

2005 Winnetka Caucus Council Survey

Demographics

1. What is your age? _____
2. How many years have you been a resident of Winnetka? Check one
a. 0-2 ___ b. 3-5 ___ c. 6-9 ___ d. 10-15 ___ e. 16-25 ___ f. > 25 ___
3. How many adults reside in your household? Indicate number(s)
a. ages 23-35 ___ b. 36-45 ___ c. 46-55 ___ d. 56-65 ___ e. 66-75 ___ f. > 75 ___
4. How many children reside in your household? Indicate number(s)
a. ages 0-6 ___ b. 7-10 ___ c. 11-14 ___ d. 15-18 ___ e. 19-22 ___
5. Of the adults residing in your household, how many are? Indicate number(s)
Employed/Self Employed _____ Stay-at-home Mom/Dad _____
Retired _____ Other _____
6. Do you own or rent your own home? Own ___ Rent ___

Village Questions

1. The current liquor law in Winnetka allows alcoholic beverages to be served at a bar or counter located in a full service restaurant without requiring that the customer purchase/consume a meal. The ordinance specifies that a **maximum of 20%** of the seating capacity of such restaurants can be devoted to **alcohol-only service** while the **remainder** must be devoted to **full meal service**. The sale of alcohol must be “incidental and complementary to the sale and service of complete meals.” Examples of Winnetka restaurants with separate bar areas are Little Ricky’s, J.P. McCarthy’s, and Fio.

(a) Would you like the Village Council to study whether the liquor ordinance should be revised to allow an establishment to serve alcohol without offering full meal service?

___ Yes ___ No ___ Need more information, such as: _____

(b) Would your answer change if the establishment regularly had live music, such as a nightclub, Irish pub, or jazz club?

___ Yes ___ No ___ Need more information, such as: _____

2. The Villages of Wilmette, Lake Forest, and Evanston have National Register Historic Districts, as do many cities and villages throughout the United States. A National Historic District is created by the National Park Service if the homes in the proposed district meet established architectural criteria. After approval by the Park Service, homeowners within the district may **voluntarily** apply for and receive tax benefits if they substantially rehab or expand their homes in accordance with national architectural guidelines.

Homeowners within the district who choose not to apply for tax benefits may, without restriction, demolish or remodel their homes just as would any homeowner living outside the district—by applying for a building or demolition permit. **In other words, they are treated no differently than any other homeowner.**

(a) Should the Village of Winnetka study the possibility of creating National Register Historic Districts in designated Winnetka neighborhoods, such as the Village Green?

___ Yes ___ No ___ Need more information, such as: _____

(b) If Winnetka did create one or more National Register Historic Districts, would you like your home to be in such a district?

___ Yes ___ No ___ Need more information, such as: _____

(c) How old is your home? _____ How important is it to you that your current residence be preserved when you sell your home? (please circle number below)

NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT **SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT** **VERY IMPORTANT**
1 2 3 4 5

(d) Would you be in favor of the Village creating a voluntary clearinghouse to match older homes with home buyers who would like to rehabilitate them?

_____ Yes _____ No

3. In July, the **State of Illinois** enacted a law prohibiting drivers **18 years and younger** from using cell phones while driving, even with a hands-free device. Additionally, on July 8, the **City of Chicago** enacted an ordinance requiring **all** drivers using a cell phone to employ a hands-free device, such as a speakerphone, headpiece, or ear bud.

Please check the statement that best represents your opinion about cell phone use **while driving vehicles in Winnetka**:

- _____ (a) The Village should not impose any restrictions on the use of cell phones.
- _____ (b) The Village should require drivers to use hands-free cell phone devices.
- _____ (c) The Village should extend to all drivers over the age of 18 the statewide prohibition on cell phone use while driving.
- _____ (d) I have no opinion.

4. Over the past 3 years, the Village of Winnetka has issued an average of 67 new residential construction permits each year. The Village has consistently enacted changes to its zoning ordinance to address concerns about the impact of new construction. With its recently granted Home Rule powers, the Village intends to explore additional measures--including the potential option of creating residential design guidelines for new construction-- that will enable the Village to better manage construction.

