

Kate Briand

Position: Lake Bluff Village Board Trustee

1. Why do you wish to serve on this board?

Since moving to Lake Bluff in 1971, I have been the beneficiary of the good work the Village Board has done to make the village a vibrant, unique community. I believe strongly in participating in government at the local level and I would like to give back to the village by serving as Trustee.

2. What strengths, skills, and personal attributes will you bring to this board position?

As a long-time resident of Lake Bluff, I have seen the village undergo many changes. As trustee, I would bring that frame of reference to the position. For the last four years, I have worked at a family-owned business in Lake Bluff, which has given me insight into how vital small businesses are to the village and a unique opportunity to interact daily with residents. Additionally, being an attorney, I possess sound critical thinking skills, a prudent nature and the ability to look at all sides of an issue.

3. What do you see as the most pressing issues facing this board?

The most pressing issue facing the village is financial viability in a changing economy. While it is true that we face increasing threats due to the economic instability of the state of Illinois, we also have to prepare for a future where reliable revenue will not come from sectors such as retail. Looking into the future, the village must have a long-term plan in place that addresses this fact and consider all options, such as redeveloping the business park on Waukegan Road and annexing the area north of Route 176 across from Target. The village also faces significant infrastructure issues, including improving the Route 176 viaduct to eliminate flooding and repairing the aging sewer system. Finally, there are three residential developments – Block 2, Block 3 and Stonebridge – that will come before the board in the coming years. Blocks 2 and 3 have the potential to alter the character of our village's central business district, which make them critically important to the overall image of the village. Stonebridge has laid dormant for 10 years, which has resulted in lost revenue for the village and raised many questions amongst residents as to what responsibility the village has to ensure that this development move forward.

4. What decision or goal reached by this board are you most pleased with, and why?

The village board has done a good job over the years in taking steps to revitalize the central business district in a manner that is in keeping with the village's overall small town charm and character.