

Village of Northfield Caucus

Nominating Committee

August 1, 2012

Dear Northfield Resident:

Northfield needs your help to maintain its great character, now and in the future. This is an important time in our Village and we need the best leaders possible to guide us. The Caucus needs to fill many important positions; specifically, the Nominating Committee seeks candidates during August 2012 for the following.

1. Village President (1) – one four year term
2. Village Trustee (4) – three four year terms and one two year term
3. Winnetka Northfield Library Board Trustee (1) – one four year term
4. Northfield Caucus – additional members always welcome

In a non partisan way, the Caucus assembles the ideas and concerns of village residents and distills them into basic policies and goals. This summarized Platform serves as a guide for the Board of Trustees and is attached along with brief job descriptions of each position. Please consider completing the enclosed candidate application form. To paraphrase a familiar line, Northfield needs a few good people! Make it you!

Consider giving back to the community we all know and love. In the event you decide against serving the community, thank you for the consideration. However, there is a way you could help. Think about all the people you know who live in Northfield and consider which ones you would want guiding our community. We look forward to hearing from you should you have any questions or can suggest additional qualified candidates.

Sincerely,

Al Chircop, Nominating Committee Chair, archco@comcast.net, 874-441-9188
Jim Appel, Former Caucus Chairman, jwappel@sbcglobal.net, 847-446-3090

Village of Northfield Caucus

Village President

The duties and powers of the Village President are established by state law. The Village President is the chief executive officer of the village and presides at all Village Board meetings, assists in the creation of the agenda of those meetings, may make a “state of the village” address and may introduce legislation for village board consideration but votes only in special circumstances. The Village President also has the power to appoint to the following boards and commissions created by village ordinance, subject to the advice and consent of the board of trustees: local board of improvements; board of fire and police commissioners; park commission; and improvement committee.

Village Trustee

The Board of Trustees are responsible for Village policy by signing ordinances, resolutions and motions. In addition, they are responsible for the adoption of the annual budget and control Village taxation and spending. The business of the Village is conducted via monthly meetings held on the third Tuesday of the month. Depending on the business issues facing the Village, the time commitment can range from 10 to 20 hours per month.

Winnetka Northfield Library Board Trustee

The Winnetka Northfield Library maintains two facilities, has a yearly budget exceeding \$3 million, employs over 50 people and attracts over 300,000 visitors annually. The business of the Board is conducted through monthly meetings on the third Monday of each month, plus special meetings as required. Depending on the business issues facing the Library, the time commitment is approximately 20 hours per month.

Northfield Caucus member

The Northfield Village Caucus is a non-partisan political organization composed of members residing within the Village boundaries, whose purpose is to represent the interests of the community in matters of Village government. The Caucus is responsible for developing a Northfield Caucus Platform that reflects the residents’ views and opinions. Additionally, the Caucus is responsible for identifying; interviewing and recommending qualified candidates for the Village of Northfield Board of Trustees and for the position of Village President. The Northfield Village Caucus holds four quarterly Caucus meetings during the course of a year. Caucus members are expected to attend all meetings. In addition, members are encouraged to attend Village Board and other village meetings to maintain a level of understanding of issues affecting the community. Depending on participation in the various committees, the time commitment can range from 5 to 10 hours per quarter.

2012-2013 NORTHFIELD VILLAGE CAUCUS PLATFORM

Approved on May 21, 2012

Purpose

The Village of Northfield Caucus Platform is a statement of the basic policies and goals for our elected Northfield Village officials and serves as a guide for administering Village affairs. The Caucus develops a platform with input from residents, and it reflects the views and opinions of Village residents about Village administration. The platform is general in nature with the goal of maintaining and enhancing the small-town character of the village as a single-family residential community. The Caucus addresses specific actions or policies in the platform when they find a majority of residents surveyed support a particular action or policy. The Caucus expects Trustee candidates to concur with the Platform prior to slating.

A. Administration Strategy

1. Representation and Communication

The Village Trustees should fully inform residents concerning Village affairs (including current studies and proposed projects) through all appropriate communication channels, such as e-news, newsletters, and press releases. They should also promptly post notices in public places such as the Village Hall, the Community Center, the Library, and the Village Website, in addition to using local access cable television channels. Official notification, meeting schedules and

agendas need to be posted in advance, as provided by law. The Village Board should post approved minutes in the same location(s) within one business day after approval.

Over time, changing circumstances may create new perspectives and dictate approaches to issues different from those set forth in this Platform. Prior to adopting any new approaches, the Trustees should solicit the views of the Caucus and the community concerning the implications.

The Village Board should actively engage with other governments to identify areas of cooperation and coordination that improve services and/or reduce costs. Any time an issue involves local parks or schools, the Village Board should actively cooperate with the Park District(s) or School District(s) to ensure that the interests of Northfield citizens are protected. Potential issues include, but are not limited to, traffic, parking, and possible impact on neighboring properties. Any use of park or school properties should not detract from the existing character of the Village and its property values.

Village Board members acknowledge their duty to follow the majority opinion of village residents; while respecting the rights of the minority.

2. Financial Responsibility

Residents strongly prefer that the Village Board maintain a balanced budget and control costs. They also say, however, that maintaining the current level of Police, Fire and basic Public Works services is a high priority. The Village Board needs to develop a long-term strategy to meet Northfield's future financial obligations.

B. Planning, Development and Land Use

1. Planning and Development

The Caucus strongly encourages the Village Board, as well as its various commissions, to follow the Comprehensive Vision Plan and town center development, maintaining the small-town character of the Village.

