

## LEGISLATION ALLOWS CITIZEN REFERENDUM ON INCORPORATION

Now is the time to decide Windsor's future.

On August 20, 2015, the Windsor Town Board voted unanimously to allow residents to decide whether the town should incorporate as a village. The Board's action clears the way for a November 3, 2015 referendum on the question.

The Board's decision is a direct response to appeals by residents to preserve Windsor's identity and protect its diverse mix of agriculture, local business, residential and conservancy areas for generations to come.

It is also the result of a methodical review of Windsor's options. Over the past year, the Board held extensive listening sessions to obtain resident input and examine the benefits and impacts of three options: remain a town, merge with DeForest, or incorporate the town to a village. Next, an independent fiscal analysis was prepared and studied. The Board concluded that incorporation is in Windsor's best interest.

- Incorporation will secure town boundaries and protect our tax base.
- It will allow Windsor to plan and manage its growth and development.
- It will unify local zoning so that Windsor is a one-stop shop for land use issues.
- It will provide for continuity of leadership and services for Windsor residents.

We have made tremendous strides working with neighboring municipalities on cooperative plans and agreements, and these agreements will remain in effect if Windsor incorporates. Unfortunately, there are no guarantees these agreements will be extended when they expire, which could lead to the costly loss of more land and tax base to annexations. Incorporation will give Windsor the ability to negotiate and collaborate with an equal voice on issues critical to Windsor's long-term future.

You will be hearing more about this important referendum in the coming weeks. We have a number of opportunities for public involvement, and I encourage you to go to [www.windsorwi.gov](http://www.windsorwi.gov) (See Tab **Incorporation-Vote Nov. 3**) for more information.

We also encourage you to vote on Nov. 3 so that you help decide Windsor's future.

Robert E. Wipperfurth  
Town Chairperson