



Winnetka Caucus 2003 Council

P.O. Box 311, Winnetka, IL 60093

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

Mike Casey, *Chair*
Katherine Hunt, *Vice Chair*
Charlie Hoffman, *Treasurer*
Luvie Myers, *Secretary*
Ed Gjertsen II, *Communications*

Katherine Hunt, *Rules*

Joe Fell, *Village*

Laurie Kaplan, *Schools*

Kirk McInerney, *Library*

Edward Bancroft, *Parks*

Precinct

8 Sherry Molitor

9 Edward Bancroft

Mike Casey

Susan Curry

Betsy Landes

10 Mort Doblin

Laurie Kaplan

Bruce Linger

Bob Smith

Jean Stonier

11 Gretchen Dobie

Bill Godwin

Matt Kraus

Steve Patterson

12 Kathy Fink

Joyce Frank

Paul Gallo

Kirk McInerney

Linda Schoenmakers

13 Ellen Malone

Sandy Ober

Colleen Roberts

Anita Andren

14 Joe Fell

Nancy Grant

15 Elena Dreiske

Jeanette Eilers

Louise Holland

Linda Padian

16 Tom Wegert

Charlie Hoffman

Doug Harness

Dick Warnecke

17 Mary Ward

Peggy Horstmann

Rob Cannon

Luvie Myers

Chris Johnson

18 Doug Schmidt

Phillip Sheridan

19 Litt Clark

Robert Fragen

Sue Walker

43 Trudy Havens

Bob Kyle

47 Jack Wentz

49 David Cutler

Leslie Hague

Katherine Hunt

Beth Boehrer

66 Kimberly Hack

Laura Lichter

John Mooney

Jon Talty

71 Lynda Knott

Nancy Marcus

Marcia Sutter

7 Lindsay Gorman

Karen Long

The 2003 Winnetka Caucus Survey Seeking opinions from Winnetka and Northfield residents

“On behalf of the Village Council, I want to encourage all Winnetkans to complete this year's Caucus questionnaire. As always, there are important policy issues confronting the Council in the coming year, and the results of the questionnaire provide important information as we move forward to meet these challenges.”

Michael Duhl, Village Council President

“I sincerely appreciate the time and effort expended by the Caucus in preparing the library survey. The Caucus met with the library to understand our operation and our concerns. I encourage the community to respond thoughtfully to the survey as it will provide us with valuable information for decisions that we will make over the coming year.” **Jonathan Don, Library Board President**

What is this form and what does the Winnetka Caucus Do?

This is the annual Winnetka Caucus Survey. The Caucus is a volunteer, non-partisan organization that prepares the survey to poll resident's opinions on key issues that affect the Village of Winnetka. The surveys are collected and tallied then the Caucus prepares platforms to guide Village Policy.

From Schools and Library, to the Park District and the Village Council, the Winnetka Caucus has continued to be a strong and effective mechanism in bringing current issues to the forefront for over 88 years.

Call for Candidates!

The Caucus is looking for Village residents interested in being nominated for three available positions on the 2004 Village Council.

Interested candidates and nominees should contact Luvie Myers, Secretary, Winnetka Caucus, smyers432@aol.com or (847) 441-6560

While the Caucus Council is an all volunteer organization, the Caucus pays for all the mailing and printing costs associated with this survey in seeking feedback from Village residents. The Caucus receives no funding from the Village or any of the other Boards.

The Caucus is solely supported by voluntary contributions from residents like you solicited through Caucus mailings. Please contribute to keep this tradition of self-government alive.

The Winnetka/Northfield Library system and Winnetka Park District are funded with taxes from Winnetka as well as Northfield. This year's survey is being mailed to all Winnetka and Northfield residents. For **Northfield residents, please complete only the Library and Park District sections.** Winnetka resident, please complete the entire survey.

Your time is valuable! The platforms created by this survey process are only as strong as your responses. Please take the time to complete and return at the following locations: 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 chose to mail the survey, please remember to add the proper postage.

