

2024 Winnetka Caucus Council (WCC) Slating Committee-Recommended Candidate Bios and Notes

Village President Candidate

Robert (“Bob”) Dearborn



Bio:

Bob is a 30-year resident of Winnetka. He has served the village in several positions, including as a Village Trustee for the past 7+ years, member of the Design Review Board, and as Chair and Treasurer of the Caucus Council. He looks forward to working with Village Council colleagues, village staff, residents, and other taxing bodies, in advancing the important initiatives currently underway, those in the pipeline, and others to come.

Bob’s overarching goal is to build on Winnetka’s many strengths and to further the village’s position as an outstanding community in which to live.

Slating Committee Recommendation:

Bob has extensive experience as Village Council Trustee (7+ years). He served on the Design Review Board (approximately 2008 – 2016) and as a member of the Caucus Council (Member/Treasurer/Chair 1999 - 2002). His experience and grasp of the current issues facing the Village were instrumental in the Committee’s recommendation.

Village Council Candidates

Kirk Albinson



Bio:

Kirk Albinson has over 25 years of comprehensive design, construction and real estate experience. Kirk excels in navigating the complexities of financing, construction, and design, while fostering meaningful community engagement at every stage of development. Kirk has a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Minnesota with majors in Architecture and Business and has served on multiple boards and commissions. Kirk is a 13-year resident of Winnetka where he and his wife have raised their three children.

Slating Committee Recommendation:

Kirk has served on the Village Council since Spring of 2023, having been slated by the WCC at the Fall Town Hall in 2022. Prior to his term as Village Trustee, Kirk served for 11 years on the Design Review Board. His thoughtful demeanor plus his understanding of the issues facing the Village Council earned Kirk unanimous support from the Committee.

Bridget Orsic



Bio:

Bridget Orsic is an active real estate agent, Cook County arbitrator, and licensed attorney with a history of community leadership. Bridget has led numerous boards and commissions in Chicago and Winnetka, where she and her husband have been raising their family for the past 10 years. Known for her love of community, Bridget brings a unique blend of consensus building, legal insight, and civic responsibility to every endeavor.

Slating Committee Recommendation:

Bridget has served on the Village Council since the Spring of 2023, having been slated by the WCC. Prior to that, Bridget served on the Plan Commission for 6 years, including time as Chair. Because of her extensive experience and knowledge of the Village, Bridget received unanimous support from the Committee.

Scott Myers



Bio:

Scott Myers and his wife have been residents of Winnetka for more than 35 years. In that period Scott has served on numerous Village commissions and boards including the Zoning Commission, the Board of Police and Fire Commissioners and two terms as a trustee on the Village Council. Additionally, Scott has been involved in other Winnetka organizations such as the New Trier Rowing Club and the New Trier Booster Club.

Scott has served on a number of Caucus Committees and is a past Winnetka Caucus chair. He helped found and run the Winnetka Music Festival and remains highly involved in the community.

At the 2024 Winnetka Town Hall, Scott was nominated from the floor and approved. We congratulate him and proudly add him to our 2025 Caucus Slate.

Parks Board Candidates

Elise Gibson Duda



Bio:

Elise considers consensus building to be her strength, having served as a law partner in the corporate department of DLA Piper, negotiating complex business relationships. With her legal background and an MBA from University of Chicago Booth School of Business, she will be able to work through the dense, complicated materials regularly presented to the Winnetka Park District Board and will be instrumental in ensuring a positive and fruitful working relationship between the Park District, the Village and D36 Schools.

Elise has greatly enjoyed living in Winnetka for 17 years, raising her family and taking advantage of all that the Park District offers and it is her goal to represent the interests of residents who are new to Winnetka, those who are raising families and those who are aging in place.

Slating Committee Recommendation:

With 17 years in the Community and her family frequently using Park District facilities and programs, Elise is ready to give back to the Community. Her legal background in contracts, combined with her business school education and experience as a collaborative negotiator make her a great addition to the Park District Board.

Colleen Root



Bio:

Colleen was elected as a Park Commissioner in 2021, and is committed to preserving and enhancing Winnetka's parks and beaches, a passion that brought her and her husband here in 2017 after losing their home in Houston, Texas, to Hurricane Harvey. Colleen's appreciation for open spaces began in her childhood on a historic farm near Gettysburg and was further shaped by her work as a Seasonal Park Ranger at Gettysburg National Military Park throughout her college and law school summers. As an attorney specializing in environmental, real estate, and elder law, she understands the financial responsibilities of an elected official and the need to balance fiscal stewardship with preservation of the environment and the maintenance of exceptional park programs that are desired by the community.

