

Three countywide elections are contested

DuPage County Board District 2



Who is Andrew Honig?

The Democrat is serving his second term

on the Lombard Village Board, a seat he was elected to in 2019 at age 21. While in college he led an organization that registered hundreds of people to vote. He is an accountant who holds a bachelor's in political science from North Central College and a master's in accountancy from Northern Illinois University.

Why is he running?

To be an effective and transparent leader who will continue to help people in the community. He wants to find ways to help deliver new and existing mental health services to DuPage residents.

Most important issue

The county must continue to have a balanced budget with fiscally pragmatic policies, both living within its means and funding the most crucial services to residents, such as mental health services.

Steps to address it

With mental health services comes an opportunity to address the opioid and drug addiction epidemic in DuPage. Awareness is a key component. Supports sheriff's officers carrying Narcan and drug remediation courtrooms. The new Crisis Recovery Center, set to open next summer, will address these issues and tackle the mental health crisis and ones perpetuated by drug addiction as well.

Other top priorities

- investing in more affordable housing in DuPage
- supporting small businesses and helping them thrive
- being transparent, including holding meetings with constituents
- serving as a bipartisan voice for the district



Who is Laura Hois?

The Republican has worked for more than 30

years as an attorney at various law firms, including McDonald's Corp. in Oak Brook and her own firm. Since 2021, she has led the battle for Downers Grove citizens against lockdowns, mask mandates, COVID vaccinations, critical race theory and more. She served as the Downers Grove Township clerk from 2013-17, ran for state representative in 2020 and has been a Republican committeeman for 14 years. She holds a JD with distinction from DePaul University College of Law and a bachelor's from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Why is she running?

She is running to restore balance on the Democrat-controlled board to provide better representation; to fight for lower taxes, small government and freedom; and to listen and give power back to the people.

Most important issue

Restoring trust in elected officials, some of whom have forgotten they work for the people.

Steps to address it

Resolve the issues pertaining to elected officials' misconduct in open, honest and transparent manner. Supports board's recent decision to have state's attorney Bob Berlin file suit against county clerk Jean Kaczmarek to force her to perform her job. Wants auditor Bill White held accountable for failing to file quarterly audit reports as required.

Other top priorities

- support law enforcement, restoring "tough on crime" policies
- provide tax relief by limiting expansion of taxpayer-funded services
- reject "free everything" for illegals
- end costs for DEI

DuPage County Board District 3



Who is Lucy Chang Evans?

Requests for a response to The Hins-

dalean's candidate questionnaire went unanswered. On her website, www.lucyfordupage.com, the Democrat describes herself as a first generation Chinese American who has worked as a Secret Service agent and engineer and spent time as a stay-at-home mom. She has an MBA from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a bachelor's in civil engineering from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. She also holds project manager certification from the Project Management Institute.

Why is she running?

A DuPage County Board member since 2022, she wants to continue to serve her community on the county board. She is chair of the judicial and public safety committee and a member of the stormwater, transportation, environmental and intergovernmental committees.

Most important issue

She is focusing her work in her areas of expertise: safety, climate resilient infrastructure, transportation and mobility.

Steps to address it

None listed on website.

Other top priorities

See above.



Who is Baron Leacock?

The Republican is a first-time can-

didate who has worked on other campaigns and served on a U.S. congressman's campaign staff in Florida. The Hinsdale resident has worked in several industries, including real estate development, tax consulting and technology start-ups. Currently he trades options from home and watches his three young kids. A graduate of Hinsdale South High School, he has a bachelor's in psychology from Harvard University and a juris doctorate from Columbia University Law School.

Why is he running?

As the first U.S.-born son of proud immigrants, he recognizes the significance of being able to go to Harvard when his father grew up without running water or electricity. With rising costs, an increasingly toxic political culture and too many elected officials prioritizing politics over competent governance, many people are concerned about the future.

Most important issue

Restoring the culture of transparency, accountability, competence and resourcefulness to county government that seems to be at risk as of late.

Steps to address it

Elect candidates who are focused on solutions. Form coalitions of elected officials, professional civil servants and private citizens who care more about results than party or politics.

Other top priorities

- safe streets and schools
- holding the line on taxes
- fiscal discipline
- economic development
- protecting the vulnerable

DuPage County Forest District 3



Who is Linda Painter?

The incumbent Republican, who is also a

precinct committeewoman, has served as a commissioner since 2008. She has served as the Timberlake Civic Association president, Kiwanis Club treasurer, foster dog parent and member of the Argonne National Laboratory Community Leaders Round Table, Timberlake Women's Club and Sts. Peter & Paul Church Council. She has a bachelor's in nursing.

Why is she running?

She would like to use her knowledge and experience to continue the many initiatives and projects she has been working on. She has spearheaded improvements at Oldfield Oaks Dog Park (more picnic tables, benches along the dog park trail, more shade trees) and initiated directional signs and the new Waterfall Glen parking lot.

Most important issue

Continuing to keep forest preserves safe and provide safe access, safe trails and navigation aides.

Steps to address it

Install QR codes on trail mile markers that would direct a 911 operator to the exact location of an emergency in a preserve. Reconfigure trails in Waterfall Glenn to make the Cass Avenue trail crossing safer. Find ways to provide safer access, such as spur trails, to Green Valley from adjacent neighborhoods.

Other top priorities

- carefully acquire more land
- plant more trees and milkweed
- create accessible "Serenity Garden" at existing asphalt circle drive in Waterfall Glen
- monitor how tax dollars are spent
- communicate upcoming forest preserve events to residents via email



Who is Lester Vaughan?

The Democrat is a director of business

development who spent six years on the Darien City Council, four years on the finance and police committees and is the committeeman for his precinct. He has a bachelor's in computer science from Oral Roberts University.

Why is he running?

He believes it's time for new leadership. As father to two young children, he's motivated to ensure natural spaces and species are preserved and protected, to provide access to more people and to acknowledge science and address climate change. With more than 20 years of business and public service experience, he brings an understanding of local government and expertise in building coalitions.

Most important issue

Climate change, which is an ongoing critical threat to green spaces and forest preserves.

Steps to address it

Will advocate for a more sustainable DuPage through investments in renewable energy and will work tirelessly to champion the protection of forest preserves' nature areas, native species and historic buildings.

Other top priorities

- respond to citizens' needs
- spend tax dollars wisely
- get the word out about opportunities to connect with nature to help foster love of nature and historic spaces

Complete election coverage is posted online at thehinsdalean.com