



Local Governance Subcommittee Report

Transitional Governance Options for Reorganization of the
Town of Ellettsville and Richland Township

Submitted to the Reorganization Board March 4, 2026

Prepared By	Local Governance Subcommittee
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Report Purpose	To present transitional governance options for the Board's review and determination.
Report Finding	The subcommittee finds that reorganization between the Town of Ellettsville and Richland Township is recommended.

Executive Summary

The Local Governance Subcommittee reviewed the current governing structure of the Town of Ellettsville and Richland Township, and the transition needs that would result if reorganization takes effect, while exploring options that allowed for the township to have an equal stake in the reorganized Town government.

The subcommittee finds that reorganization between the Town of Ellettsville and Richland Township is recommended. This report presents two governance options for the Reorganization Board's review and determination. The report does not recommend one option over the other.

Both options maintain continuity of government, provide former township representation during the transition, include the Clerk-Treasurer in the election cycle, and result in a seven-member governing body after the transition period.

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Option Comparison

Side-by-Side Review for Board Consideration

Item	Option 1	Option 2
Board Size in 2027	7 members	9 members
2027 Composition	5 districts + 2 at-large	5 districts + 2 at-large + 2 temporary
At-Large Seats Begin	Jan. 1, 2027	Jan. 1, 2027
At-Large Seats End	Dec. 31, 2030	Dec. 31, 2030
Temporary Transitional Seats	None	2 seats end Dec. 31, 2027
Board Size Beginning 2028	7 members	7 members
Offices on Nov. 2027 Ballot	Districts 1, 2, 3; Clerk-Treasurer	Districts 1, 2, 3; Clerk-Treasurer
At-Large Seats on Nov. 2027 Ballot	No	No
Next At-Large Election	2030	2030
Full Election-Cycle Alignment	After 2031 cycle	After 2031 cycle

Key Distinction: Option 1 begins with the seven-member structure on January 1, 2027, and keeps that structure in place. Option 2 uses a nine-member transition board during 2027 only, then moves to the same seven-member structure on January 1, 2028.

Current Governing Structure

The current governing bodies are as follows:

- Town of Ellettsville: five-member Town Council
- Richland Township: one Township Trustee and three Township Board members

If reorganization takes effect, the Richland Township Trustee and Township Board would dissolve, and their duties would transfer to the reorganized town.

For transition planning purposes, this report assumes that two current Township Board members would fill the at-large seats beginning January 1, 2027. Those at-large seats would remain in place through December 31, 2030, and would next appear on the ballot in 2030.

Transition Objectives

- Maintain continuity of government
- Provide representation for former Richland Township residents during the transition
- Keep the structure practical and easy to follow
- Provide a clear election schedule
- Establish a stable long-term governing structure

Option 1

Seven-Member Governing Body Beginning January 1, 2027

Under Option 1, the reorganized town would begin with a seven-member governing body on January 1, 2027. That same structure would continue beyond the interim year.

2027 Governing Body

For calendar year 2027, the governing body would consist of:

- Five district members
- Two at-large members

The two at-large seats would begin on January 1, 2027, and would remain part of both the interim and permanent board through December 31, 2030. Those seats would not sunset at the end of 2027.

Position Schedule

Position	Method	Term Begins	Term Ends
District 1	Current seated member continues	Jan. 1, 2024	Dec. 31, 2027
District 2	Current seated member continues	Jan. 1, 2024	Dec. 31, 2027
District 3	Current seated member continues	Jan. 1, 2024	Dec. 31, 2027
District 4	Elected in 2026	Jan. 1, 2027	Dec. 31, 2030
District 5	Elected in 2026	Jan. 1, 2027	Dec. 31, 2030
At-Large Seat 1	Filled by current Township Board member for transition and continuing service	Jan. 1, 2027	Dec. 31, 2030
At-Large Seat 2	Filled by current Township Board member for transition and continuing service	Jan. 1, 2027	Dec. 31, 2030

November 2027 Election

Office	Term Begins	Term Ends
District 1	Jan. 1, 2028	Dec. 31, 2031
District 2	Jan. 1, 2028	Dec. 31, 2031
District 3	Jan. 1, 2028	Dec. 31, 2031
Clerk-Treasurer	Jan. 1, 2028	Dec. 31, 2031

The two at-large seats would not appear on the November 2027 ballot because those seats would already be in place through December 31, 2030.

Governing Body Beginning January 1, 2028

- Five district seats
- Two at-large seats
- Total: seven members

Next At-Large Election

Under Option 1, the at-large seats would next appear on the ballot in 2030, with the next term beginning January 1, 2031.

