



## Winnetka Caucus 2002 Council

P.O. Box 311, Winnetka, IL 60093

www.winnetkacaucus.org - E-Mail Caucus@winnetkacaucus.org

Mary Waldon, *Chair*  
Steve Patterson, *Vice Chair*  
John Dell, *Treasurer*  
Linda Best, *Secretary*  
Scott Rodgers, *Communications*  
Bill MacAdam, *Rules*  
Brian Balusek, *Village*  
Nancy Grant, *Schools*  
Peter Sweeney, *Library*  
Ellen Malone, *Parks*

Precinct  
7 Bernard Conway  
Dania Leemputte  
Karen Long  
Cynthia Tobisch  
8 Brian Cook  
James Greene  
Jeff Henderson  
Sheri Molitor  
9 Edward Bancroft  
Duff Peterson, Jr.  
Alice Rapaport  
Leanne Star  
9.5 Meg Sudekum  
Peter Sweeney  
10 Jetta Bushonville  
Mike Deweirdt  
Laurie Kaplan  
Bob Smith  
11 Gretchen Dobie  
Bill Godwin  
Matt Kraus  
Steve Patterson  
12 Chris Cahill  
Gayle Crane  
Bob Sullivan  
Mary Waldon  
Bob Whelan  
13 Linda Best  
Ellen Malone  
Colleen Roberts  
Peg Spengler  
14 Brian Balusek  
Nancy Grant  
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Daniel Kinsella  
15 R. J. Dolan  
Jeanette Eilers  
Patty Mordecai  
Bob Vering  
16 Wendy Dury  
Leslie Gottlieb  
Tom Wegert  
17 Colleen Campbell  
Rob Cannon  
Peggy Horstmann  
Mary Ward  
18 Paul Crnkovich  
Jim McLaughlin  
Doug Schmidt  
Phillip Sheridan  
19 Litt Clark  
Justin Nolan  
Mary Kirchhoeffer  
Sue Walker  
43 Jim Blum  
Ed Gjertsen, II  
Trudy Havens  
Betsy McLinden  
47 Jean Bailey  
Christopher Land  
Kirk McInerney  
49 David Cutler  
John Dell  
Leslie Hague  
Katherine Hunt  
66 Kimberly Hack  
Laura Lichter  
John Mooney  
Jon Talty  
71 Bill MacAdam  
Patrick Maloney  
Marsha Sutter  
Stephanie Vlahakis  
At Large Scott Rodgers  
Keil Wilson

Thank you so much for your interest in the 2002 Winnetka Survey.

If you are new to the Village, welcome. This survey is a fundamental part of the long tradition of self-government in the Village of Winnetka. Your responses and comments will shape the direction of the Village, the Library, the Park District, and District 36 Schools. From the condition of our beaches, to the strength of our fire department, to the quality of our schools, your input has a direct effect on the administration of our town.

If you are a seasoned Winnetka citizen, thank you for your continued participation and dedication to this great Village.

Here are a few of guidelines to keep in mind as you make your way through the survey.

1. **Your time is valuable!** There is a section for each of the following: Schools, Parks, Village, and Library. Fill out only the sections that interest you. If the whole thing interests you, fill out the whole thing. We thank you for your time!
2. This entire survey can be found online at **www.winnetkacaucus.org**.
3. Please return the survey by September 30. You can either drop it into any of the drop boxes placed throughout the Village or send it through US mail. Drop boxes can be found at all district 36 schools, the library, the post office, Grand Food Center, Lakeside Foods, the Village Hall, the Park District Office, the A.C. Neilsen Tennis Center, the Golf Course Clubhouse, and the Winnetka Ice Arena. If you choose to mail the survey, please remember to add \$.57 postage.

Again, thank you for your time. We truly believe that it is an investment from which we will all benefit.

The 2002 Winnetka Caucus Council

# SCHOOLS

There are five schools in District 36: 3 elementary schools (grades K-4), Hubbard Woods, Crow Island, and Greeley; Skokie School (grades 5-6); and Washburne (grades 7-8). New Trier High School is not part of District 36 schools.

