MAYOR JOE'S THOUGHTS

With referendum, policy vote is yours



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s a representative form of govern-.ment, your village board routinely makes policy decisions on issues of everyday importance to you and your family. Decisions on the level of resources used to provide basic public services such as water and sewer, refuse collection, street maintenance and police protection are regularly made by your elected officials on your behalf. Your board takes these decisions very seriously, rendering them only after thoughtfully considering well-researched staff recommendations and taking input from you, our residents and customers.

Last month I shared a good deal of information with you related to the March 20 referendum concerning electrical aggregation and the "neutral" public education program currently underway. The referendum provides you - as an individual voter — with the opportunity to set policy directly on this important issue, and your board is accordingly seeking to provide you with the best information possible so that you can make a well-informed vote on March 20. Your role in this matter is very similar to that of your village board, as it makes decisions on public services such as those referenced earlier. When it comes to this specific matter, your input (votes) will collectively determine whether or not the Village of Mokena formally looks into "shopping" on the open market for the power supply portion of your electric bill with the potential for saving you money.

Your vote on this referendum question is important, and if you've not already done so, I encourage you to review and study all accessible resources, become educated, then get out and vote March

20. If you're a registered voter, you also have the option of voting early at the Mokena Village Hall or the Will County Clerk's Office in Joliet through Thursday, March 15 with valid photo identification (current driver's license. a State-issued ID card or another government-issued ID with a photograph). Another option is to request an absentee ballot by mail through the Will County Clerk's website, www. the will county clerk.com.

Because the coming election is also a political primary, some people have asked me if they need to declare a political party affiliation in order to vote on the referendum. Fortunately (in my opinion), the answer to this question is no. If you want to vote on the referendum question but do not want to declare a party, you can simply request a "non-partisan" ballot. With a non-partisan ballot, you will be voting strictly on the referendum question and nothing else.

As a reminder, a great number of resources relative to electrical aggregation and the referendum will continue to be available to you through our website (www.mokena.org), Comcast Channel 6 and our electronic newsletter (Mokena e-News) through March 20. If you wish to interact directly with your village board before voting, I encourage you to join us for a "public discussion" on these topics at the board's next meeting on Monday, March 12, at 7 p.m.

Finally, if you would like to discuss anything relative to electrical aggregation and/or the referendum with a staff member, you can contact Lou Tiberi or Kirk Zoellner at (708) 479-3900 for personal assistance at any time.

As always, I would like to thank the Messenger for providing me with a platform to share my thoughts and views with you. It is truly my honor to serve you as your Village President.

The opinions in this column are that of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of 22nd Century Media and its staff.