

PRESS RELEASE

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Village of Brockport Outlines Assistance CGR & League of Women Voters Will Provide Prior to June 15 Village Dissolution Vote

Rochester, NY – May 13, 2010 – The Village of Brockport will receive assistance from the Center for Governmental Research (CGR) and the League of Women Voters (LWV) of the Metropolitan Rochester Area to help provide a fair, balanced presentation of village dissolution issues prior to a scheduled June 15 vote.

“As one of the first NY villages to hold a dissolution vote under a new state law – where development of a dissolution plan occurs only if residents first approve dissolving the village – we are on new ground,” said Mayor Connie Castañeda. “The Brockport Village Board is pleased that CGR and the LWV have offered to help the Village through this process.”

Funded by the LWV’s Bea Bibby Endowment Fund and CGR, the assistance will include both a new website and oversight of two scheduled pre-vote public forums. The forums will be held May 26 and June 8 from 7-9 p.m. at the Brockport Middle School Auditorium, 40 Allen Street.

Village of Brockport Dissolution Vote Website

CGR, an independent nonprofit consulting organization that has gained extensive experience working with communities of all sizes across New York on issues involving local government shared services, consolidation and dissolution, will develop and host the website. The new site (www.cgr.org/brockport) will go live on Wednesday, May 19.

Charles Zettek Jr., CGR vice president and director of government management services, said the site will serve as an unbiased, nonpartisan source of information for residents. Two key features of the site will be an extensive Q&A section and the capability for residents to email CGR with questions. Zettek said CGR will develop appropriate responses, but will not respond to personal or non-specific questions.

Public Forums

The May 26 forum will include a debate in which one representative from the pro-dissolution side and one representative from the anti-dissolution side each make a 10-minute presentation. CGR will then take up to 15 minutes to address what CGR sees as factual errors or misrepresentations by either side. This will be followed by a 20-minute Q&A, where the two representatives can ask up to five questions of each other, with about two minutes per

exchange. The LWV and CGR will intervene if the discussion veers off a factual debate about dissolution.

The second hour of the May 26 meeting will be a question and comment session between members of the audience, CGR and the LWV. Speakers will each have one minute and will be called in order of sign in. This portion of the forum will not be a continuation of the debate.

The second public forum, to be held on June 8, will be entirely devoted to a question and comment session between members of the audience, CGR and the LWV. Speakers will have two minutes and will be called in order of sign in.

A summary of the forums and key points will be documented and posted at www.cgr.org/brockport within a few days of each forum.

Katherine Smith, co-president of the LWV, said: “We seek to foster a civil community debate about options for the future; let speakers ask questions so answers can be clarified as much as possible prior to the vote; and provide for different sides of the village dissolution issue to be heard.”

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