

Kathleen O'Hara

Application for President of the Village of Lake Bluff Board of Trustees:

Why do you wish to serve on this Board?

I have served as President of the Village since the last election in 2103 and would like to continue the work and progress the Village Board and Administration has made during that time. I feel I bring proven experience, leadership, and the ability to work successfully with various organizations, governmental bodies and elected officials to benefit the interests of Lake Bluff. For additional information, please read the Daily North Shore article: <http://jwcdaily.com/2016/11/16/why-i-am-running-for-re-election-as-president-of-the-lake-bluff-village-board/>.

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

I have extensive proven experience in organizational leadership and administration. As the longtime principal of Lake Bluff Middle School, which led to District 65's only school recognized as a National Blue Ribbon Award Winner for Excellence in Education, I orchestrated the change from a junior high educational structure to a middle school concept. The ability to listen, collaborate, and work with others to help move forward the Village's goals and help facilitate our Trustees to deliberate, discuss, and reach consensus on important issues are skills which I feel that I exhibit in my current role. I feel I have the 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, and look to the continued future of the village that encompasses fiscal sustainability and economic competitiveness.

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

The continued long term fiscal sustainability and economic vitality of the Village in the face of increasing threats from the financial instability of the state are of paramount importance to Village government. The ongoing need to increase village revenues and seek cost-effective measures while maintaining the high quality of like and service expected by the residents is another major goal. We need to continue to aggressively work with other surrounding municipalities and state and federal officials to explore ways to foster long term financial stability for North Chicago School District 187. The goal is to ensure it independence and protect the interests of Lake Bluff and District 65

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

I think the ability of this current Village Board to work together, listening respectfully to viewpoints of community members and each other and come to consensus in the best interests of the Village is a hallmark of its deliberations. The most recent unanimous decision to impose a height limit on structures in the Central Business District is an excellent example of listening to residents and making a thoughtful determination of what they felt was overall in the Village's best interests is an excellent example.