

Welcome!



Spring Caucus Council Meeting

Thursday, April 18th, 2024

2024-25 Onboarding & Kick-Off

Agenda



- Introduction to the WCC
 - Caucus 101: Background & structure
 - What we do & who we are: Roles & committees
- Why We're Here *(and Why We're Not)*
- Why you should be here
- How the WCC works
 - Typical calendar for the year
 - What the All Hands and Town Halls cover
 - Board seats opening up
 - Action Plan Framework for this year
 - How we want to run meetings
- Feedback from last year
- Goals for this year
- How we are funded / Call for Support
- Next Steps & Committee Breakouts

Caucus 101

See more on
our [FAQs](#)
page



Who we are:

- The Caucus started in 1915
- Has been non-partisan from the start
- The "Caucus" vs. "Caucus Council"
- The WCC serves as a liaison between residents and the Boards
- Who makes up the Caucus Council:
 - *Residents of Winnetka, and our taxing bodies, for 1+ year*
 - *Residents who haven't served in 2 years or for more than 4 consecutive years (i.e. terms are 3-4 years)*
 - *Max of 1 per household*
 - *No major conflicts of interest*
- We are a **political organization** (in that we are involved in the political process)...we are NOT a political party and do not tie ourselves to any one political group

What we do:

- Surveying
- Slating
- Candidate Engagement (via Spring and Fall Town Halls)
- Candidate Support

What We Do

Committee Chairs:

- Serve on Exec Committee
- Onboard new members
- Educate/Advise
- Serve on Officer Selection Committee (along with Committee designee)
- Support smooth transitions year to year

Committee Members:

- Serve on 1 of 5 Major Committees (Village Slating, Village Platform, Parks, Schools, Library) + 1 Standing Committee (Communications, Rules, Finance)
- Focus on resident priorities
- Bring an open mind
- Execute throughout the year
- Compromise and align with fellow committee members
- Help cover Board meetings and share insights

Who We Are

Executive Committee Role	First Name	Last Name	District
Executive Chair	Peter	Eck	1
Vice Chair	Betsy	Owens	4
Finance Chair	Doug	Sutton	3
Rules Chair	Kathy	Hamburger	7
Communications Chair	Jan	Bawden	15
Library Chair	Laura	Freechack	8
Parks Chair	Alex	Ross	12
Schools Chair	Stanton	Anderson	5
Village Platform Chair	Thomas	Kehoe	3
Village Slating Chair	Ian	Larkin	8

Major Committee	First Name	Last Name	Standing Committee	District
Library	Laura	Freechack	NA - Committee Chair	8
	Julie	Nilan	Communications	8
	Justin	Hales	Finance	1
	Kristen	Hemmings	Communications	12
	Phil	Enquist	Rules	8
	Rex	Burgdorfer	Communications	3
	Stephen	Dewart	Communications	7
Parks	Alex	Ross	NA - Committee Chair	12
	Bailey	Morris	Communications	4
	Jeremy	Fiser	Rules	3
	Josh	Frick	Communications	3
	Laura	DeMoor	Rules	13
	Matt	Bogusz	Communications	4
	Patrick	Hennessey	Communications	6
	Steve	Juliusson	Rules	12
	Teresa	Claybrook	Communications	11

Major Committee	First Name	Last Name	Standing Committee	District
Schools	Stanton	Anderson	NA - Committee Chair	5
	Chris	Baggett	Communications	3
	Christopher	Towne	Rules	5
	Dana	Connell	Rules	6
	Elisa	Bartels	Communications	4
	Erick	Taft	Communications	3
	Lauren	Lewis	Rules	14
	Leigh	Dyer	Communications	6
	Patricia	Wilson	Rules	8
	Sally	Armbruster	Communications	3
Village Platform	Thomas	Kehoe	NA - Committee Chair	3
	Chuck	Boehrer	Communications	
	Jane	Dowding	Rules	8
	Marc	Hecht	Rules	9
	Mary	Garrison	Finance	6
	Patrick	Conway	Rules	14
	Robert	Mucci	Communications	11
	Stuart	Adelman	Finance	11
	Steve	Giczewski	Communications	2
Village Slating	Ian	Larkin	NA - Committee Chair	8
	Bruce	Chase	Communications	5
	Frank	Scommegna	Rules	12
	Jessica	Tucker	Communications	11
	Joanne	Wallace	Communications	14
	Julian	Solotorovsky	Rules	12
	Rick	Ufford	Communications	5
	Frederick	Johnson	Communications	9
	Wes	Barker	Communications	12
	Theodore	Wynnychenko	Finance	8