A neighboring North Shore community recently circulated a professionally designed survey of nearly 40 questions that elicited residents' opinions on a wide array of matters related to neighborhood preservation and new construction, including residents' opinions on speculative teardowns, architectural variety, compatible home sizes and setbacks within a neighborhood, and the use of zoning rewards.

Would you like the Village of Winnetka to circulate a similar comprehensive survey?

_____ Yes _____ No

5. Sales taxes collected by Winnetka businesses comprise 8.5 % of the Village's annual budget. This question is designed to determine which businesses you frequent outside of Winnetka. **PLEASE DO NOT LIST ANY BIG BOX STORES**, such as Target, Costco, and Home Depot, which cannot locate in Winnetka because of space requirements.

(a) Please list the names and towns of 3 stores, restaurants or recreational venues **outside Winnetka** that you patronize, on average, once every two weeks:

- (i) _____
- (ii) _____
- (iii) _____

(b) What attracts you to the establishments listed above (check all that apply)?

_____ Ease of parking _____ Hours of operation _____ Prices _____ Ambience
_____ Quality of staff _____ Selection/variety _____ Other: _____
_____ Quality of merchandise, food, or programming

(c) What should be the focus of Winnetka's commercial districts:

- (i) _____ principally serving Winnetka residents
- (ii) _____ attracting significant business from non-Winnetka residents
- (iii) _____ I have no opinion

(d) Would you like more special events in Winnetka that could increase residents' sense of community? Examples include art fairs, street festivals, music events, food tastings ("Taste of Winnetka") and crafts fairs?

_____ Yes _____ No

If you answered "No", please specify why: _____

6. The Village Council currently has a policy that it does not provide funding for any non-profit community organizations. Because of this policy, the Council has denied several funding requests by the Winnetka Youth Organization (WYO), which, it is believed, is the only non-profit to have requested funding from the Council.

The Village Council has articulated several reasons for its policy. Among them are:

- New Trier Township earmarks a sizable portion of its budget—several hundred thousand dollars in the most recent budget year—to non-profit and other community organizations, including the WYO;
- New Trier Township, unlike the Village Council and staff, has committees with the expertise to evaluate and choose among competing requests from organizations; and
- Without the responsibility associated with evaluating requests for funding, the Village Council and staff can devote their resources and attention to core public services, such as public safety, zoning, and infrastructure projects (roads, utilities, etc.).

Please check one of the following:

- (a) _____ The Village Council should **continue its policy** of not providing funding to any non-profit community organizations.
- (b) _____ The Village Council should **alter its policy** and consider requests for funding from any organization that serves Winnetka residents.
- (c) _____ I have no opinion.

7. Are there any specific Village services (e.g. street maintenance, snow removal, street lighting, trash pickup, water/electric utility services, recycling) that you are dissatisfied with? If so, please briefly explain:

8. Please comment about any issues you feel the Village Council should address in the coming year.

9. In early October, the Caucus will begin to interview applicants for three Village Council seats. Please suggest names, with phone numbers if possible, of residents whom you think would be good candidates for the Winnetka Village Council.

Library Questions

In April, residents of Winnetka and Northfield voted to approve the Library District referendum, which enables it to continue its current level of library services. While this will ensure the financial health of the Library District for years, receipt of new revenue will not occur until 2006. This delay will not adversely impact library services to residents.

1. The Winnetka-Northfield Library District is interested in your opinion. Please rank the following options in order of preference, 1 being the most preferred and 8 being the least preferred. Only rank those you would be interested in seeing offered at the libraries.

