

Candidate Responses for Naperville Township

TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR CANDIDATES - vote for 1

Eddie Bedford (R) - no response

Lynda Segneri (D)- no contact email

TOWNSHIP CLERK CANDIDATES - vote for 1

Barbara Lukoff (R)- no contact email

Nathanael Sippel (D)- no response

TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR CANDIDATES - vote for 1

Matthew R. Rasche (R) -no contact email

Gary J. Vician (R) - no contact email

TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE CANDIDATES - vote for no more than 4

Bill Bryene (R) - no contact email

Loretta Burke (D)

- 1. The City of Naperville approved a paid parental leave. Do you feel the township should consider a similar benefit for its employees? If so, how do you see it working? If not, why not?**

The township employs a very small staff of employees among the Township, Road District and Assessor's Office, compared to the number of employees employed by the City of Naperville. The Township staff members enjoy a generous benefit package as provided in the Naperville Township Management Guidebook. The issue of paid parental leave has not been requested by any employees during the four years while I have been a Trustee. While I am in favor of considering offering such a benefit for its employees, I believe this benefit may be cost-prohibitive, and the Township would have difficulty covering the employee's duties in their absence. The Township board is always open to suggestions from its employees to receive new benefits, and it would definitely research the possibility of providing this benefit if it was requested.

- 2. Townships are known for their senior services. Do you feel the township has adequately addressed seniors' needs, especially during the pandemic? If not, what would you suggest to improve the services?**

Yes, the Township's senior services have continued to be provided, more than adequately during the pandemic, utilizing social distancing, hand sanitizing, masks, and requiring appointments for services. The Township staff has remained available to the community by phone, email or appointment. If the office was closed, telephones were monitored and any messages left on voice mail were returned on a timely basis. Our

lending closet for assistive devices has remained available as needed, again by appointment. General Assistance has continued to operate in a similar manner. The Township's SHIP counseling services continued to be provided by appointment in several locations in the Township building to offer timely counseling to seniors for Medicare and Part D Supplements before and during the Open Enrollment window, spanning several months.

- 3. Naperville is the only IL town with a population of 50,000 and above that has been cited by the Illinois Housing Development Authority for its shortage of affordable housing. What do you recommend be done to increase affordable housing in non-incorporated areas that fall within the township boundaries?**

Naperville Township serves residents in parts of Naperville and Aurora. I am a resident of Aurora, which offers a variety of housing options for residents. It is disappointing that Naperville has skirted the IHDA for years by not offering affordable housing, but the Township has little authority to regulate housing issues in Naperville or Aurora. Housing is not one of the functions that Naperville Township was charged with when the Township was incorporated in 1848 under the Illinois Constitution.

I would propose that the Township Board prepare an Ordinance citing Naperville and developers seeking to build housing in Naperville for their failure to provide affordable housing under IHDA. In the Ordinance, the Township would state that it supports the case for affordable housing to be provided in Naperville. The Township could include other organizations in its Ordinance to support increasing affordable housing in Naperville. However, the Township has little power to enforce an Ordinance to force Naperville to provide affordable housing. Alternatively, I would propose that the Township board seek information from the Assessor to assess affordable housing options available in the non-incorporated areas, and make that information available to seniors or General Assistance recipients seeking housing. I doubt that new construction of affordable housing would take place in the unincorporated areas due to the sky-high cost of land in Naperville, which would be prohibitive for any builder to construct new developments of affordable housing. I would be in favor of re-purposing existing housing stock (unincorporated or within the City) as affordable housing units, possibly utilizing Federal or state grants.

- 4. People often cite IL as having the most layers of government. Why do you feel the township form of government should be retained? If not, who do you see handling the services and programs the township currently provides?**

I feel the township form of government should be retained because it is the oldest form of government in North America, going back to 1636. Illinois Townships were created by the Constitution of 1848, superseding the formation of many counties and cities in Illinois. I believe that the township is the foundation for all other forms of government in the state. Under the Illinois Constitution, townships were granted three basic functions with which they are charged: general assistance for the indigent; assessment of real property for the basis of taxation and maintenance of all roads and bridges outside federal, state and other local jurisdiction. These are unique functions granted

only to Township governments. I believe that it would require an amendment to the Illinois Constitution to allow cities or other local bodies to perform the functions that were granted to Townships in Illinois in 1848.

