

# VOTERS' GUIDE

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*Contents are responses as provided by the candidates*

## **Voters' Guide to the Consolidated Election April 2, 2019**

*Compare Candidates on the Issues*



# CANDIDATE DEBATES

Township High School District 113  
North Shore School District 112  
Highland Park City Council

*Sunday, March 17, 2019 at 12:30 PM*

*Doors open to the public at 12 noon*

**HIGHLAND PARK COUNTRY CLUB**

1201 Park Ave W, Highland Park



Find our Voters Guide at [lwwhp.org](http://lwwhp.org)



# City of Highland Park Mayor (2 Candidates Vote for 1)

**WRITE A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY THAT INCLUDES YOUR QUALIFICATIONS FOR THIS OFFICE.**



**Bob Crimo  
Highland Park Mayor**

Born and raised in Highland Park, HPHS graduate. Self employed since 1990, have interacted with countless locals, thanks to my ownership of White Hen - Ravinia and more recently Bob's Pantry & Deli at Braeside, listening to a lot of stories and a lot of opinions on how our community could be improved. I'm running for Mayor as "a person for the people" in our community. It's my way of giving back to the community who has been so supportive of me over the years. I live local and will STAY LOCAL.



**Nancy Rotering  
Highland Park Mayor**

Nancy Rotering is the first female mayor of Highland Park, a position she has held since 2011. She has been a leader in inclusive government, making sure that every resident has a voice.

As Mayor, Nancy enacted tough reforms, balanced consecutive budgets, and maintained a Aaa bond rating – something only a handful of Illinois municipalities have done. Nancy led the passage of one of the nation's first local assault weapons bans and fought the NRA all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Nancy understands the challenges families face. She has fought to make the city and schools more responsive to resident concerns.

Nancy's dedication to public service spans decades. Nancy founded the Highland Park-Highwood Legal Aid Clinic, a not-for-profit, providing free legal services to those in need. She was elected to the Highland Park City Council and has served as a member of the Highland Park Plan Commission and Environmental Commission.

## *What do you consider key issues to be addressed in the next term?*

My platform can be viewed on my website [www.Bobcrimo.com](http://www.Bobcrimo.com). (see page 15)

I am running for re-election to continue providing effective leadership at City Hall and impactful results for residents and businesses. As Mayor, I approach each day focusing on how we can best serve the people of Highland Park. I am a champion for inclusive, transparent and accountable government.

In addition to enhancing our community's overall quality of life, I prioritize protecting the city's on-going fiscal sustainability, investing in infrastructure projects to improve our neighborhoods, and keeping our city safe. I will continue to work to advance business development, increase communications, and support human services, environmental sustainability initiatives, and the cultural arts. All of this is accomplished by working collaboratively alongside my City Council colleagues, City staff, government partners, residents, and businesses focusing on issues that matter to all of us. I am eager to continue our work together, crafting a vision that strengthens our community and plans for decades to come.



# Highland Park City Council Full 4-Year Term (4 Candidates—Vote for 3)

**WRITE A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY THAT INCLUDES YOUR QUALIFICATIONS FOR THIS OFFICE.**



**Anthony Blumberg  
4 Year-City Council**

I have served on the Highland Park City Council since 2011. Prior to that, I served on the Plan Commission of the City of Highland Park for six years. As Councilman, I have been liaison to the Plan and Design Commission, the Historic Preservation Commission, the Liquor Control Commission, the Cultural Arts Commission and the Housing Commission. I have also served as the liaison to the Park District of Highland Park, the Wolters Field Advisory Group, and the Park Avenue Beach Task Force.

I received my undergraduate degree from Washington University in 1980 and my law degree from the IIT Chicago-Kent College of law in 1983. I have been in private practice ever since. I have run my own litigation practice since 1994.

I have lived in Highland Park since I was 5 years old. My wife grew up in Ravinia. We have two children whom we raised here.