- _____ Adding summer Sunday hours 1-5, currently not available
- _____ Increase DVD selection; classic and non-fiction categories only
- _____ Add wireless capability (WiFi)
- _____ Increase seven-day books (recent releases of popular fiction, often bestsellers)
- _____ Increase audio books (books-on-tape and CD books)
- _____ Increase guest speakers
- _____ Create comfortable and cozy reading space in the “Quiet Study Room” of the Winnetka library and offer free coffee service (similar to Northfield Library)
- _____ Other _____

2. The Winnetka-Northfield Library District website (wpld.alibrary.com) and your library card enable you to access almost 30 different databases from your home or office 24/7. You or your children can search many different topics.

<u>Information Categories</u>	<u>On-line Databases</u>
Books and Authors	Literature Resource Center, Net Library, Novelist
Business Data and Companies	Business & Company Resource Center, Mergent Online (Moody’s), Morningstar
Encyclopedias (various topics)	Access Science, Encyclopaedia Britannica, Encyclopedia of Education, Grzimek’s Animal Life Encyclopedia, West’s Encyclopedia of American Law, World Book Encyclopedia
General Search Topics	Facts on File, FirstSearch, Kids InfoBits, Science Resource Center
Health and Medical	Health and Wellness Resource Center, Physician’s Desk Reference
History	American Decades, Biography Resource Center, Heritage Quest, History Resource Center, U.S. Immigration and Migration Reference Library
Newspapers and Magazines	Chicago Tribune, Electric Library, InfoTrac OneFile, New York Times-since 1851, Wall Street Journal

What other on-line databases would you be interested in? _____

3. Do you use the “Quiet Study Room” in the Winnetka main library (the room behind where the card catalog used to be)? If no, why not? _____

Yes	No
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4. Would you mind if the library staff or public occasionally use the “Quiet Study Room” for scheduled meetings?

Yes	No
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5. Do you experience too long a wait to use a computer terminal? If “yes,” check how often? _____ Frequently _____ Occasionally _____ Rarely

Yes	No	N. A.
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6. We are assessing the success of the libraries' marketing programs. For questions 6-A to 6-I, before reading this survey, were you aware that the Winnetka-Northfield libraries offered the following services? Circle one.

6-A. Sell used books, extra copies, etc. in the main lobby.	Aware	Not aware
6-B. Offer a volunteer Books-on-Wheels delivery service similar to Meals-on-Wheels, for those confined to their homes.	Aware	Not aware
6-C. That your library card can help with locating and borrowing hard-to-find volumes from libraries across the country.	Aware	Not aware
6-D. That the website allows you to do all of the following: search for book titles and subjects, reserve books, renew library materials, access databases from home.	Aware	Not aware
6-E. Can arrange vacation loans of books and audio books so you can avoid returning home to major overdue charges.	Aware	Not aware
6-F. Can obtain your Book Club books from the library so that you do not have to purchase them.	Aware	Not aware
6-G. Will accept your donated, unabridged audio books and (non-fiction and classic) DVDs.	Aware	Not aware
6-H. Offer the ability for your entire preschool through eighth grade class to come visit both libraries, to better introduce them to books, 24-hour on-line databases and other library services.	Aware	Not aware
6-I. Offer a volunteer program in which you can participate using your skills as speakers for seminars or just volunteer for various kinds of activities. If you are interested, list your name here or contact the libraries.	Aware	Not aware

7. For the questions above where you circled "Aware," are you using some of these services? Is there something that the libraries could do to help you utilize the services? If yes, explain. _____ _____	Yes	No
8. For the questions above where you circled "Not Aware," will you begin to try some of the above offerings now? What can the libraries do to help you utilize the services? _____ _____ _____	Yes	No

9. Do you have any ideas on improving the marketing programs of the libraries, including "The Source," the libraries' newsletter? Please explain.

10. In addition to the Friends of the Library, the Library Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) and can match donations. Do you have any ideas on establishing new or improved fundraising, gift/donation programs? Please explain.

11. If you have moved from out of state or another village, did your library offer any programs that you especially liked? Please elaborate below.

