

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 VILLAGE TRUSTEE
2023 ACTIVIST TOOLKIT CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE**

Please limit answers to 200 words.

- 1) Why do you want to be a Trustee? What makes you qualified to serve? 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 Oak Park 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) What policies and programs should the Village undertake to improve its tax base and help local businesses thrive?
- 7) Is it appropriate for the Village incentives or supports that would specifically be directed toward minority-owned businesses? Why or why not?
- 8) What do you see as the most pressing issue relating to housing in Oak Park? What policies would you advocate to address this issue?
- 9) Rental units comprise about 41% of Oak Park's housing stock. How can the Village better serve the needs of renters in our community?
- 10) How can the Village better serve the needs of the disabled in our community? Those who wish to age in place here in Oak Park?
- 11) Last year, Village Trustees passed a climate action plan. What is your opinion of that plan and its implementation so far?
- 12) In their report, BerryDunn consultants noted that there are racial disparities in the impact of policing in Oak Park. This echoes concerns raised by community members who have called on our elected officials to reimagine community safety in our Village. How do you define public safety? How would you work to create an Oak Park where all community members feel safe?
- 13) Volunteer citizen boards, commissions, and committees advise the village trustees. Do you believe that these entities are utilized effectively? What (if any) changes would you like to see to their authority, responsibilities, and oversight?
- 14) In the past, Oak Park has been at the forefront of votes regarding national issues like gay/lesbian domestic partnerships years before gay marriage was legalized, and immigration. Do you think these types of ordinances are an appropriate use of trustee

time and energy? What would you say to a constituent who wanted Village Trustees to take a position on current national issues like protection for transgender rights or a woman's right to bodily autonomy?

15) What role should the Village play in voter registration, education and participation?

16) What approach should the Village 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?

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

18) Please list the three largest donors to your campaign by dollar amount contributed.

19) For those who are currently serving or have previously served as a Village Trustee: What vote are you most proud of, and what vote do you most regret? Why?