Demographic Questions

- 1) What village do you reside in? a. __ Winnetka b. __ Northfield
- 2) What is your age?
a. __ 21-29 b. __ 30-39 c. __ 40-49 d. __ 50-59 e. __ 60-69 f. __ 70 or over
- 3) How long have you been a resident of Winnetka/Northfield?
a. __ 0-2 years b. __ 3-5 years c. __ 6-9 years d. __ 10-15 years e. __ 16-25 years f. __ over 25 years
- 4) How long have you been a resident of Winnetka/Northfield?
a. __ 0-2 years b. __ 3-5 years c. __ 6-9 years d. __ 10-15 years e. __ 16-25 years f. __ over 25 years

Library Survey

To be completed by Winnetka and Northfield residents

- 5) Do you use the library? (circle one) Yes No
- If Yes, check one
- Winnetka Only Mostly Winnetka Northfield Only Mostly Northfield
- 6) If you answered "No," why don't you use it? (check all that apply)
- Hours No need for library or its services Buy books etc. that I want to read
 Use school libraries Notice in school bulletins Community
 Prefer to conduct research on home computer using a non-library database or search engine
 Other:

The library has placed a high priority on providing online, leading edge research technology to the residents of Winnetka.

7) Which of the following online library services available at the library's web site do you use or plan to use?

Please use the following numbers to indicate your response:

- 1 - Use or will use "Often" 3 - Will "Never" use
2 - Use or will use "Occasionally" 4 - Didn't know we had this service available, but will consider using it
- _____ At-home online use of library Internet research capabilities
_____ At-home online use of renewal of library books, reserving books, or using the online card catalog from home
_____ At-home online use of 24-hour "My Web Librarian" service (new as of 7/03) to answer research questions
_____ At-home online use of library's database access (such as, The Encyclopedia Britannica, New York Times, Morningstar, Facts on File, Literature Resource Center etc.)

8) Or if you mostly prefer, please check the following:

- _____ Prefer to get Internet access at the library using their computers
_____ We do not use the library's database access and search offerings at all and prefer to rely on typical search engines (such as Yahoo and Google) with our own computers

9) Would you be willing to take a free class at the library to learn how to do research using the library's online databases at home? (circle one)

Yes No I would prefer a short, written step-by-step guide explaining how to use the library's databases.

10) Residents have expressed an interest in opening the library on Sundays during the summer. Which would you consider to be an acceptable way to fund the related expense?

Please rank in order of preference, 1 being most preferred and 5 being the least preferred.

- _____ Close the library on Fridays (the least busy day for the library) and be open on Sundays.
- _____ Support a referendum, for a tax increase, to increase the library's revenue
- _____ Reduce new materials purchased by the library
- _____ Don't change the days/hours (remain closed on Sundays during the summer).
- _____ Reduce new technology expenses (Internet access from home, Internet access at the library, 24-hour answerline, etc.).
- _____ Other _____

11) Would you be willing to pay user fees for the following? Please check to indicate a 'yes' response (otherwise leave blank).

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Research projects | <input type="checkbox"/> In-library database access | <input type="checkbox"/> Books on tape/ books on CD |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Database access from my home | <input type="checkbox"/> In library Internet use | <input type="checkbox"/> Rental of best selling books |

12) Would you be willing to pay program fees for the following? Children's programs Adult Programs

13) What importance do you place on the following functions performed by the library staff?

	Not Important			Very Important		No Opinion
Serving you courteously	1	2	3	4	5	0
Helping to provide information that you request	1	2	3	4	5	0
Helping you to obtain books and materials you want	1	2	3	4	5	0
Helping with computers, the online catalog, Internet or database access	1	2	3	4	5	0

14) Where would you go to find information about the library? Please check to indicate a 'yes' response (otherwise leave blank).

