

Ballot Briefs



Who?

*Who Are Your
Candidates for
Cook County?*



Editor's Note . . .

The League of Women Voters shares the views of Thomas Jefferson expressed so long ago when he said: "I know of no safe depository of the ultimate power of society but the people themselves, and **if we think them not enlightened enough** to exercise their control with a wholesome discretion, **the remedy is**, not to take it away from them, but **to inform their discretion by education.**"

The League tries by study and action to encourage citizens to know their government, to understand its costs and operations, and to participate in elections.

COOK COUNTY GOVERNMENT is tremendous, with hundreds of taxing bodies and many complex problems.

We try herein to examine the Public Offices to be filled by election on November 7, 1950. As a voter of Cook County, you will choose thirty-one of the sixty-two candidates listed on the ballot for County Offices alone.

Unbiased and non-partisan information is given with the co-operation of the **candidates themselves**, both parties being represented. It includes their records and some of their views on county government in reply to specific League questions.

We have been able to accomplish this effort with the support of the enclosed advertisers interested in better government.

It is hoped that you will find "Ballot Briefs" interesting and helpful to you in making YOUR DECISION when you VOTE on November 7, 1950.

EMILIE S. HURTT
(Mrs. John E. Hurtt)

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- A. Description of office, qualifications,* if any, duties of candidates and remuneration.
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*In only three instances, qualifications for County Offices are stated in the law—namely, the County Judge, Superintendent of Schools and County Commissioners.



FEAR LOCAL DEMOCRACY IS DISAPPEARING

Do counties deserve to be called "The dark continent of American government", "The stronghold of the spoils system", or "The jungle of American politics"?

Political scientists say that counties in general have earned these epithets. They blame the long ballot as the underlying reason for this plight because it frustrates voters and discourages them from making the necessary effort to vote intelligently in county elections, and because professional politicians take advantage of the situation by running their own candidates for office. They also believe that the long ballot parcels out power among too many offices, most of which are administrative in nature and therefore should be appointive. The County Commissioners should remain on the ballot because they form the logical policy-making body, and consequently should have ultimate authority and responsibility in county affairs.

Experts fear that unless the ballot is reduced to only policy-making offices, and responsibility for county management placed under a single head local democracy which is the foundation of national democracy will soon become a mirage.

WHO IS YOUR ELECTION AUTHORITY?

All elections in Cook County are regulated by the Illinois Election Laws. Cook County has two separate **Election Authorities**:

THE COUNTY CLERK has responsibility for the conduct of elections, including registration of voters, in all of Cook County **except** that part of Cook County which has elected to come under the **City Election Act**. The County Clerk's office is in Room 230, County Building.

THE BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS has jurisdiction over **CHICAGO** and the following: **Berwyn, Chicago Heights, Harvey, Elmwood Park, Morton Grove, Skokie, Stickney, Summit and Cicero**. These have adopted the **City Election Act**. The Board of Election Commissioners are appointed by the County Judge. It is a bi-partisan Board of three election commissioners, serving one, two or three-year terms. This is determined by the County Judge at time of appointment. The Election Board office is in Room 308, City Hall.

The County Clerk Performs many duties—he is keeper of the County Seal—Comptroller of financial affairs—Clerk of the County Court—and Election Authority in the County outside of that under the Board of Election Commissioners.

COUNTY CLERK

Term: 4 years
Salary: \$9,000
(yearly)

Appropriations this year total \$1,507,440. There are 144 regular employees and numerous part-time help including the judges and clerks of election.

The County Clerk keeps records of births, deaths and marriages—of all notaries public, justices of the peace and constables in the county. He issues marriage licenses—files all wills entered for probate—lists real estate to be assessed, and prepares tax books for the Assessor.

Candidates for County Clerk



Be
Ballot-Wise

Democrat

RICHARD J. DALEY (Incumbent). Age 48. 3536 So. Lowe Ave., Chicago, lawyer—De Paul University, College of Law. Appointed to fill term after death of Michael J. Flynn. Elected Illinois State Representative 1936—State Senator from 9th Senatorial District 1938-1946. Director of Revenue of Illinois (appointed) 1949 to March, 1950 when he became County Clerk.

Democratic Minority Leader in the 63rd and 64th Ill. Gen'l Assembly.

Republican

NICHOLAS J. BOHLING. Age 43. 7336 Bennett Ave., Chicago—lawyer—Univ. of Notre Dame, A.B. degree; Chicago Law School, J.D. degree. Law firm, Ditchburne and Bohling. Alderman, 7th Ward, since 1943, Chairman of the Committee on Judiciary and State Legislation. Former Securities Supervisor for State Industrial Commission (appointed).

Former Pres. of the Young Republicans, in the 7th Ward, former Secretary of the State Young Republicans.

Question by League of Women Voters to Candidates:

"What are your plans, if elected to office, for Improvement or modernizing Cook County Government?"

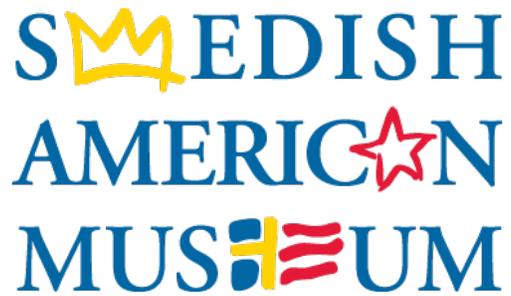
Mr. Daley replies:

"Since assuming the duties of the County Clerk I have been surveying, studying, in some instances placing in operation improvements in the office of the County Clerk which will make for more economical operation."

Mr. Bohling replies:

"To bring up to date records such as in the Dept. of Vital Statistics, more prompt registration of documents; consideration of extending time of voting to 8:00 P.M. Elimination of possible duplication of election machinery; provide with the County Judge for the publishing of a Court Docket."

REMEMBER TO VOTE NOVEMBER 7, 1950



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