

ON BEHALF OF VOTERS AND CANDIDATES, WE ASKED THE FOLLOWING 5 BOARDS TO IDENTIFY ISSUES/AREAS OF CONCERN THAT EACH ELECTED BOARD WILL FACE.

LIBRARY ISSUES:

Q: What do you perceive as the three major issues facing the Library Board today and in the near future?

- A:
1. To meet the needs of a 21st Century library through building expansion and/or modernization.
 2. Maintain the library budget with fiscal responsibility.
 3. Maintain a talented and skilled staff committed to excellent service and community outreach.

Q: What qualifications are you looking for in a board member?

- A:
1. Be respectful of the proud history of the Lake Bluff Library and interested in the future of the library as an integral part of the community.
 2. Potential candidates should be available for monthly board meetings, as well as committee meetings, and be committed to collaborative service.
 3. Candidates with legal or fundraising experience would be an asset, though this a not a requirement.

PARK DISTRICT ISSUES:

Q: What do you perceive as the three major issues facing the Park District today and in the near future?

- A:
1. To continue finding dedicated, knowledgeable and skilled men and women board members as the current Board has done a great job with planning, fiscal responsibility, tax levy and capital projects/improvements. The Board wants future Board members to understand his/her role of being a Board member, i.e. policy, building a team environment and allowing staff to handle day-to-day operations. The Park District Board has included citizens on various task forces, community meetings and board meetings so we can make sure to find individuals who want to continue making a positive difference with the Park District.
 2. To continue finding additional revenue opportunities with the Park District's assets, facilities and programs during strong and weak economic times. The Park District continues making decisions to find opportunities to increase revenues in order to be less reliant on our taxpayers.
 3. To continue managing operational expenses due to rising health insurance, commodities and technology costs. The Park District has reduced full-time staff over the past several years and is working hard to find a balance to do more with less.

Q: What qualifications are you looking for in a board member?

- A:
- Currently our Board members and citizen Board Committee Members have diverse backgrounds from finance, accounting, management, construction, marketing, insurance, engineering and program development which allows for critical thinking and good decision making. The Park Board has also had the collaboration with the Friends of Lake Bluff Parks. The current Board members are dynamic, progressive and positive which helps build a team that works extremely well with the staff.

SCHOOL DISTRICT #65 ISSUES:

Q: What do you perceive to be the three major issues facing the District 65 board today and in the near future?

A:

1. Uncertainty surrounding financial issues controlled by state: potential property tax freeze, state funding for special programs, state pension shift, funding shifts from wealthier to poorer districts, North Chicago Schools, consolidation of districts.
2. Balancing the requirement for academic excellence with controlling rising costs, e.g. contractually obligated cost increases in light of PTELL limitations.
3. Retaining administrators and board continuity during times of transition

Q: What qualifications are you looking for in a board member?

A:

1. Demographic & geographic (all LB neighborhoods) diversity
2. Users and non-users
3. Finance experience
4. Open mind and good listener
5. No single issue agendas

SCHOOL DISTRICT #115 ISSUES:

Q: What do you perceive as the three major issues facing the Board today and in the near future?

A:

1. **Continuity and experience** – Being primarily new members, we have worked hard to learn about the educational environment both locally and at the state level. It takes time to gel as a group and also places administrators in the difficult situation of an ever-changing team of governors.
2. **State funding** – For the second year in a row there has been no state budget as we close out the school year. We, as elected officials, must closely monitor and represent our community regarding these important school-funding issues.
3. **Equity and access for all LFHS students**

Q: What qualifications are you looking for in a board member?

A:

1. **Open minded** – Respectful, thoughtful dialog is critical, without any personal agenda
2. **Passion for education** – Belief that quality educational systems are the cornerstone of our community and a civil society
3. **Time** – Life, professional and other volunteer obligations take time. Effective LFHS board members should have a flexible schedule and be able to devote time for listening and learning, meetings, and reflection.

VILLAGE OF LAKE BLUFF ISSUES:

Q: What do you perceive as the three major issues facing the Board today and in the near future?

A:

1. Maintaining long-term financial sustainability in the face of increasing threats from state & economic instability.
2. Increasing village revenues & seeking cost-effective measures while maintaining the high quality of life & services expected by the residents.
3. Aggressively exploring ways to foster long-term financial sustainability for North Chicago School District 187 to ensure its independence & protect the interests of Lake Bluff & District 65.

Q: What qualifications are you looking for in a board member?

A:

1. Able to have a perspective to view issues from a standard of what is overall in the best interests of the village as a whole, long term as well as short term.
2. Has long-term goals for the continued future of the village that encompasses fiscal sustainability and continued economic competitiveness.
3. Non-judgmental, willing to listen & incorporate new ideas for the betterment of the village – not a one agenda candidate.