



From the Office of
Supervisor Shiva Mohsenzadeh

The Facts about the Referendum to Convert the Northfield Township Road District into a Department of Northfield Township

Illinois law distinguishes between **binding** and **non-binding** referenda. **Binding** referenda require governmental action if approved by voters, while **non-binding** referenda are advisory only and are used to measure public opinion.

On May 12, 2026, the Northfield Township Board of Trustees passed three (3) resolutions authorizing three (3) referenda to be submitted to voters at the next election on November 3, 2026. The decision to approve or reject any referendum is solely determined by the voters of Northfield Township.

This information is provided by the Supervisor and Board of Trustees of Northfield Township to inform residents and voters about the Township concerning the **binding Referendum to Abolish the Road District in Northfield Township**. The specific question will read:

"Shall the Road District of the Township of Northfield be abolished with all the rights, powers, duties, assets, property, liabilities, obligations, and responsibilities being assumed by the Township of Northfield?"	YES
	NO

FAQs:

FACT 1: The Northfield Township Road District is a separate unit of government with its own tax levy, budget, and elected Highway Commissioner.

FACT 2: The Road District works on approximately 23 miles of road in the unincorporated parts of the Township.

FACT 3: Northfield Township is made up of 8 municipalities and stretches over 34 miles.

FACT 4: The municipalities, Cook County, or the State of Illinois take care of the roads within their jurisdictions.

FACT 5: Other large and small Townships within Cook, Lake, and DuPage Counties have voted to abolish the Road District and incorporate the responsibilities under a Road Department within township government (including Naperville Township, Bloomingdale Township, Elmhurst Township, Vernon Township, Hanover Township, Wheeling Township, and Worth Township).

FACT 6: If the Northfield Township Road District is abolished, the Township itself would create a Township Road Department and provide these services under centralized and transparent management.

FACT 7: The voters of Northfield Township (not politicians) will decide to abolish the Road District and incorporate its functions into the Township, or to stay as a separate unit of government and taxing authority.

FACT 8: The upcoming November election gives voters the opportunity to express themselves to the Supervisor and Board of Trustees to keep the Township Road District or merge it with the Township.

WHAT STAYS THE SAME:

- All current services for residents, whether they live in incorporated or unincorporated areas, would continue without any change.
- The referendum only concerns the governance of Road District— **not** whether Road District services continue. There will be no interruption or reduction in the level of service provided to residents because of changes in the governance structure.
- Roads within the Township Road District jurisdiction would continue to be maintained by Township Road Department staff.
- Snow plowing, salting, roadway maintenance, drainage work, and other existing roadway services would be provided by Township Road Department staff. Residents would continue to receive the same roadway and maintenance services that they do today.
- Municipalities, Cook County, and the State of Illinois would continue maintaining the roads under their jurisdiction.

WHAT CHANGES IF THE REFERENDUM PASSES:

- If approved, abolishing the Road District would place road-related budgeting and financial oversight under the Township Supervisor and Board of Trustees, which may result in a more centralized and transparent governance structure.
- The Northfield Township Road District would no longer operate as a separate unit of government.
- Residents would contact Northfield Township's Road Department for roadway concerns and services in unincorporated areas.
- Under the new structure, the Road District would become the Road Department, and the Township Board would provide direct oversight of road operations, whereas currently, such oversight is limited.
- The elected Highway Commissioner position would eventually be eliminated if the referendum is approved, consistent with the Illinois Highway Code regarding abolished road districts.
- In May 2029, the Northfield Township Road District would become the Northfield Township Road Department.

IF THE REFERENDUM FAILS:

- The Road District will continue to function as a separate unit of government with its own Highway Commissioner. Everything would “stay the same” as described above.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Northfield Township, as a governmental body spending taxpayer funds, cannot take a position on the outcome of any referendum questions but may provide factual, educational materials to its residents. The information contained herein is provided as factual, educational materials only.