**Michelle Holleman  
4 Year-City Council**

As a councilman since 2014, I have extensive knowledge of city operations, policy, and priorities and have a strong track record of pragmatic and effective leadership. As the liaison to several commissions and government partners, I have worked collaboratively with School Districts 112 and 113, the Park District, Sister Cities Foundation, and the Historic Preservation, Design Review, Housing, Liquor Control, and Ravinia Festival Commissions. My husband Tom and I moved to Highland Park 22 years ago to raise our three boys and I have a record of grassroots community engagement. When a vocal minority threatened to derail the redevelopment of Rosewood beach, I founded F.O.R. to support the renovation. I directed communications for CLEAR which successfully advocated for the District 113 referendum, served as a volunteer at the HP Presbyterian Church, on the Board and as President of Family Network, and as a volunteer for the Cub and Boy Scouts.



**Yumi Ross  
4 Year-City Council**

I am a 21-year resident of Highland Park where my husband Doug, a third generation Highland Park resident, and I raised our two children, now college students, who attended D112 and D113 schools. I am an Illinois-licensed architect and small business co-owner.

In 2011, I was elected to the first of two terms on D112 School Board and I serve on both D113's and D112's Education Foundations. I am D112 liaison to the City of Highland Park's Human Relations Advisory Group and Green Alliance. I am a long time advocate for the arts and serve on the Art Institute of Chicago's Architecture & Design Society's Board of Directors and the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago's Women's Board and Exhibitions Committee. If elected, I will bring my unique experiences and background, including work in our school districts, art and design, to my work on Council in order to benefit our City.



**Adam Stolberg  
4 Year-City Council**

As a lifelong resident of Highland Park, City Councilman, past Chair of the Plan Commission parent of three school aged children, professional and community volunteer, I understand our community. Throughout my time serving the City, I have considered a broad range of issue related to land use and zoning, sustainability, infrastructure, finance, intergovernmental relations, public safety, traffic and parking, affordable housing, human services, arts, historic preservation, sustainability and more.

Professionally, I am the owner of a property management firm I hold the industry's highest designation of Professional Community Association Manager. I am the Executive Director of the Submersible Wastewater Pump Association, the worldwide industry leader in educational training for municipal operators, consulting engineers and wastewater professionals.

I have a record of solving problems by forging working relationships, listening and communicating. I understand how the City works and the important relationships between our Staff, our sister governments, stakeholders, businesses and community partners.