Your responses are important whether or not you currently have children in Winnetka schools. Please answer all questions excluding #2 and 12 through 15 even if you do not have children in Winnetka Public Schools.

- Please indicate how many children you have in each grade at the following schools. Alternatively, please indicate if you have no children currently in District 36 schools.**

	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Crow Island										
Greeley										
Hubbard Woods										
Skokie										
Washburne										
Private / Parochial										
None										
<b>TOTAL</b>										

- How would you rate your overall satisfaction with the education provided by District 36 schools?**

Very Dissatisfied      1      2      3      4      5      Very Satisfied

- If you have children currently in high school or who graduated from high school in the past five years who attended District 36 schools, how well do you feel District 36 schools prepared your children for high school?**

Unprepared      1      2      3      4      5      Very Prepared

Approximately 37% of your property tax funds District 36 schools. This accounts for 85% of the District's revenue. In 1994 Cook County voters approved "tax cap" legislation restricting the dollar amount that local school boards may increase their share of taxes. This increase is limited to the consumer price index (CPI) or 5%, whichever is lower.

Over the past 5 years, District 36's tax-based revenue has increased by an average of only about 4% annually due to "tax caps" while expenses have risen 7-8%. Because of this annual gap between revenue and expenses, the School Board must 1) manage its budget with a planned deficit; 2) reduce expenses; and/or 3) develop alternative sources of funding.

The 1994 "tax cap" legislation has fundamentally changed the way many Illinois school districts must finance their operations. School boards now regularly request additional funding from taxpayers via referenda as a necessity to cover the shortfall between revenue and expenses in order to maintain the standard of excellence in education we have set for our children.

Winnetka's School Board has adopted the policy of balancing the budget deficit with planned, cyclical referenda. In 2000, Winnetkans passed two referenda proposed by the School Board: one for operating expenses and one for capital improvements of facilities. The next referendum is scheduled for April of 2003. Winnetka's School Board has adopted the policy of balancing the budget deficit with planned, cyclical referenda while closely managing expenses.

**4. Were you aware of the affect that “tax cap” legislation has on school funding?**

Yes                                      No                                      Somewhat

Bringing a referendum to vote requires a great deal of time and expense on the part of the School Board and its administration, allowing them less time to focus on educational issues. The cost-benefit trade-off to the public is as follows: the less funding (i.e. lower tax increase) requested by the Board, the more frequent the referenda to maintain a balanced budget. Alternatively, the less frequent the referenda, the greater the request for funding (i.e. higher tax increase) to account for multiple years of accrued deficit.

**5. With this trade-off in mind, would you prefer for the School Board to put forth referenda requesting:**

- a) less funding more frequently (every 1-5 years)
- b) more funding less frequently (every 5-10 years)

**6. Do you agree with the School Board’s policy of funding budget shortfalls via referendum?**

Yes                                      No                                      Not enough information/Unsure

If a referendum does not pass, the School Board will either be required to cut expenses by approximately \$1.5 million (7%) or develop alternative sources of funding in order to balance the budget.

**7. If budget cuts are required, which options would you most or least support:**

(It is not necessary to rank your responses)

	Least preferable			Most preferable	
Reduce teaching staff resulting in higher teacher-student ratios	1	2	3	4	5
Minimize teacher salary increases which could result in a less qualified staff	1	2	3	4	5
Cut programming (e.g. music, art, language, etc)	1	2	3	4	5
Defer technology purchases resulting in older equipment	1	2	3	4	5
Defer ongoing property maintenance (e.g. roof repairs, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5
Defer capital improvements to facilities (e.g. new playground, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5

**8. If alternative sources of funding were tapped, would you prefer:**

(It is not necessary to rank your responses)

	Least preferable			Most preferable	
User fees for technology, art, music, etc.	1	2	3	4	5
Private funding (e.g. fundraising donations)	1	2	3	4	5
Commercial funding (e.g. advertising on school property)	1	2	3	4	5