Julie Federico (D)

- 1. The City of Naperville approved a paid parental leave. Do you feel the township should consider a similar benefit for its employees? If so, how do you see it working? If not, why not?**

The Naperville Township offers a plan called the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA).

- 2. Townships are known for their senior services. Do you feel the township has adequately addressed seniors' needs, especially during the pandemic? If not, what would you suggest to improve the services?**

Naperville Township continues to support all its senior programs, and during the pandemic, Supervisor Bedford applied for additional federal and state monies so we would be able to offer even more help and services to our seniors.

- 3. Naperville is the only IL town with a population of 50,000 and above that has been cited by the Illinois Housing Development Authority for its shortage of affordable housing. What do you recommend be done to increase affordable housing in non-incorporated areas that fall within the township boundaries?**

Affordable housing is an important topic for me, and if any new housing development was applied for in the non-incorporated areas, we would certainly work to add affordable housing to it.

- 4. People often cite IL as having the most layers of government. Why do you feel the township form of government should be retained? If not, who do you see handling the services and programs the township currently provides?**

Despite my having a township position, if the services provided by the township could be done at a different level, I would support getting rid of Township governments. I agree IL has too many layers of government. The township services could be handled by the city, or possibly the county, but the services we provide are necessary and need to be handled somewhere. The advantage of the Township, or possibly the city, is that it is local to the services provided, rather than having residents go all the way to the county building campus

Thomas J. Laz (R) - no contact email

Paul J. Santucci (R) - no contact email

Gabby Serna (R) - no contact email

John Waller (D)

- 1. The City of Naperville approved a paid parental leave. Do you feel the township should consider a similar benefit for its employees? If so, how do you see it working? If not, why not?**

I feel that the Township should consider a paid parental leave benefit, and I can foresee something similar to the FMLA.

- 2. Townships are known for their senior services. Do you feel the township has adequately addressed seniors' needs, especially during the pandemic? If not, what would you suggest to improve the services?**

I feel that Naperville Township has done an excellent job addressing seniors' needs, particularly during the past year. I personally know of several seniors that were pleasantly surprised by the level and scope of senior services provided by the Township - in particular my in-laws, who remarked that they never realized what was available to them through the Township.

- 3. Naperville is the only IL town with a population of 50,000 and above that has been cited by the Illinois Housing Development Authority for its shortage of affordable housing. What do you recommend be done to increase affordable housing in non-incorporated areas that fall within the township boundaries?**

This is a very good question, and one that may not have an easy answer. Looking at some of the more recent high-density housing developments that have been approved or are under consideration in Naperville I feel that the developers are not interested in providing an affordable alternative. While I understand that they are looking for the highest possible ROI, it seems to me that they are missing out on an opportunity to offer affordable housing as part of their plans. High-density housing that is marketed to young professionals or empty-nesters seems to be to be more of the 'same old same old', and that's what I've been seeing - especially on the far NW side of Naperville.

- 4. People often cite IL as having the most layers of government. Why do you feel the township form of government should be retained? If not, who do you see handling the services and programs the township currently provides?**

I feel that Township government should be retained for the simple fact that the level of services provided would not be maintained if administered by a different local governing body. If we were to have those services administered by the City, I feel that the Township residents might be lost in the shuffle. As it is now, I have friends that live in different parts of the City, and they have expressed their opinions about the fluctuating levels of service - when compared to other neighborhoods in Naperville - that they receive, and whether that is just a question of 'perception' or not, it seems to have some merit. I feel the issue with having the County administer the services is one of distance and convenience - for many of our seniors a trip to Wheaton is a tad bit more difficult than coming to the Township building.