## Highland Park City Council - Full 4-Year Term (4 Candidates—Vote for 3)

### What do you consider key issues to be addressed in the next term?

<b>Anthony Blumberg</b> <b>4 Year-City Council</b>	<b>Michelle Holleman</b> <b>4 Year-City Council</b>	<b>Yumi Ross</b> <b>4 Year-City Council</b>	<b>Adam Stolberg</b> <b>4 Year-City Council</b>
<p>Budget sustainability – We must continue to find ways to reduce the tax burden on our residents.</p> <p>Inter-governmental relationships. This past term has revealed fractures between some of the many governmental agencies that serve all residents. Some of these entities have demonstrated a territorial attitude towards their missions. There has been a lack of cooperation that has hurt our community by maintaining overlapping facilities and programs and at the same time failing to sustain important community services.</p> <p>Management of infrastructure and increase in sustainability practices – We must continue to maintain streets, bridges, sewers and fundamental services such as Police and Fire, while reducing our carbon foot print and committing to sustainable practices.</p> <p>Clearer, fact-based development. While increases in residential density may improve retail success, this is uncertain in the current world. Large developments can also have an adverse impact on infrastructure, convenience and a sense of community.</p>	<p>Balancing the needs of our community with our financial reality presents our biggest challenge in the next term. The City of Highland Park has a balanced budget with diverse sources of revenue, but like many communities, we have significant financial obligations, aging infrastructure, and a changing retail landscape. We must consistently create policies, offer leadership, and build balanced budgets which prioritize excellent public safety, infrastructure investment, and high-quality services while keeping our community vibrant with arts, human services, and sustainability efforts. Our work must put in place policies which will support a healthy local economy, help spur future economic growth, and hold down the tax burden for property owners now and in the future.</p>	<p>Highland Park has long been a leading community on the North Shore offering strong schools, support for the arts, and well-established business community.</p> <p>One of the most pressing issues is the need to attract more residents and businesses to Highland Park. I will work with business owners to ensure that their concerns are addressed and that the city explores new ideas for developing a comprehensive plan for economic sustainability. I have a deep knowledge base related to D112 and D113 school districts and will engage sister governmental bodies to collaborate on solutions that benefit our city as a whole. If elected, I will leverage decades of experience and contacts in the arts to attract artists and organizations from all over Illinois so that Highland Park becomes even more of an arts destination where more residents, businesses and organizations look to invest their valuable resources.</p>	<p>Our biggest issue is the financial challenge today and in the coming years. We face a number of financial pressures that we must address. These pressures include: The volatility of the State budget, the ability to attract and retain businesses in the face of the impact internet shopping has on local businesses, aging infrastructure and the need to continue to focus on sustainability, public safety and human services.</p> <p>As the City has demonstrated through balanced budgets and healthy reserves, these issues have been addressed but will continue to need constant attention and refinement.</p> <p>We must continue to do all of this without compromising the quality of life and level of service our residents have come to expect, especially if we want future generations to come back and raise their families in our hometown.</p>

## District 112 School Board (4 Candidates—Vote for 3)

**WRITE A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY THAT INCLUDES YOUR QUALIFICATIONS FOR THIS OFFICE.**



**Lisa Hirsh  
District 112**

I am running for the North Shore School District 112 Board of Education because I care about our children, our schools and our community. I am a life-long Highland Park resident, devoted wife, and mother of two boys, a 6<sup>th</sup> grader at Edgewood Middle School and a freshman at Highland Park High School. I attended the University of Iowa as an undergraduate. I continued my studies at Illinois State University, earning a Master of Science in Communications. Currently, I am the co-owner of a successful medical billing service.

My longstanding commitment to North Shore District 112 and our community includes appointments to the Superintendent's Long Range Planning Committee, Vice President of the Elm Place PTO, Co-Chairperson of the Stupey Cabin Harvest Festival, and former Board of Education candidate. I am a collaborative and attentive leader, dedicated advocate, and I believe in providing equitable and high quality education for all students.



**Melissa Itkin  
District 112**

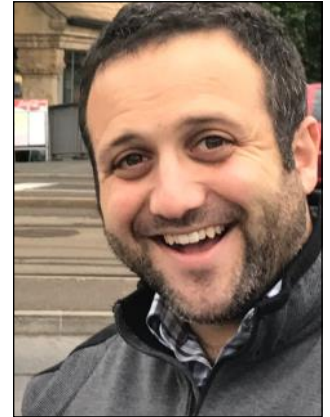
Originally from the St. Louis area, I lived in Chicago for nearly 20 years before moving to Highland Park with my husband and daughter in 2013. I have a bachelor's degree in Journalism from the University of Missouri and an associate degree in Graphic Design from the American Academy of Art. In 2016, I joined the Reconfiguration 2.0 Community Team and served as a co-chair for the education subcommittee and an elected tri-chair for the committee as a whole. Additionally, I worked for the Park District of Highland Park as a teacher's aide and contributing photographer and volunteered with the District 112 Education Foundation FUND Run committee in a re-branding of the community-wide event.

As a transplant to the community, I can see the challenges and opportunities of the district through an impartial lens. I am passionate about supporting educational opportunities for every child and will work collaboratively to meet that objective.



