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PUBLIC LIBRARIES CLOSED ON NOVEMBER 3, 2020?

TO: Public Library Clients
FROM: Roger Ritzman/Mark Ritzman
DATE: August 11, 2020

Must Public Libraries close on November 3, 2020 (General Election Day) per Public Act 101-0642?

P.A. 101-0642 provides, in relevant part, as follows:

Notwithstanding any other provision of State law to the contrary, November 3, 2020 shall be a State holiday known as 2020 General Election Day and shall be observed throughout the State. November 3, 2020 shall be deemed a legal school holiday for purposes of the School Code, State Universities Civil Service Act, and any other law designating a holiday. All government offices, with the exception of election authorities, shall be closed unless authorized to be used as a location for election day services or as a polling place (emphasis supplied).

Questions arose shortly after this legislation was passed as to whether the Legislature intended that the words "all government offices" included units of local government, e.g., Public Libraries, Municipalities, Park Districts, etc.

In an effort to clarify the Legislature's intent as to what government offices must close, a lawsuit was filed against the State Board of Election on July 29, 2020 in Sangamon County by the Illinois Municipal League, the Village of Bolingbrook and the Village of Southern View.

We will monitor the lawsuit and provide follow up information.

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