

**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. 26-043-REF
REORGANIZATION BY TOWN OF	)	
ELLETTSVILLE AND RICHLAND	)	
TOWNSHIP, MONROE COUNTY	)	

FINDINGS AND FINAL DETERMINATION ON PROPOSED BALLOT QUESTION

1. The Town of Ellettsville and Richland Township, Monroe 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 24, 2026, the Department received from the Monroe County Clerk, on behalf of the Monroe County Election Board (“Board”), the following:

a. A July 24, 2026 letter from the Monroe County Clerk and an auto-generated transcript of the Board's July 10, 2026 special meeting, reflecting unanimous approval of the proposed ballot question.

b. The Plan of Reorganization containing the proposed ballot question and certified June 22, 2026 adoption resolutions of the Ellettsville Town Council and Richland Township Board.

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

"Richland Township of Monroe County, Indiana and the Town of Ellettsville of Monroe County, Indiana have each adopted a Plan of Reorganization that provides for the consolidation of Richland Township into the Town of Ellettsville as a single governmental unit that will be governed and administered as a town with a seven (7) member elected Town Council. Shall Richland Township and the Town of Ellettsville 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 accurate and is not biased in favor of or against the reorganization.

Final Determination

WHEREFORE, based on the above findings and applicable law, the Department finds that the ballot language complies with IC 36-1.5-4-28 and approves the ballot language as submitted.

The Department certifies this approval to the Monroe County Election Board and certifies its final approval of the ballot language to the Monroe County Recorder pursuant to IC 36-1.5-4-28(c).

This determination is limited to the Department's review of the accuracy and neutrality of the ballot language under IC 36-1.5-4-28(c) and does not determine compliance with other statutory requirements governing adoption of the Plan of Reorganization or certification of the public question for placement on the ballot.

Dated this 4th day of August, 2026.

STATE OF INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE



Jason Cockerill, Commissioner
Department of Local Government Finance