Option 2

Nine-Member Governing Body for 2027, Transitioning to Seven Members Beginning January 1, 2028

Under Option 2, the reorganized town would use a larger governing body during calendar year 2027 only. Beginning January 1, 2028, the board would reduce to seven members.

2027 Governing Body

For calendar year 2027, the governing body would consist of:

- Five district members
- Two at-large members
- Two temporary transitional seats

Under this option, the two at-large seats would begin on January 1, 2027, and continue through December 31, 2030. The two temporary transitional seats would end on December 31, 2027.

Position Schedule

Position	Method	Term Begins	Term Ends
District 1	Current seated member continues	Jan. 1, 2024	Dec. 31, 2027
District 2	Current seated member continues	Jan. 1, 2024	Dec. 31, 2027
District 3	Current seated member continues	Jan. 1, 2024	Dec. 31, 2027
District 4	Elected in 2026	Jan. 1, 2027	Dec. 31, 2030
District 5	Elected in 2026	Jan. 1, 2027	Dec. 31, 2030
At-Large Seat 1	Filled by current Township Board member for transition and continuing service	Jan. 1, 2027	Dec. 31, 2030
At-Large Seat 2	Filled by current Township Board member for transition and continuing service	Jan. 1, 2027	Dec. 31, 2030
Temporary Transitional Seat 1	Filled for 2027 only	Jan. 1, 2027	Dec. 31, 2027
Temporary Transitional Seat 2	Filled for 2027 only	Jan. 1, 2027	Dec. 31, 2027

November 2027 Election

Office	Term Begins	Term Ends
District 1	Jan. 1, 2028	Dec. 31, 2031
District 2	Jan. 1, 2028	Dec. 31, 2031
District 3	Jan. 1, 2028	Dec. 31, 2031
Clerk-Treasurer	Jan. 1, 2028	Dec. 31, 2031

The two at-large seats would not appear on the November 2027 ballot because those seats would already be in place through December 31, 2030.

Governing Body Beginning January 1, 2028

- Five district seats

- Two at-large seats
 - Total: seven members
- The two temporary transitional seats would end on December 31, 2027.

Next At-Large Election

Under Option 2, the at-large seats would next appear on the ballot in 2030, with the next term beginning January 1, 2031.

Election Schedule

Offices Continuing Into 2027

Office	Status in 2027	Term Ends
District 1	Continues in office	Dec. 31, 2027
District 2	Continues in office	Dec. 31, 2027
District 3	Continues in office	Dec. 31, 2027
District 4	New term begins after 2026 election	Dec. 31, 2030
District 5	New term begins after 2026 election	Dec. 31, 2030
At-Large Seat 1	Begins under transition plan	Dec. 31, 2030
At-Large Seat 2	Begins under transition plan	Dec. 31, 2030

Offices on the November 2027 Ballot

Office	Option 1	Option 2
District 1	Yes	Yes
District 2	Yes	Yes
District 3	Yes	Yes
At-Large Seat 1	No	No
At-Large Seat 2	No	No
Clerk-Treasurer	Yes	Yes

Offices on the 2030 Ballot

Office	Option 1	Option 2
District 4	Yes	Yes
District 5	Yes	Yes
At-Large Seat 1	Yes	Yes
At-Large Seat 2	Yes	Yes

Terms Beginning January 1, 2028

Office	Term Begins	Term Ends
District 1	Jan. 1, 2028	Dec. 31, 2031
District 2	Jan. 1, 2028	Dec. 31, 2031
District 3	Jan. 1, 2028	Dec. 31, 2031
Clerk-Treasurer	Jan. 1, 2028	Dec. 31, 2031

Transition Cycle and Board Alignment

Option 1

Under Option 1, the board remains staggered after the 2027 transition year because the at-large seats continue through 2030 and Districts 4 and 5 continue through 2030.

The governing body is not fully aligned on one election cycle until after the 2031 cycle, once Districts 1, 2, and 3 and the Clerk-Treasurer complete the terms that begin January 1, 2028.

Option 2

Under Option 2, the two temporary transitional seats end on December 31, 2027, and the board reduces to seven members on January 1, 2028.

Even so, the governing body remains staggered until after the 2031 cycle, because the at-large seats and Districts 4 and 5 continue through 2030, while Districts 1, 2, 3, and the Clerk-Treasurer continue through 2031.

Final Finding

The Local Governance Subcommittee finds that reorganization between the Town of Ellettsville and Richland Township is recommended.

The subcommittee submits Option 1 and Option 2 to the Reorganization Board for review and determination.