**Adam Kornblatt  
District 112**

Adam Kornblatt has been a member of the North Shore School District 112 board since he was appointed in January 2017. Adam is currently the board Vice President and chair of the board Facility Committee. Adam is an attorney with a primary focus in corporate and real estate transactions, financing, and corporate governance. His past experiences include consulting companies in areas of capital expenditures, tax planning, corporate and municipal finance, and mergers & acquisition planning. Adam was previously a member of the Reconfiguration 2.0 launch team and steering committee before his appointment to the board. Adam grew up in Highland Park attending Wayne Thomas, Northwood, Elm Place and Highland Park High School. He has two young children, his oldest being a current Kindergarten student.



**Jeffrey Schrimmer  
District 112**

Jeffrey has been living in Highland Park for the past 11 years who along, with his wife Jody Elliott-Schrimmer (an educator at ETHS) has three children currently attending Braeside Elementary. After graduating from George Washington University with a degree in Business Administration he went on to law school and to be admitted to the Illinois Bar. Shortly after being admitted to the Illinois Bar, Jeff joined the family business of toys and party items at Windy City Novelty that he now runs and operates.

When not working Jeff loves reading to his children and helping them with their homework and immersing his family in multi-cultural events and activities. Additionally, he enjoys reading literature and keeping up with current events in both local and international news.

While never afraid to speak his mind, Jeff remains open minded and appreciates discussions that help to find common ground solutions to the issues.



## ***District 112 School Board (4 Candidates—Vote for 3)***

### ***What do you consider key issues to be addressed in the next term?***

<b>Lisa Hirsh District 112</b>	<b>Melissa Itkin District 112</b>	<b>Adam Kornblatt District 112</b>	<b>Jeffrey Schrimmer District 112</b>
<p>As a school board member, I support continued initiatives to improve the overall quality of education in our district. All 112 students deserve consistency as well as excellence in our educational process. Further, our board must focus on supporting our educators and continually improving our facilities to ensure that continuity and excellence.</p> <p>Our district continues to have significant facility deficiencies and inequities. As a former member of the NSSD 112 Long Range Planning Committee, I understand our configuration issues and challenges. I am committed to spearheading a long-range facilities plan that underpins the goals of District 112 to provide equitable access to quality educational opportunities for all children.</p>	<p>The district continues to be in transition from a curricular, facilities, and financial perspective. Ongoing implementation of new ELA and math curriculum requires due diligence on progress and a focused allocation of resources to support a full spectrum of learners. Years of austerity measures have left space to rethink the vibrancy of opportunities within our buildings and to plan for much needed modernization. Phase 1 planning for construction at the middle schools over the next several years will bring financial challenges that require the ability to evaluate complex options, and thoughtful problem-solving skills will be key to designing a positive experience for students matriculating through those transitions. As the conversation turns to Phase 2 planning, the need will continue for an open and unbiased approach. If elected, my ability to listen, think outside of my own experience and respond with clarity and civility would put me in a position to consider a broad range of issues.</p>	<p>The first challenge and issue that the district continues to face is student achievement. Our district has a long history of success and outstanding student achievement; and we have not lived up to that promise for some time. Another challenge is re-establishing the community's trust in the district and board; we must continue to take on challenges head on, and in some cases, with some opposition, and re-establish our district's reputation and the community trust. We cannot do this overnight, but by continuing to focus on students, making responsible financial decisions, improving the culture within our buildings and making sure anything we do, we do the right way and do well, my hope is the district will once again meet our community's expectations and be a destination where families go for the best education.</p>	<p>Our children deserve an education more inclusive and adaptive to their needs today than what we had at their age. The constant debate of budget cuts, school closings, and redistricting continues to be a blight on our community that causes uneasiness in our residents and school aged children along with the educators and administrators that are tasked with helping us raise an intelligent and informed society.</p> <p>We need to find a more consistent way of engaging all levels of educational needs that arise in the district from those needing extra help in classes to those that need accelerated teaching to help every child become the best self that they can be while not sacrificing the potential of others in their classes.</p> <p>Our community deserves a concise plan forward to regain our schools once prestigious reputation and to ensure that we are giving the next generation a strong foundation in learning.</p>