Why We're Here

*(and why
we're not)*

What the WCC is all about:

- Spotlighting what residents care about
- Supporting and informing our governing boards
- Ensuring we always have great candidates

...and NOT about:

- Satisfying personal agendas or achieving specific outcomes
- ...the focus needs to be on resident priorities and NOT our personal views

Why You Should Be Here

- To support your community
- To give back
- To meet neighbors
- Because you are curious about local politics / issues
- (*...and maybe because a friend bent your arm*)

Typical WCC Calendar

Apr	May	June	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec...	Mar
Spring Council Mtg	Spring Town Hall					Fall Council Mtg	Fall Town Hall		New EC and WCC organizes
Committees Form	Survey Prep	Survey Dev	Survey Refinement	Survey Planning	Survey Fielded	Analysis & Platforms	Shared with Boards		
			1 st call for candidates	Candidate interviews begin	2 nd call + finish diligence	Final call & WCC vote	Caucus vote + ballot registration	Candidate Support	Elections

*Formation of new WCC Exec & New Committees

All Hands & Town Halls



- Spring Caucus Council Meeting
 - Onboard new Council
 - Lay groundwork for year ahead
 - Launching board for the new year
- Spring Town Hall
 - Hear from the Board heads re: priorities and actions vs. the latest platforms & planks
 - Align on survey focus areas before/after mtg.
- Fall Caucus Council Meeting
 - Review and approved proposed planks and platforms
 - Vote on proposed Caucus Council candidates
- Fall Town Hall
 - Share-out of planks & platforms
 - Final vote on Winnetka Caucus candidates
 - Q&A with the proposed Caucus candidates

All Boards Have Open Seats Next Year

Village Council	Parks Board of Commissioners	D36 Schools Board	Library Board of Trustees*
<u>Chris Rintz</u> (President) 4th Term Expiring May 2025	<u>Christina Codo</u> (President) 2nd Term Expiring May 2027	<u>Emily Rose</u> (President) 2nd Term Expiring May 2027	<u>Melissa Mitchell</u> (President) 1st Term Expiring May 2025
<u>Kirk Albinson</u> 1st Term Expiring May 2025	<u>Eric Lussen</u> (Vice President) 2nd Term Expiring May 2025	<u>Dan Waters</u> (Vice President) 1st Term Expiring May 2025	<u>Ranjini Shanker</u> (Vice President) 1st Term Expiring May 2027
<u>Rob Apatoff</u> 3rd Term Expiring May 2026	<u>James Hemmings</u> 1st Term Expiring May 2027	<u>Alyssa Rapp</u> 1st Term Expiring 2025	<u>Sarah Munoz</u> (Treasurer) 1st Term Ends May 2025
<u>Tina Dalman</u> 2nd Term Expiring May 2026	<u>Warren James</u> 2nd Term Expiring May 2025	<u>Steve Cirulis</u> 2nd Term Expiring May 2025	<u>Thomas Sundell</u> (Secretary) 1st Term Expiring May 2025
<u>Bob Dearborn</u> 4th Term Expiring May 2025	<u>Cynthia Rapp</u> 2nd Term Expiring May 2027	<u>Luke Figora</u> 1st Term Expiring May 2027	<u>Travis Gosselin</u> 2nd Term Expiring May 2027
<u>Kim Handler</u> 2nd Term Expiring May 2026	<u>Colleen Root</u> 1st Term expiring Mya 2025	<u>Katherine Myers-Crum</u> 1st Term Expiring May 2027	<u>Matt Kinnich</u> 1st Term Expiring May 2027
<u>Bridget Orsic</u> 1st Term Expiring May 2025	<u>Jeff Tyson</u> 1st Term Expiring May 2027	<u>Marena Rudy</u> 1st Term Expiring May 2027	<u>Sarah Tegal</u> 1st Term Expiring May 2025

Legend:

7 members serving max 4 consecutive 2-year terms; can run for President even if termed-out on Council	Term Ends in 2025	Termed-Out in 2025
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7 members serving max 2 consecutive 4-year terms

More to come, but we want to run a transparent, structured, repeatable slating process

*At least two of the Trustees shall reside in the Village of Northfield and at least three shall reside in the Village of Winnetka.

