

Winnetka Caucus Council Platforms

Approved October 14, 2015

1. Village Platforms

Platform 1: The Caucus recommends that the Village Council affirm by a resolution that it will not issue debt for any capital project greater than \$10 million without a Village-wide referendum.

Platform 2: The Caucus recommends that the Village provide informational materials to all residents on stormwater management practices including permeable surfaces, overhead sewers, rain gardens, sump pumps, French drains and water barrels. An amendment was made to change “water” barrels to “rain” barrels.

Platform 3: The Caucus recommends that the Village encourage preservation of older homes by reducing the cost of home improvement permits based on the age of the building, the older the house the lower the fee, and that it enact stricter zoning ordinances for new construction.

Platform 4: The Caucus recommends that the Village utilize taxpayer dollars to support activities such as festivals and parades with the Chamber of Commerce as well as Streetscape initiatives, but not for partnerships with private developers.

Platform 5: The Caucus recommends that the Village increase parking limits in commercial districts from 90 minutes to 2 hours and increase enforcement of offsite parking for business employees.

2. Park District Platforms

Platform 1: The Winnetka Caucus supports the further improvement of the lakefront and its beaches. Several of the contemplated improvements could be beneficial to the community. The contemplated plan should continue to be refined using community input so that the diverse needs and views of the community are balanced and the lakefront is sustained as an attractive, appropriate and safe resource for all residents including families, children and seniors.

Platform 2: The Winnetka Caucus supports the Winnetka Park Board initiative to develop a long term strategic plan for Winnetka’s parks. Seeking the input of Winnetka’s residents will be important as the long range plan is developed. Sharing the details of the plan and its potential costs will be important to the residents as the Winnetka Park Board develops the plan.

3. **Library District Platforms:**

Platform 1: The Caucus recommends that the Library Board maintain the focus of the Youth Services Department on children ages 13 and younger. The Caucus also recommends a continued focus on providing foundational materials, both technology-based and experiential.

Platform 2: The Caucus recommends that the Library Board continue to focus its resources going forward on maximizing utilization of the current facilities.

No platform was proposed regarding usage of the genealogy collection as survey results did not support a clear preference regarding the Library Board's decision to close the genealogy room and move the collection elsewhere.

4. **District 36 Schools Platforms**

Platform 1: The Winnetka Public Schools should be the gold standard of education and the beacon of education innovation. After discussion, the platform was amended to: The Winnetka Public Schools should be the leaders in education, learning innovation and setting standards for education in the state and around the country.

Platform 2: Meeting the educational and learning needs of every child through differentiation, best curriculum (academic, technology, socio-emotion, the arts) best teachers, qualified aids and specialists. After discussion regarding survey results and weighted averages, the Platform was amended to: D36 should meet the educational and learning needs of every child through differentiation, best curriculum (academic, technology, socio-emotional, the arts), best teachers, qualified aids and specialists.

Platform 3: Develop consistent, standardized student reporting and determine the best testing metrics/instruments and utilize transparently and strategically to benefit each child. After discussion, the Platform was amended to: District 36 should develop standardized longitudinal student reporting across all grades and schools and determine the most appropriate

Platform 4: Utilize the Winnetka Public School budget effectively to ensure the best programs for the Winnetka students and develop a strategic plan for our surplus based on financial sense, educational needs, future planning and community input. After discussion, the Platform was amended to: D36 should have a transparent strategic plan for the use of budget and existing surplus.