**9. Please rate your level of satisfaction with our School Board in the following areas:**

	Very Dissatisfied			Very Satisfied			No Opinion
Communication	1	2	3	4	5		0
Decision Making	1	2	3	4	5		0
Fiscal Management	1	2	3	4	5		0
Accountability to Residents	1	2	3	4	5		0

**10. Please indicate your awareness or usage of the following sources of information about the schools:**

Unaware/Do Not Use                                      Aware/Use Often

<u>Learners</u> , the District 36 newsletter	1	2	3	4	5
Individual school newsletters	1	2	3	4	5
Board of Education newsletter	1	2	3	4	5
Board of Education meetings and events	1	2	3	4	5
District 36 website ( <a href="http://www.winnetka.k12.il.us">www.winnetka.k12.il.us</a> )	1	2	3	4	5
Pioneer Press	1	2	3	4	5

**11. Please indicate your satisfaction with the District's management of the following social and emotional development issues?**

	Very Dissatisfied			Very Satisfied	
Lunch/recess supervision/intervention	1	2	3	4	5
Handling of Bullying/Teasing	1	2	3	4	5
Sex Education	1	2	3	4	5
Morals/Values	1	2	3	4	5
Dress code management	1	2	3	4	5
Other: _____					

**12. Please rate your satisfaction with the bus service in the following areas:**

	Very Dissatisfied			Very Satisfied	
Scheduling	1	2	3	4	5
Promptness	1	2	3	4	5
Supervision	1	2	3	4	5
Safety	1	2	3	4	5
Cost of Service	1	2	3	4	5
Bus Driver Courtesy	1	2	3	4	5

**13. If you have an issue or concern regarding the schools in general or your child in particular, how comfortable would you be in approaching school personnel about your issue? (Please circle one answer FOR EACH type of person listed below.)**

	Very Uncomfortable			Very Comfortable	
Teacher	1	2	3	4	5
Administrator	1	2	3	4	5

**14. If you have approached school personnel with an issue or concern, how satisfied were you overall with the schools' responsiveness to your concern? (Please circle one answer FOR EACH type of person you approached.)**

	Very Dissatisfied			Very Satisfied	
Teacher	1	2	3	4	5
Administrator	1	2	3	4	5

**15. What are the three most important topics you would like the School Board to address this year?**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_



# VILLAGE

**1. What is your age?**

- a. \_\_\_ 21-29 b. \_\_\_ 30-39 c. \_\_\_ 40-49 d. \_\_\_ 50-59 e. \_\_\_ 60-69 f. \_\_\_ 70 and over

**2. How long have you been a resident of Winnetka?**

- a. \_\_\_ 0-2 years b. \_\_\_ 3-5 years c. \_\_\_ 6-9 years d. \_\_\_ 10-15 years e. \_\_\_ 16-25 years f. \_\_\_ over 25 years

**3. All issues to be discussed at Village Council meetings are posted in advance on the village website ([www.villageofwinnetka.org](http://www.villageofwinnetka.org)). The website is a fast, easy and flexible way to keep abreast of the issues being considered by the Council. If you have visited the Village website, did you find it informative?**

- |            |   |   |   |   |             |
|------------|---|---|---|---|-------------|
| Not Useful |   |   |   |   | Very Useful |
| 1          | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |             |

**4. The village website currently provides minutes for recent Village Council meetings. Should the website provide a method of obtaining minutes for all Village committee meetings (Village Council, Zoning Board, Plan Commission, etc...) so that archival minutes may be reviewed via the internet?**

- |                   |   |   |   |   |                |
|-------------------|---|---|---|---|----------------|
| Strongly Disagree |   |   |   |   | Strongly Agree |
| 1                 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |                |