# District 113 School Board 4-Year Term (5 Candidates—Vote for 4)

**WRITE A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY THAT INCLUDES YOUR QUALIFICATIONS FOR THIS OFFICE.**



**Gayle Byck**  
**4-Year District 113**

**Kenneth Fishbain**  
**4-Year District 113**

**Joe Tyler Gerber**  
**4-Year District 113**

I have lived in Deerfield for 23 years and have 3 children who graduated from or currently are at DHS. I have been involved in our community, schools, and youth sports organizations during that time. I have been a passionate advocate for our schools and for our children. Our schools are an integral part of what makes Highland Park, Deerfield, Riverwoods, Bannockburn, and Highwood such strong, desirable, cohesive communities.

Through my current role as an entrepreneur and private patient advocate and previous career as a researcher, I have developed strong data analysis, problem-solving, information gathering, strategic planning, communication, and listening skills. My education includes a PhD in public health, a business degree, and training in advocacy.

I was appointed to the 113 BOE in December 2017. It has been a tremendous honor to serve the community and I hope to continue to do so.

I am proud to bring an extensive professional background to the District 113 School Board. Upon completion of undergraduate and MBA degrees at Northwestern University, I began my career as a hospital executive including VP at Loyola University Health System. As my two children, Kevin and Maggie, came through the school system (HPHS 06 and 09) I wanted to contribute to the community by bringing my leadership, financial insight, and board governance knowledge to the district. This experience informed my two terms on the District 113 School Board (2003-2011), including one year as board president (2010). When I was appointed to the board in July, 2018, I drew on my past experience to connect with board members, join a cohesive team, and build trust among stakeholders. I look forward to providing continuity in leadership as we bring long term stability to the district and welcome our new superintendent.

After graduating from Deerfield High School, Joe went on to attend Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago. During his time at Northeastern Illinois University, Joe served 4 terms on the Student Government Senate, as well as on several administrative committees. During the two year budget impasse that disrupted Higher Education in Illinois, Joe was heavily involved in developing budgetary and administrative solutions to keeping doors open and keeping programs operational. After a budget passed, Joe was a part of Northeastern's efforts to re-brand and re-prioritize academic and student affairs and initiatives.

Joe is active in the local communities as an advocate for a variety of causes. He has worked on local community campaigns, teaches at a local synagogue, and volunteers for a local non-profit that supports LGBTQ+ youth. With a background in special education and community activism, Joe is an outspoken advocate for individuals with special needs and other marginalized groups.

## **DISTRICT 113** **School Board**

### **CANDIDATES**

#### **4-Year**

***Vote for 4***

Gayle Bick

Kenneth Fishbain

Joe Tyler Gerber

Michael Perlman

Daniel Struck

#### **2-Year**

***(page 12)***

***Vote for 1***

Michelle Culver

Jodi Shapira

**DHS  
HIGHLAND  
PARK  
DISTRICT  
113**



# District 113 School Board 4-Year Term (5 Candidates—Vote for 4)

**WRITE A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY THAT INCLUDES YOUR QUALIFICATIONS FOR THIS OFFICE.**



**Michael Perlman  
4-Year District 113**

**Daniel Struck  
4-Year District 113**

Mike Perlman has lived in Highland Park since 2003 with his wife Felicia, and their children, Leah, an HPHS freshman, and Samuel, a freshman at Northwestern University.

Mike demonstrates his volunteer and leadership commitment through active participation in HPHS Bandstand, the band booster club, serving previously as its President and Treasurer. He additionally serves as Music Committee co-chair for HPHS Focus on the Arts 2019, a position he also held in 2017.

Having worked in marketing and business management for almost 30 years, Mike most recently owned and operated franchises, including Gymboree Play & Music centers in north suburban Chicago. Early in his career, he served as Development and Communications Director for the Jewish Council for Youth Services, an operator of Chicago area child care and camp programs.

Mike earned his MBA from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management, and his BA from University of Illinois at Chicago.