12. What would you like to see offered or improved in the libraries? Any other general comments?

Park District Questions

The Winnetka Park District has limited funds for new projects and capital expenditures. Prioritizing and policy changes may be needed, especially in light of capital reserves. Therefore, input is sought related to potential projects which **could** involve the following funding: the garage/service center building - \$3 million, the Hubbard Woods shelter - \$586,000, acquisition of lakefront property - \$6.7 million, golf course repairs - \$2+ million and possible other desired projects-cost unknown.

Since 1981 all user fees from golf, tennis, indoor ice and paddle tennis are kept separately for the sport generating such revenue and are used to cover costs and to establish reserves for that sport. Under this policy no tax dollars support such sports.

For its other capital projects, land acquisitions and equipment purchases the Park District maintains reserves from real estate taxes and bonds payable from real estate taxes. March 31, 2005 year end reserve fund balances available for such uses were as follows:

Capital Projects (includes \$3,300,000 from 2004 nonreferendum bond issue)	\$ 5,366,995
Unallocated Corporate Fund	\$ 104,812
Hubbard Woods Shelter	\$ 200,000
Garage/Service Center Project	\$ 500,000
Open Space Land Acquisition	<u>\$ 500,000</u>
TOTAL	\$ 6,671,807

The first two amounts in this list represent monies available for allocation, the last three amounts can be reallocated. The total is scheduled to be decreased in the current budget. Allocation and reallocation can reduce available funds for other projects.

The above information is relevant to questions 1 through 7. Please read all seven (7) questions as a group before you start answering.

1. In the 2004 Caucus Survey the Park District cost estimate for its needed garage/service center was stated at \$2 million. The Park District is now using up to a \$3 million figure. The money is to come from Park District reserves. This project is still in the planning stage. In its announcement of a public hearing regarding another capital project, the Hubbard Woods shelter, the Park District only addressed the general condition of the shelter and stated it "was slated to be replaced" and did not disclose a repair/renovation option or cost alternatives.

Before proceeding with the garage/service center and future capital projects, should the Park District publicize details of proposed plans, any alternatives and costs **prior** to holding a public hearing?

Yes _____ No _____

2. In answering this question, if possible, look at the shelter at the side of Hubbard Woods Park (Green Bay and Merrill Streets). The Hubbard Woods shelter is presently used for skaters in the winter when there is ice, has bathroom facilities that are occasionally open for park events and has some other limited uses. Currently, the Park District Board has voted to rebuild that structure for an estimated \$586,000. A public hearing was held before that vote and 30 residents signed in and expressed diverse views. No cost estimates were given to the public before that hearing, but were provided at the hearing. The Park District Board does not have statistical use-projections for this project; however, they believe that a more attractive structure will promote increased and broader usage. Construction bidding is scheduled in or after January of 2006.

Please state your preference from one of the following five possible options:

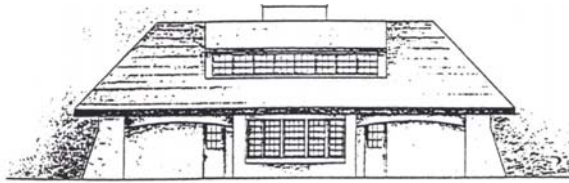
a. Repair the existing structure for \$45,000. Yes _____

b. Do option a. plus make it more accessible for disabled individuals at a total estimated cost of \$237,000. Yes _____

c. For an estimated cost of \$586,000 (1,650 sq. ft. at \$355 per sq. ft.), using Park District

reserves, demolish the old structure and construct a new one currently planned to look like the picture on the next page.

Yes _____



Interior

Main room 750 sq. feet
2 Bathrooms 240 sq. feet.
Storage 135 sq. feet
Kitchenette 80 sq. feet
Mechanical 75 sq. feet

- d. Rebuild the facility using only grants and donations (as did Northfield for its structure in the park on the south side of Willow Road, a few blocks west of Dominick's). Yes _____
- e. Demolish the existing structure for an estimated \$18,000 and do not rebuild. Yes _____

3. If you chose d. above and the Park District does not obtain sufficient gifts or grants, please check one other alternative listed above that you believe should be implemented:
a. _____ b. _____ c. _____ e. _____

4. The Park District has five beaches: Tower Road, Maple Street and Elder swimming beaches; a dog beach (Centennial) and a boating beach (Lloyd). A residence on a lot 70 feet wide separates Elder Beach from the dog beach. The residence has 12 rooms, and in 2003 its real estate taxes were \$29,000. It was purchased in 2002 for \$4.5 million, and it is currently for sale for an asking price of \$6.7 million. The Park District expressed interest in purchasing this property located at 261 Sheridan Road. Park District reserves and a tax referendum, if passed by voters, would be used for this purchase.

