

John A. Cunningham, Kane County Clerk
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Geneva, Illinois 60134

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: May 1, 2017

Kane County, Geneva, IL - John A. Cunningham

**CLERK CUNNINGHAM APPLAUDS
PASSAGE OF HOUSE BILL 539
IN THE ILLINOIS HOUSE**

Kane County Clerk John A. Cunningham is happy to announce that HB539 was passed the Illinois House of Representatives on April 28, 2017 with a vote of 99-11.

Clerk Cunningham would like to thank **Rep. Steven Andersson, Rep. Linda Chapa LaVia, Rep. Mike Fortner, Rep. Stephanie Kifowit, Rep. David McSweeney, Rep. Anna Moeller, Rep. Bob Pritchard, and Rep. Keith Wheeler**, the representatives whose districts include at least a portion of Kane County, for their support of HB539.

The bill now moves to the Illinois Senate, where another Kane County legislator, **Sen. Linda Holmes**, has agreed to sponsor the bill. The bill will be assigned to a committee in the Senate and will need to secure 30 votes for passage. Clerk Cunningham is encouraging Kane County senators to support the bill in the Senate. The spring legislative session is scheduled to conclude May 31.

HB539 would amend the Illinois Election Code to permit counties to use 3, rather than 5, election judges in each precinct in primary elections. Current law permits the use of 3 election judges per precinct in certain elections such as odd-year consolidated elections. Kane County has not encountered any significant issues due to the number of judges employed during those elections. This legislation should not impact the voter experience or significantly increase the amount of time voters spend at the polling place on Election Day.

The cost savings associated with HB539 are significant. The changes from HB539 could save Kane County nearly \$100,000 with little to no impact on the county's ability to conduct an election. The bill would also save money for the state, as the State Board of Elections reimburses Kane County and all other election jurisdictions for a portion of the cost of election judges. The state's savings for this reimbursement to Kane County would be more than \$20,000 under HB539.

Clerk Cunningham believes that Kane County can conduct a fair and open primary election next March with the changes made by HB539 and asks legislators for their continued support of this legislation and the Kane County Clerk's Office.

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