We have lived in Highland Park since 2003. We have two daughters at HPHS, our son will be there in two years.

Over time my legal practice has evolved to focus on counseling and risk mitigation. This practice has taught me the value of consistent governance and defined processes. This experience will inform my Board service.

I have volunteered on education-related efforts including several 112 Caucuses, a 113 Caucus, the failed 112 referendum steering committee, and the 112 2.0 Committee. These experiences have taught some lessons relevant to Board Service:

- 1) Change is not accepted when plans come out of a "black box." Progress is possible when people feel that the process is honest, fair, and open.
- 2) Solving difficult issues requires communication, finding agreed facts, and developing common ground around shared principles.
- 3) There is much that we can learn from others.
- 4) Criticism of hard decisions is inevitable.



*The League of Women Voters, LWVUS, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League of Women Voters of the US was founded in 1920 prior to the ratification of the 19th Amendment granting the right to vote to women.*

*Membership is open to all persons at least 16 years of age.*

*League of Women Voters of Highland Park and Highwood, LWVHP/HWD was founded in 1928. After celebrating our 90th year anniversary we are now looking forward to the LWV US Centennial Anniversary in 2020.*

*Questions for the Voters' Guide were posed by the Voter Service Committee of the LWVHP/HWD. Photos and responses are as provided by the candidates and were not edited by the LWVHP/HWD.*

Our local website [lwvhp.org](http://lwvhp.org) is a good place to find:

- Upcoming Program Events; Positions on Issues
- Links to Election information; Voters' Guide
- Archived Bulletins/Newsletters

<https://www.facebook.com/hp.hwd.leagueofwomenvoters>



## District 113 School Board 4-Year Term (5 Candidates—Vote for 4)

### What do you consider key issues to be addressed in the next term?

<b>Gayle Byck</b> <b>4-Year District 113</b>	<b>Kenneth Fishbain</b> <b>4-Year District 113</b>	<b>Joe Tyler Gerber</b> <b>4-Year District 113</b>	
<p>Our District has much to be proud of. We are consistently highly ranked, our students graduate and go on to excellent post-high-school experiences, and we have amazing teachers, administrators, and staff. We just hired a new, permanent superintendent who will hopefully usher in a period of calm and an improved climate in the District. In the next term, we want to continue to focus on the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide leadership to stabilize the District and continue to increase morale among teachers, administrators, and staff;</li> <li>2. Continually monitor and prioritize school safety and security;</li> <li>3. Address social emotional learning, including student stress/anxiety and substance use;</li> <li>4. Maintain and improve our commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion - we're here for ALL students;</li> <li>5. Maintain a strong financial position, including monitoring changes at the local, state, and federal level that could impact our bottom line; and</li> <li>6. Improve communication with the community.</li> </ol>	<p>The key issues for the district always begin with students. The board needs to support the professional staff as they provide excellence and innovation in curriculum designed to enrich our students' experiences and develop their potential. We should reinforce programs that enhance student wellness and resiliency through social and emotional learning (SEL) and look for opportunities to improve the transition to high school from our feeder districts.</p> <p>The board will address a change in administration with a new superintendent who will bring outstanding credentials and relevant experience to 113. As board members we are charged with providing oversight and guidance in this leadership transition.</p> <p>Finally, we face the ongoing task of supporting the district's strong financial position through balanced budgets and financial plans that consider risks and contingencies, legislative mandates, and expenditures based on education, programs, safety and the best overall environment for students and staff.</p>	<p>In this transitional period for District 113, it is time to elect new leadership that can build consensus, be thoughtful in long-term decisions, and bring the community together. Joe believes in promoting long term financial stability for our schools while maintaining academic excellence. Other pertinent issues would include promoting and expanding inclusion and diversity practices, and building a relationship with the new district superintendent, aiding them in familiarizing themselves with our communities, and encouraging thoughtful, responsible leadership.</p>	<div data-bbox="1230 380 1502 596" data-label="Image"> </div> <p data-bbox="1252 642 1479 915"><b>CUT THRU THE SPIN.</b></p> <p data-bbox="1219 953 1528 1094"><b>BE INFORMED. THE LEADERS YOU ELECT</b></p> <p data-bbox="1224 1136 1523 1440"><b>MAKE DECISIONS THAT WILL IMPACT YOUR LIFE.</b></p> <div data-bbox="1230 1614 1528 1801" data-label="Image"> </div>