Do you favor the Park District purchasing this property? Yes _____ No _____

5. Golf revenues this year are estimated at \$1.9 million. For decades golf revenues supported both operations and capital expenses. In recent years golf course reserves are close to total depletion and are unable to provide for capital needs exceeding \$2 million, including replacing a 70-year old irrigation system estimated at \$1.5 million. With competition from neighboring golf courses, increasing user fees is not a likely option to cover the needed capital costs. The Park District is more heavily promoting usage of its golf courses and working on controlling costs.

Should the Park District change its policy and augment user fees with Park District reserves and/or tax revenue for capital needs for the golf course? Yes _____ No _____

6. Currently some large parks such as Hubbard Woods Park contain mainly grass and trees.

On a much smaller economic scale than the above items, do you desire flowers and decorative landscaping to be extended to such parks through the use of park reserves and/or tax revenues, provided green space is preserved for activities currently conducted?

Yes _____ No _____

7. What, if any, additional facilities or activities do you **strongly** desire that the Park District provide?

8. Would you support the Park District studying the desirability of a privately-funded, fenced area in a park for dog owners in Winnetka to exercise their dogs off-leash in the winter months?

Yes _____ No _____

9. State in order of importance up to four (4) Park District facilities or activities that are most important to you and your family:

10. If you have additional comments regarding the Winnetka Park District, please share them:

School Questions

1. Please check any statements that apply to you:

Currently have a child or children in Winnetka District 36 (public K-8) schools: Yes ___ No ___

If yes, which school(s):

Crow Island ___ Greeley ___ Hubbard Woods ___ Skokie ___ Washburne ___

Have preschool child(ren) who will be attending a District 36 school in the future: Yes ___ No ___

Have school age child or children (K-8) who are not attending a District 36 school: Yes ___ No ___

Have a child/children who no longer attends Winnetka District 36 schools: Yes ___ No ___

Currently have or had grandchild(ren) attending District 36 schools: Yes ___ No ___

Have never had any children or grandchildren in District 36 (public K-8) schools: Yes ___ No ___

2. The educational philosophy of District 36 is often referred to as “developmental”. A developmental approach attempts to balance the whole child (emotions, body and mind) with the child’s need to demonstrate competence and skills so that the child has a healthy, open and positive outlook on learning. How well do you think District 36 has communicated its educational philosophy (circle your choice):

<u>Unclearly</u>					<u>Communicated</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
1	2	3	4	5	5	0
					<u>Very Clearly</u>	

3. Given your understanding of District 36 developmental philosophy, please rank your satisfaction using the following scale:

<u>Not Satisfied</u>					<u>Very Satisfied</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
1	2	3	4	5	5	0

4. Please rank your understanding of District 36 hiring practices for the following:

	<u>Not Clear</u>				<u>Very Clear</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
Teachers	1	2	3	4	5	0
Principals	1	2	3	4	5	0
Superintendent	1	2	3	4	5	0

5. If you have approached school personnel recently (within the last year), how satisfied were you overall with their responsiveness:

	<u>Not Satisfied</u>				<u>Very Satisfied</u>	<u>Does Not Apply</u>
Teachers	1	2	3	4	5	0
Principals	1	2	3	4	5	0
Superintendent	1	2	3	4	5	0

6. Do you have access to the internet: Yes ___ No ___

7. If you do have the ability to access the internet, have you ever visited the District 36 www.winnetka.k12.il.us web-site?