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> The library staff | <input type="checkbox"/> A short class at the library | <input type="checkbox"/> Ask a neighbor, friend, or family |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Learn as I use it | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>The Winnetka Talk</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> The library's web site (www.winnetkalibrary.com) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The library's print newsletter, <i>The Source</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> The library's emailed newsletter, @Your Library | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

15) The library will face significant financial deficits over the next few years. These deficits may mean that the library revenue is insufficient to maintain current service levels. Would you support (check any or all)

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reducing services i.e., staff | <input type="checkbox"/> Reducing purchases of new books | <input type="checkbox"/> Reducing purchases of electronic database |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reducing hours/days of operation | <input type="checkbox"/> Reducing purchases of periodicals | <input type="checkbox"/> A referendum for a tax rate increase to finance continuing operations |

Other suggestions _____

Parks Survey - to be completed by Winnetka and Northfield residents

The Winnetka Park District contributes many things to our community. For the following statements please circle Yes or No.

- | | | |
|---|-----|----|
| 16) Did you know that indoor ice, paddle tennis, golf and tennis are all self funded? | Yes | No |
| 17) Did you know State and federal grant money and independent donations are used to supplement or completely fund programs and improvements? | Yes | No |
| 18) Did you know that non-residents are an important revenue source for maintaining the economic viability of facilities such as golf, tennis and indoor ice? | Yes | No |
| 19) Did you know in the past 10 years almost all of Winnetka playgrounds have been renovated? | Yes | No |
| 20) Did you know the Park District has programs for all Winnetka residents (e.g., toddler to seniors) | Yes | No |
| 21) Did you know that the Park District financial records are available in the Winnetka Public Library? | Yes | No |

22) What is the best way to inform you of new offerings from the Park District (Please select one)?

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Park Place Magazine | <input type="checkbox"/> Web Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Pioneer Press |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bulletin Boards | <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in school bulletins | <input type="checkbox"/> Community |

23) Are there enough programs and facilities to meet your teenagers' needs? (please answer only if you have teenage children) Yes No

24) What programs would you suggest be the focus of Park District programming for your teenagers (please answer only if you have teenage children) (Please select top two)

- | | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ski Trip | <input type="checkbox"/> Battle of the bands | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sports programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Gym Jam | |

Many facts have lead up to the discussion about a new facility that would focus on programming for teenagers including: the lack of a place for teenagers to go, changing demographics (more children in the community), increasingly high costs of gym rental, reduction in available facilities due to the loss of the use of Skokie School recreation facilities, and the availability of open space.

25) Do you think the community needs a new facility that focuses on teen activities that would include a large gymnasium and ancillary rooms for other community uses? Yes No

26) Please select the most frequent family sport/exercise activities that you do outside of the Winnetka Park District? (Please select top three)

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baseball | <input type="checkbox"/> Gymnastics | <input type="checkbox"/> Skateboarding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball | <input type="checkbox"/> Hockey | <input type="checkbox"/> Soccer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biking | <input type="checkbox"/> Ice Skating | <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boating | <input type="checkbox"/> Paddle Tennis | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Golf | <input type="checkbox"/> Playgrounds | <input type="checkbox"/> Walking/Hiking |

Other _____

27) What is your main expectation of the Winnetka Park District? (Please select top two)

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adequate Parks | <input type="checkbox"/> Open Space Management | <input type="checkbox"/> Sporting Activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Teen Programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Budget Management | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Summer Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Toddler Programs |

28) The Park District has regularly convened special meetings and ad hoc groups to gather citizen input on major decisions. Unfortunately these are often sparsely attended. What ideas do you have that could increase participation in these meetings and groups?

NORTHFIELD RESIDENTS PLEASE STOP HERE

Thank you for your participation, and please remember to return your survey not later than September 30, 2003.

VILLAGE SURVEY

Term Limits

State law mandates that the term of a village trustee be two years, but does not limit the number of terms. Winnetka limits trustees to a maximum of two terms. It has been a Caucus practice not to reslate any trustee for a third term. At issue is whether or not a trustee could be reslated for a third term, arguably providing greater continuity and increased experience.