# District 113 School Board 4-Year Term (5 Candidates—Vote for 4)

## What do you consider key issues to be addressed in the next term?

### Michael Perlman 4-Year District 113

Instability in District leadership and direction, stemming from or leading to loss of trust, respect and civil discourse between District stakeholders.

Achievement of strategic goals and fiscal discipline through establishment of a relevant plan of action, appropriate metrics and performance benchmarks to measure progress.

Student equity in terms of access to appropriate learning opportunities, activities, resources and support for a wide diversity of students, their abilities and ambitions.

Collaboration between District schools and our feeder districts, to achieve appropriate balance between curriculum consistency and teacher autonomy, and to improve student preparedness.

Ability to continue providing breadth and depth of course offerings and resources for students and staff, while our enrollment declines.

Teacher retention amid complications of the District's two-tiered salary schedule, changes in State law regarding teacher pay increases allowed over final years of employment, and teacher dissatisfaction with school climate and culture under direction of recent administrative leaders.

### Daniel Struck 4-Year District 113

Issues for the term include:

- 1) Assisting the new Superintendent in building relationships and expectations with teachers, staff, students, parents, and the community.
- 2) Renewing 113's "culture" through respectful discussion.
- 3) Coordinating with feeder districts to prepare new students requires continuing collaboration and communication.
- 4) Preparing students for the future is a core responsibility: 113 must prepare students for a shifting terrain.
- 5) Enabling students to reach their potential requires recognizing that there is no single "right" approach given 113's diversity.
- 6) Helping students face an ever-changing array of emotional, social, and developmental challenges requires flexibility and openness.
- 7) Nurturing the core value of honest, transparent, and collaborative leadership.
- 8) Exercising fiscal control in order to provide for the future is a perennial challenge: stable stewardship and careful planning are always priorities.

This list is not exhaustive: 113 must be prepared for new challenges while remaining faithful to its mission.



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## Today's Issues



**BECOME A MEMBER**

*Get Involved: Make a Difference*



# District 113 School Board 2-Year Term (2 Candidates—Vote for 1)

**WRITE A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY THAT INCLUDES YOUR QUALIFICATIONS FOR THIS OFFICE.**



**Michelle Culver**  
**2-year District 113**

My husband and I moved to Deerfield specifically for the schools. We have four children - one DHS alum, a junior and freshman at DHS and an 8th grader in 109. I'm in the last year of my four year term on the 113 School Board, which includes serving as President for one year. There is a tremendous learning curve as a new board member; however, in the last four years I have gained incredible knowledge and experience regarding the inner workings of our district, the meaning of an effective board member and the importance of collaboration. I also sit on the board of the Deerfield Parent Network and the executive board and parent committee of CTAD - Community - the Anti-Drug. Both organizations, together with my 113 board experience, have given me the opportunity to work closely with staff, parents and community members to learn about the pressing issues that concern our community.



**Jodi Shapira**  
**2-year District 113**

I have an undergraduate degree in k-12 Education from the University of Illinois. I earned a Masters in Education with a concentration on Curriculum and Instruction from Loyola University. I have over 15 years teaching in private and public schools in Winnetka, Northfield and Deerfield.

I have spent 22 years in Deerfield volunteering in almost every PTO job as well as PTO President. I have been a District 109 Board of Education Member in District 109 for 4 years. While on the 109 BOE I have sat on the FDC, EDC, Policy and Safety Committees.

No other candidate nor current board member has served on a feeder district board. This experience gives me insight on what our middle school students are bringing into 113.