**5. Which of the following would you like to see available at the Village's website?**

- |                                 |                   |   |   |                |   |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|---|---|----------------|---|
|                                 | Strongly Disagree |   |   | Strongly Agree |   |
| 5a. Building Permits            | 1                 | 2 | 3 | 4              | 5 |
| 5b. Village Hall Forms          | 1                 | 2 | 3 | 4              | 5 |
| 5c. Detailed Census Data        | 1                 | 2 | 3 | 4              | 5 |
| 5d. Community Development Links | 1                 | 2 | 3 | 4              | 5 |

**6. Local Municipalities have begun to require fire sprinkler systems for all new residential home construction. Should the Winnetka Village council consider mandating the installation of fire sprinkler systems in new residential structures? (The estimated cost of installing such a system is \$11,000 for a 5,000 square foot home)**

- |                   |   |   |   |   |                |
|-------------------|---|---|---|---|----------------|
| Strongly Disagree |   |   |   |   | Strongly Agree |
| 1                 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |                |

**7. Past survey results have indicated resident's concern with the bulk of new residential construction. Please rank the following factors, which you find important in zoning regulations. (Please rank 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)).**

- 7a. \_\_\_ Front and side set-back lines
- 7b. \_\_\_ Location and size of garage
- 7c. \_\_\_ Height of structure
- 7d. \_\_\_ Mass or total volume of structure
- 7e. \_\_\_ Square footage of floor area
- 7f. \_\_\_ House "footprint" as a percentage of lot size

8. Last year's survey results indicated a preference for a non-binding Residential Design Review Board. A binding Residential Design Review Board could restrict changes to residential property. Would you be in favor of creating a Residential Design Review board that would be a binding part of the building permit process for renovation and new construction?

Strongly Disagree					Strongly Agree
1	2	3	4	5	

9. The Village is considering the construction of an underground parking deck behind the Galleria and adjacent to the Winnetka Community House to provide additional parking for commuters, Community House users, shoppers, and employees. The approximate cost to residents (after receiving possible outside funding from Metra, Illinois Department of Transportation, and local businesses) would be approximately \$2,500,000 to \$3,000,000. Would you be in favor of the proposed parking garage?

Strongly Disagree					Strongly Agree
1	2	3	4	5	

10. Should it be a high priority that the Business Districts undergo taxpayer funded beautification projects, including landscape, plantings, and lighting?

Strongly Disagree					Strongly Agree
1	2	3	4	5	

11. Would you be willing to make a tax-deductible contribution to a village beautification fund?

Strongly Disagree					Strongly Agree
1	2	3	4	5	

12. Residents of the Village currently enjoy "back-door garbage pickup" whereby trash collectors take the refuse containers from behind or next to your house rather than having the resident bring the containers to curbside. Do you consider this a high priority service offered by the village?

Strongly Disagree					Strongly Agree
1	2	3	4	5	

13. If the Village discontinues "back-door garbage pickup" in order to save money would you be willing to pay extra to keep it (perhaps \$100-150 annually)?

Strongly Disagree					Strongly Agree
1	2	3	4	5	

14. Please indicate any issues you feel the Village Council should address in the coming year.

# LIBRARY

## 1. How many times per month do you use the following libraries?

	Never	1-5	6-20	21 or more
a. Winnetka	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Northfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Wilmette	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Glencoe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Northbrook	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments	<hr/>			

## 2. To what degree are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the following library services? How important are each?

