

**RESOLUTION TO SUBMIT AN ADVISORY REFERENDUM TO THE VOTERS OF
SHELBY REGARDING THE FEDERAL SCHOLARSHIP TAX CREDIT**

WHEREAS, **SHELBY COUNTY**, Illinois is a duly organized and existing county created and operating under the provisions of the Illinois Counties Code and the laws of the State of Illinois; and,

WHEREAS, the Illinois Election Code provides that any public question authorized by statute shall be initiated in accordance with 10 ILCS 5/28-1 and 5/28-5; and,

WHEREAS, Section 5-1005.5 of the Counties Code, 55 ILCS 5/5-1005.5, provides that, by a vote of a majority of the county board, the county board may authorize that an advisory question of public policy be placed on the ballot at the next regularly scheduled election in the county and,

WHEREAS, the Federal Scholarship Tax Credit offers a federal tax credit of up to \$1,700 for individuals that donate to Scholarship Granting Organizations, thereby increasing funding for these organizations to help families pay for their children to attend the K-12 school of their choice; and,

WHEREAS, if Illinois opts in, scholarship funds could be used by students in both public and private schools for a multitude of educational services, including tutoring, additional educational classes, books or online educational materials, educational therapies for students with disabilities, fees for standardized or college admission exams and fees for dual enrollment; and,

WHEREAS, donors to scholarships will benefit from tax credits regardless of whether Illinois opts in, but Illinois students will not receive those funds unless the state opts in; and,

WHEREAS, opting into the program would not take money away from public schools, nor would it divert federal money or state money from public schools to fund the scholarships; and,

WHEREAS, the county board of **SHELBY COUNTY**, Illinois find it to be in the best interests of **SHELBY COUNTY**, Illinois to put a non-binding, advisory referendum question on the ballot regarding whether the state of Illinois should opt into the scholarship program under the Federal Scholarship Tax Credit, and that said question should be submitted by referendum to the **SHELBY COUNTY** electorate at the March 17, 2026 general primary election.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the county board of **SHELBY COUNTY** that the County Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to place on the March 17, 2026, General Primary Election Ballot in **SHELBY COUNTY** the following non-binding, advisory, public question in accordance with applicable law:

Should Illinois opt into a federal program that would provide Public K-12, private school, and homeschool students with privately donated funds for academic needs, such as tutoring and test preparation, educational therapies for students with disabilities, tuition, books, exam fees or for other specified academic needs?

YES _____ NO _____