Action Plan Framework

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	
2	Key Mtgs		4/18: Spring WCC Mtg	5/16: Spring Town Hall					Fall Council Mtg	Fall Town Hall			
3			4/18: Post Spring Town Hall agenda + invite										
8	Membership	Finalize new EC & communicate to full Caucus											
9		Final Call for Members Committee Selection											
12	Survey												
17	Slating												
20		3/19 Elections											
23	Marketing												
29	Finance / Business Admin												

To be developed – if you are a natural planner, help your Committee Chair capture the action plan for the year...

We need to build a clear, repeatable, and fully rules-compliant framework!

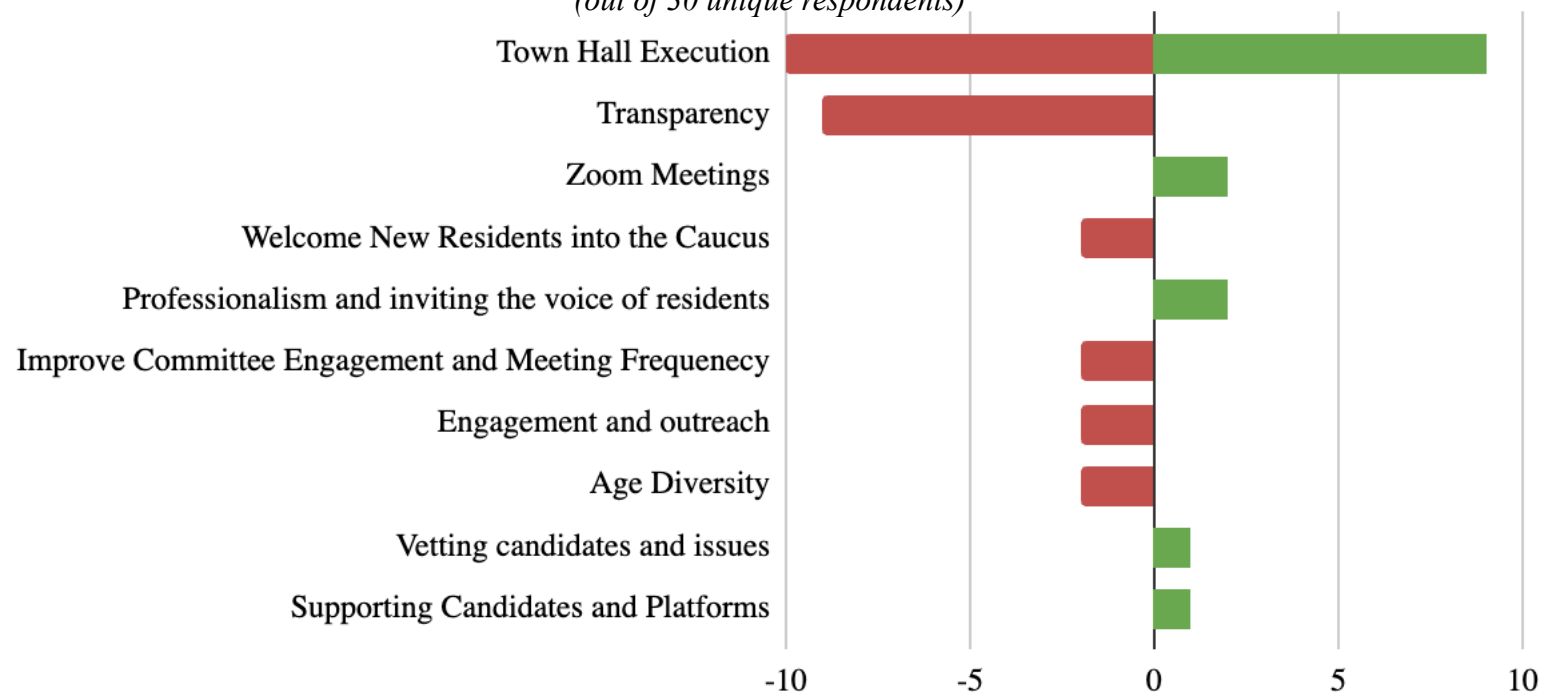
How We Will Run Mtgs This Year

- Scheduled in advance, with agenda
- Regular meeting times
- Open meetings whenever possible
 - *Non-WCC residents may observe, but not participate*
- Chairs (or designee) will take minutes
- Minutes will be posted by Jan/Comms team
- All meetings should be efficient and effective...we will shoot for 60 mins (90 mins max in most cases)
- *Board Meetings: try to attend (in-person ideally) as an observer to learn the issues and how the Board functions, but do not speak on behalf of the WCC; Chairs to coordinate attendance*

