

President candidates share views

Cauley, LaPlaca opine on a host of issues facing the village



Where do the candidates stand on the issues?

Ken Knutson compiled these responses from personal interviews and questionnaires.



Tom Cauley

Top three responsibilities

1. Overseeing the village staff. 2. Conducting structured, efficient board meetings that allow everyone to be heard. 3. Leading on important issues and implementing decisions.



Laura LaPlaca

Top three responsibilities

1. Financial leadership. 2. Creating a cooperative and supportive working relationship with the village staff. 3. Fostering creative solutions and inclusiveness.

Village's greatest strength, area of need

Strength: impressive pool of talent among residents to draw upon for committee appointments who bring thoughtfulness to the work. Area of need: being vigilant on financial matters to ensure completion of the master infrastructure plan.

Strength: the value the village places on the safety, security and well-being of its residents. Area of need: continuing to make substantial progress on village road improvements through the master infrastructure plan.

Tri-State Tollway

The proposed widening of I-294 into Hinsdale will have a devastating impact on residents, including loss of backyards, parkland and the Hinsdale Oasis, the village's largest sales tax generator. He plans to fight the widening of the tollway into village neighborhoods.

The potential tollway expansion threatens to reduce village revenue as a result of the elimination, in whole or in part, of the Hinsdale Oasis. That is unacceptable; the oasis should be reconfigured to allow for a continued revenue stream. The village must work to minimize any impact.

Downtown parking

Lack of parking is the biggest obstacle to revitalizing the downtown. The goal of the shared Hinsdale Middle School parking deck would be to free up on-street parking for patrons. Encourage downtown employees to park there and possibly sell parking passes for train commuters to offset the cost.

The planned shared parking deck at Hinsdale Middle School will encourage more patrons and prospective tenants to come to Hinsdale because of greater parking availability. Phase out on-street parking meters and install pay boxes while preserving short-term parking spots for people picking up/dropping off items.

Dormant parcels

Use the zoning code as a guideline while determining the desires of the community for new developments. Ask hard questions of developers and try to get the most you possibly can, then put it to a vote. Hinsdale Meadows has been a good example of that.

Determine what will best serve the community when approving projects. Zoning codes are meant to be restrictive to give the village more control over how parcels are developed. Hinsdale Meadows, for example, is a housing product that the residents clearly wanted.

Village staffing

Village should be run like a service business. Staff is more responsive to the community than it used to be, going out to residents' homes if there's a problem. Hinsdale should be a training ground for future village managers and known for top-notch community service.

Recent restructuring has been positive and helped ensure people poised for promotion into leadership roles are properly equipped. The village staff is outstanding and vital to keeping the village running smoothly. Effective communication from them and with them is essential. Better engagement with village's business community would be advantageous.

Fiscal matters

The village faces financial uncertainty stemming from the state's financial crisis and the threat that it will lose all or a substantial part of state income tax revenue that it receives. Legislation has been proposed multiple times to discontinue sharing income tax revenue with municipalities.

Is concerned about losing revenue from the state either through a freeze on property taxes or a reduction in the amount received from the state income tax. Managing and prioritizing village expenses and capital projects allows village to adjust for these unanticipated reductions in revenue.

Recent board decisions

Agreed with: the decision to enter into a sales tax revenue-sharing contract with Land Rover to allow the dealership to relocate within Hinsdale.
Disagreed with: cannot think of one.

Agreed with: the decision to develop a plan for a parking garage as part of the Hinsdale Middle School construction project.
Disagreed with: the board's continued questioning of the marketability of the proposed empty-nester housing at Hinsdale Meadows.

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