Slating Committee Recommendation:

As an incumbent, and with her legal background and focus on the environment and transparency, Colleen brings a term's worth of experience to the table. Colleen has an intricate knowledge of the functioning of the WPD, has demonstrated her willingness to dig in and do the work, and is committed to staying involved.

Scott Corley



Bio:

Scott is a North Shore native who has raised his four children in Winnetka with his wife Melissa. He has a Computer Science Engineering degree from the University of Illinois and an MBA from the Northwestern Kellogg School of Management, leading to a career that has ranged from video games to finance. Scott and his family have been and continue to be active Winnetka community volunteers.

Slating Committee Recommendation:

Scott has lived and raised his kids in Winnetka for 11 years. He and his family have been active Park District patrons and he was an Assistant Scout Master for Scout Troop 20 for 8 years. In his career as well as his volunteer activity he has demonstrated a leadership style that is collaborative and focused on gaining consensus by expanding the pie for everyone.

D36 Schools Board Candidates

Andrew Hotz



Bio:

Andrew Hotz is a technology and media executive with over 15 years of experience. A Winnetka resident since 2020 and proud parent of two District 36 students, Andrew is dedicated to bringing his professional expertise and passion for education to the D36 School Board.

Slating Committee Recommendation:

Andrew brings executive experience running a large team and P&L for Google. His perspectives on Technology will be beneficial to D36. He also has expertise with data which will be helpful to further the district's steps to improve data and measurement. Andrew has volunteer experience through Citizen Schools and SPARK.

Alyssa Rapp



Bio:

Alyssa was born and raised in the Winnetka/Chicago area. She and her husband, Hal Morris, have two young daughters, who attend Hubbard Woods school. Alyssa attended Greeley Elementary and Washburne Middle School before graduating from New Trier High School (in which she is in the NTHS Athletics Hall of Fame). She received her BA from Yale University in Art History and her MBA from Stanford University's Graduate School of Business. Alyssa was the founder and CEO of Bottlenotes, a wine industry company based in Palo Alto, CA from 2005-2015. She later served as managing partner and business consultant for AJR Ventures and returned back to Winnetka in 2017. From 2018-2021, she served as the CEO of Surgical Solutions, a Deerfield-based health care company, in addition to being a lecturer of management at Stanford University Graduate School of Business and Chicago's Booth School of Business where she teaches classes on entrepreneurship and leadership. Alyssa currently serves as the CEO and Director of Healthwell Acquisition Corp. I, and on the board of Elevate Women's Health and Health Data Movers. Alyssa also serves on the board of The Women's Health Group.

Slating Committee Recommendation:

Alyssa has served on the School Board for the past four years and is currently Vice President. She is known to bring her own ideas and perspectives while also listening to others and collaborating to achieve good outcomes. She has modeled constructive Board Member behavior by listening to constituents and following their guidance over her own opinions.

Dan Waters



Bio:

Dan has lived in Winnetka for 8 years. He and his wife, Alicia, have two children in Winnetka schools, a daughter at Skokie and a son at Washburne. Dan is currently the Chief Executive Officer of Enjoy Life Foods and is responsible for all aspects of the company's strategy and execution. Before joining Enjoy Life, Dan was the global General Manager for Babybel cheese and has held operating, finance, and marketing roles at Barilla, Gap Inc., and Deloitte. Dan and his family have recently moved back to Winnetka from a two-year expatriation assignment in Paris, France. He has earned an MBA in strategy and marketing from the Kellogg School of Management and a B.S. in finance from Miami University.

Slating Committee Recommendation:

Dan has served on the School Board for the past four years and is currently President. Dan has a strong grasp on issues facing the school board and has ideas for making progress. He is known to have a calm demeanor and is adept at navigating difficult situations. He has served how a Board Member is expected to by putting students first above all else.

Bashir Qaasim (Alternate)



Bio:

Bashir is a parent to children in Winnetka's schools, has a personal stake in ensuring that our schools provide the highest quality education, and wants to contribute to the decision-making that will shape their futures and help maintain the high standards that our community values.

