

Thank you for participating in the 2023 Activist Toolkit Voter Guide to the River Forest consolidated election. This year's guide will collect articles, videos, relevant web links, and contact information and post them online at activisttoolkit.org for easy access by voters. It will be published on or before March 20, 2023 and updated periodically through election day. The guide is non-partisan and will not include endorsements.

We hope you will complete the attached questionnaire and return your responses to activisttoolkitop@gmail.com, along with a digital headshot, by March 15, 2023. Late submissions will not be included at launch but may be published late at our convenience. You are also welcome to include links to any online material you would like to have appear in the guide.

Activist Toolkit (activisttoolkit.org) is a resource for progressive activists in and around the near west suburbs of Chicago. The site was created in early 2017 by Paul Goyette and Carollina Song, Oak Park activists looking for ways to help people connect with local political initiatives and facilitate connections between progressive organizations.

RIVER FOREST VILLAGE TRUSTEE
2023 ACTIVIST TOOLKIT CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Please limit answers to 200 words.

- 1) What motivates you to seek this office? What makes you qualified to serve? What metrics of success do you plan on holding yourself accountable to?
- 2) How will you make decisions as a school board member?
- 3) How have you/will you work to ensure that D90 provides an excellent educational experience for all its students? What metrics of success do you plan on holding yourself accountable to?
- 4) How would you approach the budgeting process?
- 5) What would you say to voters who are worried about the tax burden?
- 6) Special education is mandated by federal law. How can District 90 better work to provide an excellent education for students in need of special education
- 7) How would you grade District 90's progress with respect to accessibility in recent years? What more work is needed? Please address both physical structures and virtual/information processes.
- 8) If you could create a brand new elementary public school district from scratch, what would it look like?
- 9) How do you define racial equity? Have recent events and discussions in the larger community informed or changed your thinking?
- 10) How do you plan to solicit feedback from people who may be experiencing District 90 in a different way than you? What barriers do you believe may exist in this process?
- 11) The current D90 Board has voted to implement full-day Kindergarten. Please discuss some of the issues the D90 board will have to address as the district moves forward with implementation.
- 12) School districts across the US have taken steps to address inequities in their districts. Please give an example of inequity in District 90 and how you propose to address it.
- 13) What lessons learned from the pandemic's early years do you believe will continue to be applicable to the ways that schools operate?

- 14) What is your understanding of the Board's past work on gender inclusivity? Please explain.
- 15) There has been a lot of discussion locally and nationally about the presence of police in school buildings. What is your vision for a safe school environment? How do police officers in the schools relate to that vision?
- 16) Do you see a role for the Board in ensuring that the climate at District 90 schools is welcoming to students in minority populations, whether racial, religious identity, LGBTQ, etc.? What specific actions or policies would you propose?
- 1) A new report issued by the Centers of Disease and Control found that in 2021, very large numbers of students experienced poor mental health. Twenty-two percent of students seriously considered attempting suicide and ten percent attempted suicide. These feelings were found to be more common among LGBTQ+ students, female students, and students across racial and ethnic groups. What can D90 do to address this trend?
- 17) School libraries have been faced with deciding whether or not to remove books from their shelves if a parent or group of parents/community members deem the content to be inappropriate, too controversial or objectionable. How would you handle this issue and how should District 90 handle this question? How could you ensure that ALL points of view are heard and the issue addressed in an open and constructive manner?
- 18) For those who are currently serving or have previously served on the school board: What vote are you most proud of, and what vote do you most regret? Why?