

Madison County Board Refuses Advisory Referendum To Reduce Its Size

January 20 2021 10:06 AM



EDWARDSVILLE — The Madison County Board during a special meeting Tuesday refused a proposal by Chairman Kurt Prenzler to put an advisory referendum on the April 6 ballot asking voters to reduce its size.

Prenzler asked the board to place this question on the ballot:

“Shall the number of County Board members be reduced from the current 29 members following the 2020 Decennial Census?”

None of the board members present made a motion to adopt the resolution.

Madison County has 29 board members, the maximum allowed by law.

There are only three other counties in Illinois with 29 county board members — St. Clair, Sangamon and LaSalle. Prenzler said county boards have an opportunity after each decennial U.S. Census to adjust their size.

“The law also provides for an opportunity for voters to provide input via an advisory referendum,” Prenzler said.

McHenry County (pop. 308,000) put a similar advisory question on the ballot in 2016, where citizens voted 77 to 23 percent to reduce the size of its 24-member board.

Madison County Republican Board member Mick Madison (District 5) added that while no one made the motion to adopt the resolution for the upcoming election on the ballot because there were too many questions, but a lot of members thought the board should go ahead and adopt the reduction. However, Madison said the opinion was to study it in relation to the exact number of members, committees and the population, then move forward.