Feedback Themes from Fall 2023 WCC Survey

■ WCC Does This Well ■ WCC Needs to Improve

*# of Comments Responding as Indicated
(out of 30 unique respondents)*



Feedback
from Last
Year

Feedback from Last Year

Positive

"Thank you to the caucus team for running an efficient meeting even with many technologically challenged participants. Your patience with the town members was admirable. Also Susan Curry did an outstanding job maintaining decorum and civility. The quick voting results were appreciated. Thank you for your service to our community."

"The caucus helps the town tone down contentious debates. I appreciate the free exchange of ideas in a civil manner."

"I like the Zoom meetings. I am much more likely to participate over Zoom than I am if I have to go out at night. I hope you keep this format."

"The WCC handles its tasks with seriousness and professionalism. It also does a great job of listening to the voice of the all community members -- not just a specific age group or resident demographic. It does a fabulous job of seeking input from all."

Constructive

"The use of video statements should be prohibited at the Town Hall meeting. If a rule or policy isn't adopted now to require in-person/live statements, will future candidates increase the use of taped statements and up the production value of all videos? Will they hire political consultants to craft and edit their messages? I don't think this is the intent of the Village Town Hall meeting. Please ban the use of taped video statements to nip this trend in the bud."

"Recruitment and passing down experience will always be a challenge. Would there be any interest in 'welcome packages' that include Caucus info to new residents? Annual WCC direct mail with planks, timeline, and brief blurb about how/when to get involved? Fundamentally, awareness and engagement make the Caucus function - anything to improve these will be critical. Thank you so much for the care and time you put into this process."

"Allow mail in and absentee voting. Move to the same model as state and local elections- this is exactly what this caucus process is about."

"I think this latest session demonstrated the fact that there needs to be better training and on-boarding of Caucus members, so that they better understand the true purpose of the Caucus. I think it was one of the things that lead to some of the acrimony throughout the process. I believe this was true within the slating committee, and I think it was also true with respect to the broader caucus's understanding of their role."

Goals for This Year

1. Improve transparency and communication
 - *With Jan's leadership, we already are!*
2. Setup for success / build the foundation
3. Build on '23-24 reach and engagement gains while getting back to in-person events (via hybrid)
4. Run a clear, effective, and efficient process
5. Make serving on the WCC a great experience
 - *...and secure the WCC for years to come!*
6. Keep the focus on resident perspectives/priorities

Call for Support



The Winnetka Caucus Council operates on a modest budget of roughly \$7,000 for 2024.

Expenses are entirely supported by nontax-deductible donations

How funds are used to cover expenses:

- IT/Comms (Website, Survey Monkey, Zoom, Constant Contact, and G Suite)
- Liability insurance for us of meeting spaces
- Post office box, survey postcards and yard signs
- Chamber of Commerce Membership
- Corporate agent

Suggested donations and how we plan to raise funds:

- \$200 per Chair per year ($10 \times \$200 = \$2,000$)
- \$100 per Committee Member per year ($50 \times \$100 = \$5,000$)
- *Encourage public donations throughout the year (gap fill)*

Where We Go From Here

- Committee Kick-Off Meetings (within next 2 weeks)
- Block your calendar for your recurring Committee meeting times and get ready to stay engaged and attend all sessions
- Block the 5/16 date for the Spring Town Hall (invite to follow tomorrow)
- Review [past year platforms](#); can also watch [last year's Town Hall](#)
- Start thinking about survey themes/topics for your Major Committee
- Start thinking about potential candidate nominations (for any Board!)
- Read the [Bylaws](#) and help us stay on track

Questions?

Ask now, or email us:

hello@winnetkacaucus.org

Committee Breakouts

*Pick your MAJOR Committee
and hop in to meet your
team before calling it a night!*