	<u>NOT Satisfied</u>					<u>No Opinion</u>	<u>NOT Important</u>					<u>VERY Important</u>				
	1	2	3	4	5	0	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
<u>Digital Services and Technology</u>																
a. Online data bases	1	2	3	4	5	0	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
b. Computers for Internet access	1	2	3	4	5	0	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
c. Computer instruction	1	2	3	4	5	0	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
d. Library Web site (www.wpld.alibrary.com)	1	2	3	4	5	0	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
<u>Collections</u>																
e. Current bestsellers collection	1	2	3	4	5	0	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
f. Children's book collection	1	2	3	4	5	0	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
g. Periodicals	1	2	3	4	5	0	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
h. Reference collection	1	2	3	4	5	0	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
i. Videos (nonfiction)	1	2	3	4	5	0	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
j. Books on tape/CDs	1	2	3	4	5	0	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
<u>Programming</u>																
k. New adult education programs (travel, finance, health, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5	0	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
l. Book discussion groups	1	2	3	4	5	0	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
m. Children's programs	1	2	3	4	5	0	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
<u>Facilities</u>																
n. Study areas	1	2	3	4	5	0	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
o. Circulation Desk	1	2	3	4	5	0	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
p. Parking	1	2	3	4	5	0	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
q. Lack of small meeting rooms	1	2	3	4	5	0	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
r. Quiet Room	1	2	3	4	5	0	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
s. Reference Desk	1	2	3	4	5	0	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
t. Children's Desk	1	2	3	4	5	0	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
u. Hours of Operation	1	2	3	4	5	0	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Comments	<hr/>															

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**3a. Where do you get your information about the Winnetka/Northfield Library? (check all that apply)**

- 1. \_\_\_ Library Web site ([www.wpld.alibrary.com](http://www.wpld.alibrary.com))
- 2. \_\_\_ The Source (library newsletter)
- 3. \_\_\_ Library electronic newsletter
- 4. \_\_\_ Library bulletin boards
- 5. \_\_\_ Winnetka Talk
- 6. \_\_\_ Village newsletter
- 7. \_\_\_ Friends
- 8. \_\_\_ School bulletins

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

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**3b. What other media would be useful for you and your family to find out about library services? (check all that apply)**

- 1. \_\_\_ Tours for school groups
- 2. \_\_\_ School programs
- 3. \_\_\_ Talks to civic and service organizations
- 4. \_\_\_ Library open house
- 5. \_\_\_ Local cable access
- 6. \_\_\_ Bulletin boards/computer screens around town (i.e., train stations, the Grand, Community House)

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

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**4. How informed are you about the following:**

	Aware	Unaware	Currently Use	Would Use	No Interest
a. Book discussion groups	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Library's Web site ( <a href="http://www.wpld.alibrary.com">www.wpld.alibrary.com</a> )	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Home access to online databases	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Nonfiction videos	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Online library catalog	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Online library requests/holds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. E-mail reference service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

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**5. If you were doing research or looking for information, where would you go first? (check one)**

- \_\_\_ the library
- \_\_\_ the Internet

Comments \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Do you ever call the Library to get help using the Internet ?  Yes  No

7. Which of the following resources and services are important to you? (check all that apply)

- Public computer terminals with Internet access
- Books on tape/CDs
- DVDs
- Audio CDs
- Entertainment CD-ROMs
- Reference CD-ROMs
- Library Web site
- Free cardholder access to proprietary databases and other fee-based online resources
- Internet research instruction
- General computer instruction

Comments \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Would you like to see links to other library websites (i.e. Evanston, Wilmette, Glencoe, Northbrook) on the Winnetka- Northfield Library website ?

Yes  Not important

9. Would you be interested in volunteering for any activities at the Library ?

- Friends of the Library
- Foundation

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

## **PARKS**

**1. What do you think is the major strength of the Winnetka Park District?**

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**2. What would you most like to see changed about the Winnetka Park District?**

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## ***FACILITIES***

**1. Would you like to see the Park District build any additional facilities?**

A.  No—If you answered no, please proceed to Question 2.

B.  Yes—If you answered yes, please indicate below the two additional facilities that are most important to you:

1a.  Additional sheet of ice

1b.  Outdoor pool

1c.  Expanded paddle tennis facilities

1d.  Indoor pool

1e.  Recreation Center (gymnasium, multipurpose rooms)