29) Would you like to see the Caucus to consider an additional term for future trustees (not to affect any current trustees)? (circle one)

Keep two term limit

Consider additional term(s)

Need more information/Tell me more

Buildings and Zoning Issues

Variances for construction on existing Non-Conforming structures:

Under current zoning regulations many existing single-family homes are now Non-Conforming (i.e. They could not be built as they currently exist). Therefore the issuance of construction permits for the maintenance, repair, renovation, rehabilitation or replacement of an existing Non-Conforming portion of the structure requires that a variance be granted, often with significant public and private expense and time delays, prior to work being permitted. An example of this would be a home with an existing non-conforming porch which requires repairs or replacement although there is no intention of changing the size or location of the porch. Presently that requires a construction permit be issued and this act would automatically trigger the need for the variance.

30) Although a construction permit would still be required for this type of work, should the permit related to existing "Non-Conforming" structures be granted without a need for a variation if no further non-conformities would be created? (circle one)

Yes

No

Needs further study

No Opinion

Design Review Board

If the owner of a house wishes to tear it down, the existing Building Review Commission examines the "cultural" parameters of the request - primarily the history of the site or any residents, and architectural qualities. They can only allow the owner to go ahead, or delay the demolition for up to 90 days. They do not have any input into any aspect of the replacement structure.

31) Would you be in favor of establishing a voluntary Single-Family Design Review Board which could be asked by the property owner/developer to look at their code-compliant drawings for the replacement structure? If approving the drawings, this board could allow an immediate demolition permit to be issued. On the other hand, if the building is not offered to this committee for approval, or if approval is not granted, the demolition permit would only be issued after a substantial (perhaps several-year) delay. (circle one)

Yes

No

Needs further study

No Opinion

Tax Caps and Home Rule

Under current Illinois Tax Cap laws the Village is limited in increasing its total Property Tax Levy (the property tax collected by the Village) to the lesser of 5% or the rate of inflation, unless approved by Village residents in a referendum. In addition, the Village only has such powers as are granted to it by the state.

The Village of Winnetka is not a "home rule" community. All municipalities over 25,000 in population were automatically named as home rule communities when the current Illinois state constitution was adopted. Under that size, a village or town is allowed to vote to become a home rule community.

If Winnetka were a home rule community, it would not be limited by the tax cap laws and could exercise all powers the trustees deemed necessary except those denied it by the state constitution.

Home rule communities have used their broader taxing powers to create systems of taxation more acceptable to local residents than systems based heavily on the use of property tax revenues.

Illinois home rule communities have used their powers for, among other things, creating neighborhood improvement programs, combining planning and zoning boards and setting up economic development zones.

32) Do you support the exploration of Home Rule for Winnetka? (circle one)

Support exploration

Do not support exploration

Needs further information

No Opinion

48) If you have approached school personnel with a concern, how satisfied were you overall with their responsiveness? (Please circle one answer for each type of person you approached.)

	Very dissatisfied				Very satisfied		No Opinion
Teacher	1	2	3	4	5	0	
Principal	1	2	3	4	5	0	
Superintendent	1	2	3	4	5	0	
School Board member	1	2	3	4	5	0	

Finances

49) Now that the referendum has passed, what key measures will help you determine how well the Board is managing taxpayer monies?

	Not Critical				Very Critical		No Opinion
Annual budget increases	1	2	3	4	5	0	
Length of time between referendum requests	1	2	3	4	5	0	
Preservation of small class sizes	1	2	3	4	5	0	
Competitive teacher compensation	1	2	3	4	5	0	
Per pupil costs as compared to neighboring districts	1	2	3	4	5	0	
Ongoing cost reduction measures	1	2	3	4	5	0	
Ongoing maintenance of buildings	1	2	3	4	5	0	
Continued educational leadership	1	2	3	4	5	0	
Improvements to curriculum	1	2	3	4	5	0	

The Winnetka Public Schools Foundation raises nearly \$300,000 a year through private donations to supplement the District's revenue. This money funds curriculum development, teacher training and development, teacher initiative grants, artists-in-residence and other programs above and beyond those provided by tax-based revenue.

