

13 In forest preserve districts with a population of less than
14 3,000,000, the amount of taxes levied for general corporate
15 purposes for a fiscal year may not exceed the rate of .06% of
16 the value, as equalized or assessed by the Department of
17 Revenue, of the taxable property therein. In addition, in
18 forest preserve districts having a population of 100,000 or
19 more but less than 3,000,000, the board may levy taxes for
20 constructing, restoring reconditioning, reconstructing and
21 acquiring improvements and for the development of the forests
22 and lands of such district, the amount of which tax each fiscal
23 year shall be extended at a rate not to exceed .025% of the

1 assessed value of all taxable property as equalized by the
2 Department of Revenue. Notwithstanding any other provision of
3 this Act, in a forest preserve district that is adjacent to any
4 portion of the Rock River, and is within a county that is
5 bordered by a county with a forest preserve district that is
6 adjacent to any portion of the Rock River, the amount of taxes
7 levied for general corporate purposes for a fiscal year may not
8 exceed the rate of .15% of the value, as equalized or assessed
9 by the Department of Revenue, of the taxable property therein.

10 All such taxes and rates are exclusive of the taxes
11 required for the payment of the principal of and interest on
12 bonds, and exclusive of taxes levied for employees' annuity and
13 benefit purposes.

14 The rate of tax levied for general corporate purposes in a
15 forest preserve district may not be increased by virtue of this
16 amendatory Act of 1977 unless the board first adopts a
17 resolution authorizing such increase and publishes notice
18 thereof in a newspaper having general circulation in the
19 district at least once not less than 45 days prior to the
20 effective date of the increase. The notice shall include a
21 statement of (1) the specific number of voters required to sign
22 a petition requesting that the question of the adoption of the
23 resolution be submitted to the electors of the district; (2)
24 the time in which the petition must be filed; and (3) the date
25 of the prospective referendum. The Secretary of the district
26 shall provide a petition form to any individual requesting one.

1 If, no later than 30 days after the publication of such notice,
2 petitions signed by voters of the district equal to 10% or more
3 of the registered voters of the district, as determined by
4 reference to the number of voters registered at the next
5 preceding general election, and residing in the district are
6 presented to the board expressing opposition to the increase,
7 the proposition must first be certified by the board to the
8 proper election officials, who shall submit the proposition to
9 the legal voters of the district at an election in accordance
10 with the general election law and approved by a majority of
11 those voting on the proposition.

12 The rate of the tax levied for general corporate purposes
13 in a forest preserve district may be increased, up to the
14 maximum rate identified in this Section, by the Board by a
15 resolution calling for the submission of the question of
16 increasing the rate to the voters of the district in accordance
17 with the general election law. The question must be in
18 substantially the following form:

19 "Shall (name of district) be authorized to establish
20 its general corporate tax rate at (insert rate) on the
21 equalized assessed value on taxable property located
22 within the district for its general purposes, including
23 education, outdoor recreation, maintenance, operations,
24 public safety at the forest preserves, trails, and other
25 properties of the district (and, optionally, insert any
26 other lawful purposes or programs determined by the Board).

1 The ballot must have printed on it, but not as part of the
2 proposition submitted, the following: "The approximate impact
3 of the proposed increase on the owner of a single-family home
4 having a market value of (insert value) would be (insert
5 amount) in the first year of the increase if the increase is
6 fully implemented." The ballot may have printed on it, but not
7 as part of the proposition, one or both of the following: "The
8 last tax rate extended for the purposes of the district was
9 (insert rate). The last rate increase approved for the purposes
10 of the district was in (insert year)." No other information
11 needs to be included on the ballot.

12 The votes must be recorded as "Yes" or "No".

13 If a majority of the electors voting on the question vote
14 in the affirmative, the district may thereafter levy the tax.

15 This Section does not apply to a forest preserve district
16 established under Section 18.5 of the Conservation District
17 Act.

18 (Source: P.A. 94-617, eff. 8-18-05.)

19 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
20 becoming law.