

RESOLUTION DECLARING OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL 3145

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Rock Valley College District No. 511, Winnebago, Boone, DeKalb, McHenry, Ogle and Stephenson Counties, Illinois ("Board of Trustees") is empowered to conduct the business of Rock Valley College (the "College") pursuant to various provisions of the *Illinois Public Community College Act*;

WHEREAS, the Board believes the mechanism of trustee elections is an important public issue and that the Board's position should be formally articulated to inform the district's residents;

WHEREAS, House Bill 3145 of the 102nd Illinois General Assembly (HB 3145), in its current form, would mandate the division of the College district into seven smaller "trustee districts" or subdistricts;

WHEREAS, HB 3145 would ultimately limit voters to elect only a trustee for their own subdistrict and disenfranchise them from the elections of the other six trustees;

WHEREAS, HB 3145 would mandate the replacement of trustees who represent the whole College district with trustees elected by these subdistricts over a period of six years;

WHEREAS, during this six-year period HB 3145 would dilute the power of some voters, as those in the new subdistricts would exclusively control the election of new trustees while continuing to be represented by current trustees;

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed HB 3145 and is concerned that the subdistricts it mandates would inject hyperlocal interests into trustee elections, unnecessarily dividing and politicizing the College district and the Board;

WHEREAS, the Board has adopted Policy 1:10.010, *Board Governance*, Section 1 of which provides that the purpose of the Board is to represent the public, rather than hyperlocal interests within the District, and that the commitment of each trustee to provide district residents a quality community college is fundamental to the College's success;

WHEREAS, Section 4 of Policy 1:10.010 provides that the Board will operate in all ways mindful of its civic trusteeship obligation to the citizens of the College district, and will make decisions on a consensus basis to the extent possible;

WHEREAS, the Board has adopted Policy 1:10.020, *Membership of the Board*, which provides that the voting members of the Board are elected at-large by the District electorate in nonpartisan, biannual elections, pursuant to various provisions of the *Illinois Public Community College Act*;

WHEREAS, the Board desires to preserve the at-large election of its trustees and maintain its trustees' individual and collective commitments to represent all District residents and provide them a quality community college, which the Board believes the enactment of HB 3145 would undermine; and

WHEREAS, the Board believes that it is in the best interest of the district's residents that the Board should oppose the enactment of HB 3145 as a matter of public record.

NOW THEREFORE, Be it Resolved by the Board of Trustees of Rock Valley College District No. 511, Winnebago, Boone, DeKalb, McHenry, Ogle and Stephenson Counties, Illinois, as follows:

Section 1: The recitals above are hereby adopted as true and correct.

Section 2: The Board hereby declares its opposition to the enactment of HB 3145, in its current form, and to any other version of HB 3145 or other legislation that would mandate the use of trustee districts to elect the College's trustees.

Section 3: The Board hereby authorizes the College President and/or the President's designee to take such actions as may be appropriate to uphold the Board's position as declared in this resolution.

Section 4: This Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon its adoption.

ADOPTED this 25th day of May, 2021.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF ROCK VALLEY
COLLEGE, DISTRICT NO. 511, WINNEBAGO,
BOONE, DEKALB, MCHENRY, OGLE AND
STEPHENSON COUNTIES, ILLINOIS**

BY:


Jarid Funderburg
Chairman, Board of Trustees

ATTEST:


Bob Trojan
Secretary, Board of Trustees