

WINDSOR INCORPORATION

# Town officials eyeing November for referendum

Preparation begins in earnest to meet aggressive timeline

**By Joe Pruski**  
*DeForest Times-Tribune*

Preliminary plans for an upcoming referendum that would allow the town of Windsor to incorporate as a village are beginning to take shape.

Town supervisors at the July 16 board meeting received their first official update on the town's incorporation status since the signing of the state budget July 12. The budget con-

tained a provision allowing the town to incorporate as a village if a majority of the electorate votes in favor of changing its governance structure.

A draft timeline for the referendum process was presented to supervisors with the tentative date of referendum set for November 3.

"We want to try to capture the moment," chairman Bob Wipperfurth told fellow board members and those in attendance.

He went on to say that they were originally looking to hold the referendum as early as September, but that the legislature's delay in passing the

budget pushed back the timeline for Windsor.

According to the proposed timeline, town supervisors would officially call for and set the date of a special election at the August 20 board meeting. The town would then file their referendum with the county clerk and Government Accountability Board on August 25 - 70 days ahead of the special election date.

The question on the ballot will read, "Shall the town of Windsor become a village?" The two choices are "For a vil-

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## PRELIMINARY REFERENDUM TIMELINE

- August 20:** Town Board calls for special election, formally sets referendum date.
- August 25:** Notification filed with Dane County Clerk and Government Accountability Board.
- August 28:** First round of notifications to Windsor residents begins.
- September 16:** First of seven incorporation education sessions to be held.
- October 8:** First of four Town Hall open houses.
- October 17:** Door-to-door campaign begins.
- November 3:** Election day.

7/23/15

DeForest Times Tribune

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lage," and "Against a village."

Between the late August call for referendum and the special election date in early November, the town board plans to hold more than 10 informational meetings and open house events as part of its public information campaign.

The preliminary timeline also includes a door-to-door campaign and using yard signs to spread the word in the weeks leading up to the referendum.

While no binding action was taken on the preliminary incorporation timeline, supervisors did authorize town officials to send correspondence to neighboring communities informing them of the town's intent.

Wipperfurth said that he had spoken with officials in the cities of Madison and Sun Prairie, but that a call to village of DeForest president Judd Blau had not been returned.

Town supervisors also authorized staff to prepare a resolution providing proof that the eight criteria that the state statute mandates Windsor must meet in order to incorporate has been met.

The criteria is as follows:  
•The most recent federal decennial census shows that the resident population of the town exceeds 6,300.  
•The town is contiguous to a 3rd class city.

•The most recent data available from the department of revenue show that the equalized value for the town exceeds \$600,000,000

•In one of the five years before the year in which the town board adopts the resolution, the town's equalized value increased more than seven percent, compared to the town's equalized value for the prior year.

•The town board of the town is authorized to exercise village powers.

•The town has entered into, and is bound by, at least two separate cooperative boundary agreements with at least two municipalities.

•The town has created at least one tax incremental financing district.

•The town has established at least one town sanitary district.

As of July 20, town officials have said they are confident that all eight criteria are met.

While any town in the state that meets the mandated criteria could potentially incorporate through referendum, notes provided to legislators when the provision was added to the budget indicate that Windsor is the only town that currently meets them.