

Should the Village of Round Lake Heights Clerk position be changed from elected to appointed?

The Village Clerk duties include preparing and posting meeting agendas, keeping minutes of all village board meetings, conducting and filing oaths of office for all elected officials and police officers, election related responsibilities, attestation of signatures and certificates of matter of public record and signing various agreements. The village clerk has no voting authority on village matters.

Currently, there are 24 appointed and 26 elected village clerks within Lake County.

As an elected position, there are no requisites or qualifications required for the position. The clerk is elected for a 4-year term. There are no term limits for the position.

As an appointed position, skills, knowledge, abilities and other qualifications could be requisites for persons applying for the position. Any candidate for an appointed Village Clerk is recommended by the Mayor and the Village Board must approve the appointment by a majority vote. The appointed clerk would be appointed every year.

Some viewed benefits of having an elected official is that the clerk has no political connection to the Mayor or village board, village residents get to vote for the clerk position and the clerk must be a resident of the village.

Some viewed detriments to having an elected clerk include there are no qualifications required for the position, it is very difficult to remove the clerk if he/she fails to perform the position's duties and the potential talent pool for the position is limited to only interested village residents.

Some viewed benefits of having an appointed clerk is that qualifications can be required for the position when filling the vacancy, the clerk can be replaced by non-appointment and the talent pool for the position is broader if the clerk is not required to live within the village.

Some viewed detriments to having an appointed clerk is that the clerk may be politically aligned with the Mayor and may be friends with elected official(s).