Over the past 16 years, Bashir has led global teams across various industries. This has required him to navigate a complex mix of cultures and ideals, working collaboratively to bring shared visions to reality. He thrives on tackling complex issues with teams and enjoys the challenge of finding the best solutions that address the problem at hand while considering each team member's perspectives.

Slating Committee Recommendation:

Bashir brings technology leadership experience, problem solving skills and the ability to resolve conflicts. These skills along with a thoughtful approach to decision making will be beneficial to D36. Bashir has volunteer experience with Minds Matter.

WNPLD Board Candidates

Sarah Tegel



Bio:

Sarah Tegel is a Winnetka resident of more than 15 years. Her professional background includes positions in executive communications, public relations and marketing for capital markets and financial technology companies, where she works with CEOs, founders and senior executives to strategize and execute communications and media initiatives.

Sarah joined the Library District's Board of Trustees in March 2024, and in the past served as the Winnetka Public School Nursery Board's Marketing Chair and as a District 36 school volunteer in various roles. She holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. Sarah and her husband, Sam, have two teenagers currently attending Washburne and New Trier, and two dogs.

Slating Committee Recommendation:

Sarah is an existing WNPLD board member who has been highly involved, and her Communications background is a great asset in helping the Library explore how to best engage and communicate with its various stakeholders and audiences. Sarah has a strong awareness of and perspective on what's happening in the community, from the Library's Strategic Planning efforts, to the cash reserves situation, and Library Board progress against key goals. She is organized, detail-oriented, and someone who can facilitate cross-functional communication and decision making.

Sarah Muñoz



Bio:

Sarah Munoz has a unique background in volunteerism, dedication to community outreach and a lifelong passion for growing and learning. As a Spanish-language educator for 12 years in both private and public schools in Winnetka, IL Sarah fostered positive relationships with students, families and colleagues.

Sarah's wide range of experiences supporting community organizations throughout the North Shore exemplify her commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. With a focus on serving underprivileged families, Sarah volunteers as a Labor and Delivery Doula advocating for birthing people to gain equal access to healthcare resources. Applying her fluency in Spanish Sarah plays a critical role to her teenage Latinx clients preparing to be first-time moms while navigating the refugee system. Sarah is also a Caucus member for Avoca School District 37 where she collaborates, interviews and vets potential candidates for the District School Board. Sarah is also on Avoca's School Policy Committee.

Sarah is both a Trustee and the Treasurer for the Winnetka Northfield Public Library District. Sarah upholds the mission of the library through creating effective policies, collaborating on capital improvements, determining budget, reviewing monthly spending, promptly responding to community input and most importantly advocating for the equality and access to library resources for all community members.

Slating Committee Recommendation:

Sarah Munoz is an existing WNPLD board member who has been highly involved, and she is a Northfield resident who is fully engaged in the community in general. She listens to others, but is also bold in speaking her mind and respectfully pushing for what she believes is right. Sarah is currently the WNPLD Treasurer, and she took it upon herself to attend the ALA (American Library Association) conference and confer with fellow Library Treasurers to compare strategies and ensure our Library is doing all it can to serve its residents and remain best in class. She is passionate about learning and development, and will continue to challenge the WNPLD Board to think big and try new things. She is committed to protecting our environment and supporting those less fortunate or with a diverse range of needs, and can guide the Library in these areas.

Lindsay Jenkins



Bio:

Lindsay Jenkins is a seasoned Sales Director at LinkedIn, where she has dedicated nearly 14 years of her career. A Northfield resident for over six years, she originally hails from a small town in Michigan and spent 12 years living in Chicago. Lindsay is a proud alumna of Michigan State University, where her passion for reading was nurtured by her mother, a longtime librarian at the East Lansing Public Library. Now married with two children attending Middlefork in 1st and 3rd grades, she balances her professional responsibilities with her love for literature, always ensuring she has a backup book ready for her travels.

Slating Committee Recommendation:

Lindsay is a Northfield resident who offers a wealth of experience guiding organizations to be more customer-centric and to focus on what their primary users really need and want. She is energetic and articulate about her desire to serve the WNPLD. Working within and having passion for libraries runs deep in her family history, and she is an avid reader who fully understands and appreciates the important community role of a well functioning library. Lindsay loves problem solving and tackling new challenges, and will bring a pragmatic and fresh perspective to the WNPLD Board.