Based on the 2012 survey, residents wanted more information about town center development. They were in favor of mixed use, ground-level retail space with office or condo living space in upper floors, taller buildings north of Willow Road along the Edens' corridor, and family-style restaurants, specialty food and wine and ice cream shops. To the south of Willow Road, residents expressed concern in select areas about the height of buildings closer to residential zoning.

2. Building and Zoning Density

Northfield should be dedicated to remaining primarily a residential community, and any new development should adhere to the principle of low density. Large commercial developments, such as shopping malls or large chain stores, are not appropriate for Northfield, relative to the size of the Village. Construction of townhouses or multi-unit dwellings should be limited. Buildings should be constructed in a style consistent with neighboring properties. Impact on traffic congestion should be carefully analyzed before building.

The Caucus supports strict enforcement of all building codes and zoning ordinances, and encourages the Board to enforce setback and floor area ratio restrictions that are consistent with surrounding properties. The Board should regulate tear-downs or subdivision of existing properties to maintain the character of the neighborhood and to preserve property values.

3. Traffic

The Village should continue to explore various ways to enhance traffic flow on all major thoroughfares and intersections. The expansion of the size and number of lanes on any road should be kept to a minimum. Residents strongly support

pedestrian and bicycle access throughout the Village. Pedestrian safety is the priority.

4. Noise Abatement

The Caucus encourages the Village Board to continue to study and explore, in conjunction with other communities, various ways to reduce noise levels in the Village, especially noise from Edens Expressway.

5. Drainage and Flooding

Replacing, maintaining and improving Village infrastructure for drainage management and flood prevention are critical to Northfield residents. Survey results showed flooding is a top issue of concern for residents. The Village Board should take action to implement a Village Flood Control Plan. It should also make improving drainage and flood control infrastructure a high priority.

C. Resident Services

In a 2012 Northfield Caucus survey, a majority of respondents rated the services provided by Village administration, police, fire, public works and garbage collection as "good to excellent." This is a positive reflection on the effort and quality of work performed by all Village personnel. The Village Board should manage its human resources in order to maintain the existing level of professional service delivery.

Northfield Village Caucus

2013 Election of Village Board President and Trustees

northfieldcaucus.com
P.O. Box 8034
Northfield, Illinois 60093

Trustee Application Questionnaire (to be submitted by August 20, 2012)

Application for consideration as:
(Please circle all that apply)

Village Board President
Village Trustee
Library Board Trustee
Caucus Membership

Name: _____ Home Phone Number: _____

Address: _____ Alternative Phone Number: _____

E-Mail Address _____ Preferred form of Communication: _____

Length of Northfield Village Residency: _____

Employment Background:

Current Employer and Position: _____

Former Employers and Positions in last 10 years:

Educational Background:

Academic Qualifications: _____

Professional Qualifications: _____

Family Background (Optional):

Marital Status: _____ Children (Number & Ages) _____

Spouse/Partner's Name _____ Employment Status _____

Affiliations and Memberships:

Details of Participations in Civic and Charitable Organizations:

Participation in Village Board, Committee or Commission Activities: _____

Questions:

1. In order of priority, what are the key issues facing the Village of Northfield Board for the next several years?
2. What do you feel you can contribute to the Village of Northfield Board?
3. How do you view the role of the Village Board?
4. Please describe your committee or group work experience in the last five years. Include group names and how well they accomplished their mission.
5. What specific attributes do you believe are necessary to be an effective group member?
6. What behaviors do you use to engender trust among group or committee members with whom you have worked?
7. Have you read the Northfield Caucus Platform?

If so, how does the platform inform, affect and influence your decisions in addressing the issues you have identified above.

Commitment Undertaking:

By applying for consideration as a prospective candidate for office, the undersigned recognizes that the position sought requires regular attendance at scheduled and ad hoc Village Trustee and Committee meetings, a significant amount of preparation time and time allocated for interaction with the voting community for the duration of term of office. Do you believe you have any limitations on your prospective ability to commit time to this position? _____.

Prospective Conflicts of Interest:

Do you, your spouse or partner, or other member of your immediate family have a business relationship (paid or unpaid) with the Village of Northfield, its committees or related commissions? _____

If so, please specify _____

Consent and Release:

I hereby authorize the Northfield Village Caucus, its officers, any outside credit or reporting agency engaged for this purpose, now or subsequently, to obtain, prepare, use and furnish information on my current and former employment, education, health, credit, general reputation, personal characteristics and mode of living. This may be accomplished through correspondence, interview or other research with neighbors, friends, family and associates with whom I may be acquainted or who may have knowledge on the above matters.

I request any agency or person contacted by the Village of Northfield Caucus, to furnish any and all information concerning me, my work record, personality, criminal background or my reputation. This information is to be used to determine my qualifications and fitness as an elected official of the Village of Northfield. I hereby release any person, organization and/or employer from any liability or claim for damages of whatsoever nature as a result of providing such information requested above. I specifically authorize the release of information concerning my background and agree that a photocopy has the same validity as the original document.

I certify that all information in this application is true. If selected by the Northfield Village Caucus, I will actively participate in Board affairs, attend meetings regularly, and carry my fair share of Board work in a conscientious and reliable manner to the best of my ability.

(Signature)

Date: _____

**Northfield Village Caucus
Candidate Personal References**

Please provide the Northfield Village Caucus three references available for contact:

Reference 1:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone/Fax Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Nature of relationship: _____

Reference 2:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone/Fax Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Nature of relationship: _____

Reference 3:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone/Fax Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Nature of relationship: _____