

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
MADISON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

FILED
MAR 20 2026

CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT #18
THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
MADISON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

IN RE: THE PRIMARY ELECTION)
CONDUCTED IN THE STATE OF)
ILLINOIS, COUNTY OF MADISON,)
ON MARCH 17, 2026.) 26-MR- 68
)
LINDA ANDREAS, COUNTY)
CLERK AND CHIEF ELECTION)
AUTHORITY, Petitioner.)

ORDER

For good cause shown, the petition is granted. The Madison County Clerk is hereby authorized to unseal the ballots cast in the March 17, 2026, Primary Election (including those cast on election day, early voting, and vote-by-mail) for the following precincts: Collinsville Township 10, Nameoki Township 1, Nameoki Township 3, Nameoki Township 4, Nameoki Township 5, Nameoki Township 6, Nameoki Township 7, and Nameoki Township 8, only, in order to facilitate the retabulation and hand recount of the votes for the following questions:

Question 1:

Shall the Maximum allowable rate for the Long Lake Fire Protection District, Madison County, Illinois, be increased from .30% to .40% of the value of all taxable property within the District as equalized or assessed by the Department of Revenue?

Question 2:

Shall the Board of Trustees of the Long Lake Fire Protection District, Madison County, Illinois, levy a special tax at a rate not to exceed 0.40% of the value of all taxable property within the District as equalized or assessed by the Department of Revenue for the purpose of providing an emergency ambulance service?

The recount shall be conducted in accordance with all applicable provisions of Illinois law and this Order. The authorization provided by this Order shall extend to all provisional ballots cast and vote-by-mail ballots cast and received on or after March 17, 2026, through March 31, 2026. The

Madison County Clerk's Office shall provide at least two and up to three pairs of election judges of each of the 2 major political parties who shall hand count the ballots in bi-partisan pairs. The results of the hand count shall stand as the unofficial results of the votes as to Questions 1 and 2, and the Madison County Clerk may, thereafter, certify those results and proclaim the official results in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Election Code. Given the apparent clerical formatting issue in the automatic tabulating equipment, this Court finds the holding in *Pullen v. Mulligan* instructive, convincing, and applicable to these circumstances, and, accordingly, it is necessary and proper that a bi-partisan hand count be permitted and conducted, and that those results serve as the evidence of the voters' intent.

Upon the conclusion of this process, the ballots shall be resealed and maintained as provided in the Election Code.

This order entered this 26 day of March, 2026.



Judge