1f.  Other

**1a. Would you support a tax increase to fund additional facilities?  Yes  No**

**2. What improvements, if any would you make to your favorite park/playground?**

Identify park \_\_\_\_\_

Improvement needed \_\_\_\_\_

## ***PROGRAMS AND SERVICES***

**3. What types of programs would you like to see offered for children ages 11-14?**

3a.  Basketball court

3b.  Skateboard/rollerblading ramp

3c.  Teen center

3d.  Open gym time

3e.  Outdoor swimming

3f.  More sailing classes

3g.  Volleyball/broomball/street hockey

3h.  Other \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Would you like to see the Park District's summer camps changed in any way?**

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**5. Identify any other programs you would like to see offered. \_\_\_\_\_**

## ***POLICY AND PLANNING***

The Park District Board: In addition to the Park District's professional staff, an elected board of volunteer community commissioners engages in planning and decision-making for the Park District.

**6. Currently there are no term limits for Park Board Commissioners, who are elected for 4-year terms. Do you think there should be term limits?**

- 6a. \_\_\_ Limit to 1 term
- 6b. \_\_\_ Limit to 2 terms
- 6c. \_\_\_ No limit

**7. What method of communication would be most convenient for keeping you informed of progress on the Park Board's long-term planning and ongoing issues? (choose one)**

- 7a. \_\_\_ low-cost quarterly newsletter (like the Winnetka Public Library's The Source)
- 7b. \_\_\_ "News from the Park Board" page added to the Park District's quarterly offerings bulletin
- 7c. \_\_\_ notices on community bulletin boards
- 7d. \_\_\_ Web page
- 7e. \_\_\_ notices in school news bulletins
- 7f. \_\_\_ other \_\_\_\_\_

For more information about the Winnetka Park District, go to [www.winpark.org](http://www.winpark.org).

## **GENERAL WINNETKA CAUCUS QUESTIONS**

**Please indicate your comments and any suggested survey topics for next year:**

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### **Optional**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## **What Is The Winnetka Caucus System?**

It's a single party participatory form of self-government. It's a system that involves all residents of the Village in matters of Village government.

The Winnetka Caucus Council was formed in 1915 to insure citizen influence on the management of Village business. It seeks to develop consensus among residents on town policies; and after 75 years, the Caucus continues to be a strong and effective mechanism to bring current issues to the forefront and to select candidates for the Village, School, Library and Park Boards.

The Caucus is solely supported by voluntary contributions from residents solicited through Caucus mailings.

## **Who Makes Up the Caucus?**

All Winnetka residents of voting age who attend and vote at the Village Biennial and Annual Town Meetings make up the Winnetka Caucus.

The Caucus is represented by the Caucus Council, which is composed of 76 volunteers from the community. Four representatives are selected from each of the 18 voting precincts plus four at-large members who are not Village residents but who live within the Park or School District boundaries.

Council members, who must have lived in Winnetka for at least two years, serve a two-year term. Terms are staggered so that half of the Council is replaced each year. Members of the precinct in which there is vacancy and the Vice Chair select replacements. Citizens who have served on the Caucus within the preceding five years are not nominated except as holdover members.

## **What Does The Caucus Council Do?**

The Council's two main functions are to develop platforms to guide Village policy and to nominate candidates to serve on Village boards. The process by which the Council accomplishes these functions is to annually poll resident opinion on key issues that affect the Village, and recruit residents who are interested in serving on the various Boards. To accomplish this work, there are four operating committees -Village, Schools, Park District and Library. Each committee has a chairperson who decides whether their committee will handle both tasks as a group, or will divide into sub-committees.

## **How Can You Become Involved?**

Participate! Since the Caucus System is a village-wide participatory form of government, it functions best when a maximum number of citizens are involved. For it to work best, it needs YOU to:

- Fill out the questionnaire! In September, a questionnaire is mailed to every resident. This questionnaire asks for input on current town issues for each of the four Boards-Village, Schools, Park District and Library-as well as for names of candidates to serve on these Boards. These responses are used to develop platform planks and to seek candidates for the Boards.
- Attend the Town Meetings-The Caucus consists of those who attend the Caucus Town Meetings and vote on the candidate endorsements and the platform. Every voting resident of Winnetka and the at-large districts can be a member of the Caucus and has a right to vote and speak at the Town Meetings. Make your vote count!