Yes ___ No ___

8. If you have visited www.winnetka.k12.il.us, how would you rank the effectiveness of this web site to convey information about District 36 (check one):
 Outstanding___ Good___ Average___ Needs Improvement___ Poor___

9. If you have access to the internet, would you like to receive e-mail notices pertaining to important issues facing District 36: Yes _____ No _____

10. Please rank your satisfaction with District 36 elementary school curriculum (i.e. Crow Island, Greeley & Hubbard Woods). Please circle your choice:

	<u>Very Dissatisfied</u>			<u>Very Satisfied</u>		<u>No Opinion</u>
Math	1	2	3	4	5	0
Reading	1	2	3	4	5	0
Writing	1	2	3	4	5	0
Science	1	2	3	4	5	0
Social Studies	1	2	3	4	5	0
Art	1	2	3	4	5	0
Foreign Language	1	2	3	4	5	0
Music	1	2	3	4	5	0
Kinetic Wellness	1	2	3	4	5	0
Special Needs	1	2	3	4	5	0
Gifted Programs	1	2	3	4	5	0

11. Please rank your satisfaction with the curriculum at Skokie School and/or Washburne:

	<u>Very Dissatisfied</u>			<u>Very Satisfied</u>		<u>No Opinion</u>
Math	1	2	3	4	5	0
Reading	1	2	3	4	5	0
Writing	1	2	3	4	5	0
Science	1	2	3	4	5	0
Social Studies	1	2	3	4	5	0
Art	1	2	3	4	5	0
Foreign Language	1	2	3	4	5	0
Music	1	2	3	4	5	0
Kinetic Wellness	1	2	3	4	5	0
Special Needs	1	2	3	4	5	0
Gifted Programs	1	2	3	4	5	0

12. Stated below are some factors used by the District 36 Board of Education to measure the financial wellbeing of our school system. How critical do you think these measurements are for determining how well the Board of Education is managing taxpayer monies:

	<u>Not Important</u>		<u>Very Important</u>			<u>No Opinion</u>
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 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

13. A widely held educational philosophy holds that smaller classroom sizes provide a better

educational experience for students. Maintaining smaller classrooms is more expensive than opting for larger classrooms. The current District 36 approach is to split classes into smaller sections as student classroom numbers approach 25. _

___ I agree with this approach ___ I disagree with this approach ___ No opinion

14. If you were asked to choose between one of the following, which would you prefer:

___ A referendum and subsequent property tax increase to prevent class sizes from exceeding 25 students per classroom.

___ Classroom sizes in excess of 25 students per class in order to prevent a property tax increase.

15. During recently completed negotiations with our teachers, the Board of Education chose 13 other school districts of similar financial demographics for use in comparing average teacher salaries. All 5 of the other districts that feed into New Trier High School (Avoca, Glencoe, Kenilworth, Northfield, and Wilmette) were included in this selection. Some of the other selected districts included Glenview, Highland Park and Northbrook. This new approach was referred to as a "Market Basket" comparison of average teacher salaries and was a key component of the teacher salary negotiations. Do you think this Market Basket comparison of average teacher salaries is a good way for the Board of Education to determine a fair wage scale for our teachers (please circle your choice):

<u>Very Bad Idea</u>					<u>Very Good Idea</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>
1	2	3	4	5		0

16. Please use the space below to provide any other comments regarding the Winnetka Public Schools District 36. All comments will be viewed as important.

Caucus Council Questions

1. The Caucus Council would appreciate any comments on the Caucus form of government or the Caucus Council.

2. The 2006 Caucus Council will begin organizing later this year. Consider it a duty and honor to serve. Please volunteer or suggest names (with phone number) to serve on the 2006 Caucus Council.

Thank you for taking time to complete the 2005 Winnetka Caucus Survey! Your input will be extremely helpful in determining key platform policy objectives. Again, the Winnetka Caucus Council is a volunteer organization and its sole source of funding is citizen contributions.

Please make a donation using the enclosed envelope.