

# Winnetka Caucus Council 2017 Platforms

## VILLAGE TRUSTEES AND CANDIDATES

### Background

#### Constitution of the Village Board of Trustees / Caucus Candidate Selection Process

Of the 509 respondents, 79% responded that the current system of village trustee election serves the village well. Of the 510 respondents, 53% favored maintaining the current system of two-year terms and the Caucus rule against slating candidates for more than two consecutive terms. Finally, of the 501 respondents, 88% said no to using specific criteria in evaluating applicants for Village Trustee positions.

Of 492 respondents who answered our question about whether the Caucus should increase transparency by disclosing candidates' applications and interviews to the public, 56% said yes, for one reason or another.

#### Emergency Management

Of the 377 respondents who answered our question about whether the village should have a board or commission to focus on emergency management, over 54% said that it should, and 46% said that it should not. Of the 54% who answered in the affirmative, at least 46% said that such a board or commission should prioritize some combination of preparing for natural disasters, civil defense drills, and events of civil disorder.

### Planks

#### Village Trustee Plank #1 - Candidate Selection

A majority of respondents favored greater transparency, the Caucus Rules Committee should consider whether changes to the current system of evaluating candidates can and should be made to increase the transparency of that process to the public.

#### Village Trustee Plank #2 - Emergency Management

The Village Board of Trustees should review its emergency management and preparedness practices and research how other similarly situated communities approach this issue. The Board of Trustees should give consideration as to whether a dedicated board or commission should be established to focus on emergency management and preparedness, especially with regard to natural disasters.

## PARKS

### Background

#### Lakefront Priorities

Of the 513 respondents to this section, 40% report being regular (19%) or frequent (21%) users of the lakefront, with 60% report using the lakefront infrequently (32%), rarely (18%), or never (9%). Of those who use the lakefront, the vast majority (70%) report their primary use as relaxation, followed by recreation & exercise (12%), dog beach (9%), non-motorized boating (6%) and motorized boating (3%)

We presented the community with eight priorities for lakefront development that were presented in Lakefront 2030 Plan. We asked them to list their top 3 choices for prioritization in order. There was clear consensus among the 436 respondents that infrastructure & access improvements should be prioritized. 38% of all respondents listed this as their #1 priority, with 60% placing infrastructure in their top 3. This was similar for current beach users and non-users. Notably, while regular and frequent beach users prioritized infrastructure, they were also very much in support of improving or building new beach houses with added amenities, with 52% listing this in their top three. Playgrounds and concessions followed, but were not as significant as prioritization for infrastructure and beach houses.

### Planks

#### Parks Plank #1 - Lakefront Development

The Winnetka Park District should proceed to put in place the vision set forth in Lakefront 2030, with emphasis on improving infrastructure to include parking, walkways, lighting, boardwalks, signage, restrooms and access for all generations & abilities. It should also formulate plans to replace and/or renovate the beach houses.

## VILLAGE COUNCIL

### Background

#### Refuse Collection

We asked if Winnetka should change its current method of refuse collection by 1) moving pick-up from the back door to curbside and/or 2) assessing a flat fee instead of property taxes to

mitigate some of the losses reported by the Village's Refuse Fund. Of the 526 respondents to this section, 67% would support the Village moving refuse collection to curbside pickup to reduce costs, while 33% were opposed, and 57% supported the flat fee and 43% opposed it.

### **Design Guidelines**

When asked if Winnetka should institute design guidelines to ensure that new construction/spec development is in line with the existing character of Winnetka of the 522 that responded, 65% felt that Winnetka should institute such guidelines, while 27% did not, 7% had no opinion.

Floor area ratio (FAR) is the ratio of a building's total floor area (zoning floor area) to the size of the piece of land upon which it is built. When asked if the FAR be reevaluated in light of the increase in impermeable surfaces and flooding issues facing Winnetka of the 524 respondents, 66% felt it should; 21% felt it should not and 13% had no opinion.

### **Planks**

#### **Village Council Plank #1 - Refuse Collection & Billing**

To reduce refuse collection services costs, the Village trustees should further explore moving pick-up from back door to curbside or other options.

#### **Village Council Plank #2 - Design Guidelines**

The Village trustees should evaluate design guidelines to ensure new construction/spec development is in line with the history and character of Winnetka.

#### **Village Council Plank #3 – Floor Area Ratio**

The Village trustees should evaluate the current Floor area ratio in light of the increase of impermeable surfaces and flooding issues facing Winnetka.

## **SCHOOLS**

### **Background**

#### **Consistency of Elementary Education**

When asked if the district should have a stipulated district goal that speaks to the consistency regarding implementation of curriculum across the three elementary schools, the majority (69%) of the 438 respondents felt that there should be, while the minority (31%) felt that principals should have the flexibility to allow their staffs to implement the district curriculum as

they see fit. This result was consistent with the total population and those with children currently in D36 schools.

## **Plank**

### **Schools Plank #1 - Administration Responsiveness**

The Winnetka Public Schools (D36) should make every effort to implement a consistent curriculum across the three elementary schools.

## **LIBRARY**

## **Background**

### **Library Volunteers**

Of the 488 respondents to the question of whether the Winnetka Public Library should re-establish the Library Volunteer Program, 70% answered yes, 30% answered no.

## **Plank**

### **Library Plank #1 - Library Volunteer Program Reinstatement**

The Winnetka Public Library should re-establish and welcome groups of Library Volunteers.