

Thank you for participating in the 2023 Activist Toolkit Voter Guide to the Oak Park 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.

OAK PARK DISTRICT BOARD
2023 ACTIVIST TOOLKIT CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Please limit answers to 200 words.

- 1) Why do you want to serve on the Park District Board? Why are you qualified to serve as Trustee? What metrics of success do you plan on holding yourself accountable to?
- 2) How do you make decisions?
- 3) What are the three biggest challenges or opportunities facing the Park District in the next three, five, and ten years and how should the board address them over the next four years?
- 4) How would you approach the budgeting process?
- 5) What would you say to voters who are worried about the tax burden?
- 6) How do you seek feedback from residents throughout the community? Do you believe there are barriers that exist in accomplishing this, what are they, and how would you adapt your approach seeking that feedback?
- 7) How do you define equity? Have recent discussions in the larger community informed or changed your thinking?
- 8) In 2019, The Park District adopted an equity policy that adds training and organizational support around equity and inclusion. How would you evaluate the success of the equity policy so far? What additional steps should be taken by the Park District?
- 9) Oak Park will soon have a Community Recreation Center. What (if any) concerns do you have about the potential ongoing impact on the Park District's annual budgets?
- 10) Park districts make use of many different sources of funding, including property tax revenues, fees, and grants. Recently, community members have raised concerns about the affordability of Oak Park Park District programs in comparison to surrounding communities. What would you say to those who raise this issue?
- 11) The Park District is largely staffed by part-time employees. How will you balance the need for fiscal stewardship and still pay employees a living wage?
- 12) What approach should the Park District take towards intergovernmental cooperation initiatives such as the Collaboration for Early Childhood Development? Are there other specific initiatives that you would like to implement or expand upon?

13) What approach should the Park District take towards intermunicipal cooperation with neighboring communities? Are there specific initiatives that you would like to implement or expand upon?

14) What lessons learned from the services provided or not provided during the pandemic do you believe will be applicable going forward, even after the pandemic abates?

15) What is your favorite Park District program, event, or service?

16) For those who are currently serving or have previously served on the Park District Board: What vote are you most proud of, and what vote do you most regret? Why?