

WINNETKA CAUCUS COUNCIL SUMMARY OF 2022 SURVEY RESULTS

VILLAGE SURVEY QUESTIONS

The 2022 Winnetka Caucus Council (“WCC”) Survey results show strong positive feedback for the quality, and timeliness of Village services. When asked to rank interest in new businesses, respondents expressed support for specialty food establishments (e.g. butcher, baker, cheese, etc.), restaurants, and specialty retail establishments. Respondents indicated that Winnetka’s greatest strengths include its high-quality schools, beachfront access, and green spaces. Respondents indicated areas for improvement in Winnetka, such as restaurants & cafes, community diversity, and public village amenities. Over 200 respondents made additional comments, many touching on coordination and communication with taxing bodies, cost of living, the One Winnetka property, and support for environmental initiatives.

D36 SCHOOLS SURVEY QUESTIONS

The 2022 Winnetka Caucus Council Survey results indicate that a large majority of residents are satisfied with the quality of District 36 (“D36”) Schools. A plurality of survey respondents also indicated they are satisfied with the D36 School Board’s fiscal stewardship and their ability to offer input to the D36 School Board. Compared to the 2019 WCC survey results, overall satisfaction with D36 is somewhat down and satisfaction with D36’s fiscal stewardship is somewhat up. Survey respondents indicated the highest priorities for D36 leadership should be hiring and retaining the best teachers and staff, facilities improvements, and recovering from the pandemic. As in 2021, there was a strong interest in data comparing D36 schools to other New Trier feeder schools, and 80% of respondents thought D36 should make this data available to the community in a clear and concise way.

PARK DISTRICT SURVEY QUESTIONS

As in 2021, there is broad community support for continued investment in the lakefront, particularly for the benefit of Winnetka residents...the beaches are our “crown jewel.” However, whereas there was resoundingly positive feedback in 2021 on the transformative work the Park District did at Lloyd Beach, the feedback from the community regarding Elder/Centennial can best be described (in polite company) as “go back and sharpen your pencil.” While there is continued support for the Winnetka Waterfront 2030 plan, the community places a premium on shoreline access and views, as well as people over pets.

The reverence Winnetka residents have for our beaches trickles through to the views on both dog beach/park and a community pool. While 2/3’s of respondents are supportive of a dog beach/park, comments suggest prime beachfront property should prioritize residents over our four-legged friends. And regarding a community pool...the results are evenly split as they were in 2021. Those in favor of a pool are willing to pay more in property taxes, while those opposed feel we don’t need a pool and should direct financial resources to our waterfront.

LIBRARY SURVEY RESULTS

The responses to the 2022 Caucus Survey revealed an overall strong support for the library, its operations, and staff. The most popular services were the youth department, digital services, and events held at the library, in that order. The respondents expressed the highest satisfaction with the book offerings, offerings for families with children, creative space, and assistance with computers. Of far less interest were games and movies, likely due to their availability online. Regarding tax reserves, almost half of all respondents want to keep the tax levy flat until the surplus is reduced to a level representing 6 months of expenses. The majority of respondents were not aware of the Library's strategic plan, although among those who were, there is support for implementing the plan in-house and without increasing the budget. Dissatisfaction with the Library, as expressed in the open-ended questions, included hiring consultants rather than in-house staff, fears that the library is spreading itself too thin in attempting to be all things to all people, and a concern that the Caucus questions were leading in an attempt to micromanage the library.

We encourage you to review the full survey responses and comments.