

Thank you for participating in the 2023 Activist Toolkit Voter Guide to the River Forest consolidated election. This year's guide will collect articles, videos, relevant web links, and contact information and post them online at [activisttoolkit.org](http://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](mailto: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](http://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.

**RIVER FOREST 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) How would you characterize appropriate oversight of the Village Administrator by the Board? Given that River Forest will soon have a new Village Administrator, what challenges or opportunities do you expect the Board to face in its oversight role? [For incumbents: How has the turnover affected the Village?]
- 7) What do you believe has been the most significant action taken by the Board in recent years, and why? Do you believe the Board acted appropriately?
- 8) How do you define equity? Have recent events and discussions in the larger community informed or changed your thinking? (For incumbents: What steps have you taken to help different identities or communities feel like they belong in RF?)
- 9) How do you plan to solicit feedback from people who may be experiencing River Forest in a different way than you? What barriers do you believe may exist in this process?
- 10) How can elected officials better serve the needs of the disabled in our community? Those who wish to age in place here in River Forest?
- 11) How can the Village encourage and support locally-owned businesses in River Forest?
- 12) What impact can a municipality such as River Forest have on climate change, and how will you prioritize that work among other issues? [For incumbents: What actions have you taken in office with respect to climate change?]
- 13) Do you think River Forest's TIF Districts have been a good and effective use of taxpayer funds? What material benefits have the North Avenue and Madison TIFs had? Should they be continued?

- 14) What are your plans for collaborating with our neighboring communities? What specific steps would you take in relation to the Twin Village Covenant with Maywood?
- 15) What are your ideas for new partnerships with other taxing bodies within River Forest?
- 16) Please list the three largest donors to your campaign by dollar amount contributed.
- 17) 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?