- Volunteer to serve on the Caucus Council! It's a great way to ensure the continued vitality and future of our community. Four representatives from each of Winnetka's 18 voting districts, plus members-at-large, serve two-year terms. If you have not served, or would like to serve again, contact one of the current members from your precinct, any other current Caucus member, any member of the Executive Committee, or write your name on the questionnaire. Be one of those who recommend candidates for office and drafts the platform planks!
- Submit your name, or that of a resident you feel is qualified, to serve on one of the Governing Boards. Residents are encouraged to offer to become a candidate for any of the four governing Boards-Village, Schools, Park District and Library. Village Board Trustees serve two year terms. The other Board members serve four year terms.
- Attend Board Meetings-Residents are invited to attend meetings of the four Boards. Meetings may also be available on local television. For Board meeting times call:

Village Board-Village Hall-446-2500  
 School Board-Schools Office-446-9400  
 Park District Board-Office-501-2040  
 Library Board-Library-446-7220

- Stay informed! Check out these websites to keep up on what's going on in Winnetka.

Winnetka Caucus	<a href="http://www.winnetkacaucus.com">http://www.winnetkacaucus.com</a>
Winnetka Park District	<a href="http://www.winpark.org">http://www.winpark.org</a>
Village of Winnetka	<a href="http://www.villageofwinnetka.org/">http://www.villageofwinnetka.org/</a>
Schools - District 36	<a href="http://www.winnetka.k12.il.us/">http://www.winnetka.k12.il.us/</a>
Crow Island	<a href="http://www.winnetka.k12.il.us/Crow%20Island/crow.htm">http://www.winnetka.k12.il.us/Crow%20Island/crow.htm</a>
Greeley	<a href="http://www.winnetka.k12.il.us/Greeley%20/greeley.htm">http://www.winnetka.k12.il.us/Greeley%20/greeley.htm</a>
Hubbard Woods	<a href="http://www.winnetka.k12.il.us/HW/hubbard.htm">http://www.winnetka.k12.il.us/HW/hubbard.htm</a>
Skokie	<a href="http://www.winnetka.k12.il.us/Skokie%20/skokie.htm">http://www.winnetka.k12.il.us/Skokie%20/skokie.htm</a>
Washburne	<a href="http://www.winnetka.k12.il.us/CW%20/washburne.htm">http://www.winnetka.k12.il.us/CW%20/washburne.htm</a>
Winnetka Library	<a href="http://www.wpld.alibrary.com/">http://www.wpld.alibrary.com/</a>
Winnetka Chamber of Commerce	<a href="http://www.winnetkachamber.com/">http://www.winnetkachamber.com/</a>

- Help provide financial support. Since the Caucus Council is an independent, not-for-profit body, the Village or taxes do not fund it. Its funding comes only from resident contributions which provide the financing necessary to print and analyze the questionnaire and to fund the Village-wide mailings concerning the Town Meetings and other Caucus news and developments. Send your check to:

THE WINNETKA CAUCUS COUNCIL  
 P.O. BOX 311  
 WINNETKA, IL 60093

## Call for Volunteers

The Winnetka Caucus is a voluntary organization made up of individuals from the community who serve two year terms. The Caucus's two main responsibilities are:

- Drafting the annual survey and compiling the results for presentation to the four main village governing bodies (Village Board, School Board, Parks Board and Library Board)
- Selecting candidates to fill vacancies in the four main village governing boards

**Please indicate here if you would be interested in serving on a caucus committee in the future:**

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ If yes, contact me by email at \_\_\_\_\_ or phone at \_\_\_\_\_

## Funding of the Winnetka Caucus

The Winnetka Caucus is funded **entirely by contributions** from the community and receives no funding from any Village governing body. The most significant annual expense for the Caucus is printing and distribution of the annual survey. Please use the enclosed envelope if you are interested in making a contribution ... and thank you.

Glue Envelope Here