



MCLEAN COUNTY REPUBLICANS

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202 S. Eldorado Road, Suite C-1, Bloomington Illinois

For Immediate Release:

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McLean County Republicans Raise Concerns Over Wording of Advisory Referenda on November Ballots

. **“Highly charged and contested political characterizations have been placed on our ballots”, Connie Beard, Chairman McLean County Republicans.**

BLOOMINGTON, IL — September 25, 2026 — The McLean County Republican Party is raising concerns about the wording of advisory referendum questions appearing on November ballots in Bloomington and Normal Township, arguing that the questions incorporate contested political assertions into the propositions voters are being asked to approve or reject.

Bloomington Township voters will encounter an advisory question asking whether the federal government should ban weapons transfers to countries described as a “dictatorship, apartheid state, or major violator of human rights.”

Normal Township voters face a separate advisory referendum asking whether Illinois should repeal its anti-BDS law and allow state-funded institutions to boycott or divest from companies that “profit from or enable Israel’s apartheid policies and human rights violations.” The official McLean County election website confirms that language. [McLean County](#)

“These are not simply questions asking voters to choose between two clearly defined policy alternatives,” said **Connie Beard, Chairman of the McLean County Republican Party**. “The wording itself contains highly charged and contested political characterizations. The definitions and applications of the terms used are highly subjective. That creates a situation where voters may believe that voting ‘No’

means accepting or defending dictatorship, apartheid or human-rights violations. We believe voters deserve questions written in neutral language that allows them to express their position on the actual policy without being forced to accept the premise embedded in the question.”

The Normal Township measure was placed on the ballot following an April township meeting at which the proposal passed 31-21. WGLT reported at the time that speakers disagreed not only about the underlying policy but specifically about the use of the term “apartheid.” The measure is advisory and does not itself change Illinois law. [WGLT](#)

The Bloomington Township referendum is also advisory. WGLT reported that it was among three questions approved for placement on the November ballot at a special township meeting. [WGLT](#)

The McLean County Republican Party believes advisory referenda should seek an accurate measurement of public opinion rather than incorporate disputed conclusions into the question itself.

“Imagine asking voters whether they support sending weapons to dictatorships or human-rights violators,” Beard said. “That framing makes disagreement with the proposed policy sound like approval of the conduct described in the question. Whatever a voter’s position on Israel, U.S. foreign policy or the BDS movement, voters should be able to expect neutral wording on an official ballot.”

The Party also encourages voters to understand that **voters are not required to cast a vote on every advisory question appearing on their ballot** and should carefully read each proposition before deciding whether and how to respond.

“Our concern goes beyond one political issue,” Beard said. “The ballot should not become a vehicle for advocacy disguised as a neutral question. Republicans, Democrats and independents should all be able to agree that ballot questions should fairly describe the choice being presented to voters. We recommend skipping these referendum votes completely.”

Early voting for the November 3 General Election began September 24. McLean County voters can review the referenda and their sample ballots through the county election website. [McLean County](#)

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