

**DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE  
100 NORTH SENATE AVENUE  
IGC-N, ROOM N1058  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE REVIEW )  
OF PROPOSED LANGUAGE FOR )  
A BALLOT QUESTION REGARDING ) No. 24-007-REF  
REORGANIZATION BY TOWN OF )  
SHERIDAN AND ADAMS TOWNSHIP, )  
HAMILTON COUNTY )**

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**FINDINGS AND FINAL DETERMINATION ON PROPOSED QUESTION SUBMITTED  
JULY 17, 2024**

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1. The Town of Sheridan and Adams Township, Hamilton County, propose to reorganize.
2. Under Indiana law, voters in the political subdivisions proposing to reorganize will vote in a referendum to approve or deny the proposed reorganization.
3. Indiana law governs the format and wording of the ballot question for the referendum.
4. Under Indiana law, the public question shall be placed on the ballot in all of the precincts that are located in the reorganizing political subdivisions in substantially the following form:

(Insert a brief description of the structure of the proposed reorganized political subdivision that will succeed the reorganizing political subdivisions.)  
“Shall \_\_\_\_\_ (insert name of political subdivision) and \_\_\_\_\_ (insert name of political subdivision) reorganize as a single political subdivision?”.

Indiana Code 36-1.5-4-28.

5. Thus, the ballot question must contain a brief description of the structure of the proposed reorganized political subdivision that will succeed the reorganizing political subdivisions and the names of the political subdivisions proposing to reorganize.
6. The law requires the Department of Local Government Finance (“Department”) to evaluate whether the description of the reorganized political subdivision that will succeed the reorganizing political subdivisions is accurate and is not biased against either a vote in favor of the reorganization or a vote against the reorganization. The Department may either approve the ballot language as submitted or modify the ballot language as necessary to ensure that the description of the reorganized political subdivision that will succeed the reorganizing political subdivisions is accurate and is not biased.

7. On July 17, 2024, the Department received from the Hamilton County Clerk, on behalf of the Hamilton County Election Board (“Board”), the following:

a. A copy of the Board minutes from July 17, 2024, indicating the Board approved the proposed ballot question for the referendum.

b. A copy of the Plan of Reorganization, adopted by the Town of Sheridan and Adams Township on May 9, 2024, containing the proposed ballot question.

8. The Board requested that the Department review this proposed question:

“The Town of Sheridan and Adams Township of Hamilton County, Indiana have each adopted a Plan of Reorganization that provides for the consolidation of Adams Township into the Town of Sheridan as a single governmental unit that will be governed and administered as a town with a seven (7) member elected Town Council. Shall the Town of Sheridan and Adams Township reorganize as a single political subdivision?”

#### **Accuracy and Bias**

9. The Department must review the language of the public question to evaluate whether the description of the reorganized political subdivision that will succeed the reorganizing political subdivisions is accurate and is not biased against either a vote in favor of the reorganization or a vote against the reorganization. The Department concludes that the description of the reorganized political subdivision that will succeed the reorganizing political subdivisions is not inaccurate and not biased against either a vote in favor of or a vote against the reorganization.

#### **Final Determination**

WHEREFORE, based on the above findings and applicable law, the Department finds that the proposed language is in compliance with IC 36-1.5-4-28 and approves the language as proposed.

Dated this 24 day of July, 2024.

STATE OF INDIANA  
DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE



Daniel Shackle, Commissioner  
Department of Local Government Finance