- 50) Are you aware of the Winnetka Public Schools Foundation? Yes No
- 51) If aware of, have you donated? Yes No Why? _____
- 52) If you have donated, will you continue? Yes No Why? _____
- 53) If you will not continue to donate, why not? _____

Community Involvement and Feedback.

The Board of Education realizes that Winnetka is ripe with talented individuals of all ages willing to devote time and expertise to serve the schools. To encourage community involvement and feedback, the Board may form from time to time advisory committees composed of both citizens and school officials. These committees may help with short-term tasks, study issues or frame long-term strategies in areas such as communications, facilities or finance.

54) Do you think this is a viable idea? Yes No If no, why not? _____

55) Do you feel that your voice as a taxpayer is being represented on the Board of Education?

Yes No No opinion Not necessary
 If no, why not? _____

56) The District hopes to remain sensitive to our school's neighbors. Are you satisfied with the management of the following?

	Very Dissatisfied				Very Satisfied		No Opinion
Traffic	1	2	3	4	5	0	
Parking	1	2	3	4	5	0	
Safety of children/residents	1	2	3	4	5	0	
Activities outside of school hours	1	2	3	4	5	0	
Property maintenance	1	2	3	4	5	0	

If your answers refer to a specific school, which one? _____

57) Please indicate which methods you would prefer to provide input to District 36 regarding general, school-related issues (not specific to a child or a teacher): (Please check all that apply.)

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mail survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Focus group | <input type="checkbox"/> "Town meetings" |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Phone survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Informal, personal contact | <input type="checkbox"/> Web-based survey |

58) What are the most important topics you would like the School Board to address this year?

59) Other Comments regarding Schools?

Thank you for your time in completing the 2003 Winnetka Survey. We strongly believe your investment of time will truly benefit us all.

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

The efforts of the Caucus are funded solely from the generous donations of Winnetka and Northfield residents. 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 mail the questionnaire and to fund the Village-wide mailings concerning the Town Meetings and other Caucus news and developments.

Please 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:

No _____ Yes _____ Contact by email: _____ Phone: _____

What Is the Winnetka Caucus System?

It's a non-partisan, 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 c 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 is a strong and effective mechanism to bring current issues to the forefront and to select candidates for the Village, School, Library and Park Boards.

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. These volunteers must have lived in Winnetka for at least two years, serve a two-year term. 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.

What Does The Caucus Council Do?

The Council's two main functions are to develop platforms to guide Village policy. The platforms are created from the responses of the Caucus Surveys. The Caucus also nominates 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.

What are platforms?

Platforms are mandates by the people developed to guide the School Board, the Village Board, the Library Board, and the Parks Board in the policy making process. The platforms are meant to reflect the sentiment of the people on issues that are currently of concern to Village residents.

Board Candidate Selection

The operating committees search the village for qualified candidates to serve on the School Board, the Village Board, the Library Board, and the Parks Board. The committee qualifies and interviews the candidates, and submits a slate to the Caucus Council for discussion and approval. The approved slate of candidates is brought before the Caucus for approval at the Annual Town Meeting in December or January.

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	http://www.winnetkacaucus.org
Village of Winnetka	http://www.villageofwinnetka.org/
Winnetka Park District	http://www.winpark.org
Winnetka-Northfield Library	http://www.wpld.alibrary.com/
Schools - District 36	http://www.winnetka.k12.il.us/
Crow Island	http://www.winnetka.k12.il.us/ci/
Greeley	http://www.winnetka.k12.il.us/gr/
Hubbard Woods	http://www.winnetka.k12.il.us/hw/
Skokie School	http://www.winnetka.k12.il.us/sk/
Washburne	http://www.winnetka.k12.il.us/cw/
Winnetka Chamber of Commerce	http://www.winnetkachamber.com/

**PLEASE RETURN SURVEY
BY
OCTOBER 1, 2003**



**The Winnetka Caucus Council
P.O. Box 311, Winnetka, IL 60093**