**Election Day.** *Tuesday, April 2, 2019 is the next Consolidated Election. All polling places on election day, April 2, are open from 6 AM until 7 PM and are handicap accessible. Any handicapped or elderly voter who is physically unable to enter the voting site may request voting assistance, but, must request so by notifying the Lake County Clerk's office (847.377.2406) at least one day in advance of Election Day.*

**Polling Locations.** *Find your polling place by clicking on the image below:*



**Voter Registration:** *March 5, 2019 is the last day for Highland Park residents to register to vote at City Hall, 1707 St. Johns Ave.*

**Grace Period Registration.** *Residents may still register to vote between March 6 and April 2, 2019 at any Lake County Early Voting Site or at the Lake County Clerk's office, 18 North County Street in Waukegan. Grace period registration is also available on Election Day at the polling place for your current address.*

**Absentee Ballot.** *Requests for a ballot by mail for registered voters must be received by 12 PM on March 8. Click here for a video on [Video: Voting by Mail](#) in Lake County, provided by the Lake County Clerk's office.*

**Early Voting in Highland Park** *is between March 18th and March 30, 2019 at the Highland Park Police Department Training Room, 1677 Old Deerfield Road. The hours for early voting are Monday through Friday between 9 AM and 5 PM and Saturday between 9 AM and 2 PM.*

**Democracy is not a Spectator Sport**



## District 113 School Board 2-Year Term (2 Candidates—Vote for 1)

### What do you consider key issues to be addressed in the next term?

#### Michelle Culver 2-year District 113

The District faces several key issues in the next term including the transition of both a new superintendent and a new board. In order for the transition to be smooth, both the board and superintendent must have a good working relationship and understand their roles. Our new superintendent will set the educational vision for our district in accordance to our strategic plan.

The budget will be another key issue. Our district maintains both a balanced budget and a fund balance, but with looming pension reform we must make sure budgetary constraints stay as far from the classroom as possible. Being a good fiscal steward for all stakeholders is an important role for me as a board member.

The district must understand the emotional well-being of all students while continuing to achieve academic and personal success. Rates of stress and anxiety are increasing and we must understand the causes and how to control these factors.

#### Jodi Shapira 2-year District 113

We need to improve the climate in our schools. When admired and respected teachers are coming to us asking for help and to be listened to: we need to listen. When parents are pleading with us for help with departments or policy we need to listen and do something.

We need to look at our data that we have and have the data drive our educational policy and that will guide our programs and curriculum. We need to properly vet our candidates for leadership and make sure they are the right leader for US. It's my responsibility to ask questions of those administrators to make sure they are doing the job we expect them to do.

We need to be fiscally responsible. With less than 1/3 of our taxpayers having a student at 113 it is our responsibility to spend each and every dollar wisely always looking for our ROI.



The League of Women Voters Illinois has a valuable tool available to the public. Check it out by clicking on the image (to the left) or by browsing to

<https://illinoisvoterguide.org/>

There you can Explore your ballot, read about candidates, print a copy to bring to the polls.

*LWVHP/HWD has a long history of sponsoring nonpartisan election activities like candidate debates.*

*Our next debates will be **March 17th**, starting at 12:30 pm at the Highland Park Country Club; (See poster page 2).*

*Since the beginning of 2016, the League of Highland Park/Highwood has registered **550** new voters.*

*LWVHP/HWD holds several voter registration events each year: at the High School registering students; post citizen naturalization programs; National Voter Registration Day and more.*

*Contact us at [lvvlocal@comcast.net](mailto:lvvlocal@comcast.net) if you would like us to setup a voter registration table at an upcoming event.*



**Remember to VOTE:**

**ELECTION DAY IS**

**APRIL 2, 2019**

# Park District of Highland Park Commissioner (Uncontested)

**WRITE A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY THAT INCLUDES YOUR QUALIFICATIONS FOR THIS OFFICE.**



**Cal Bernstein  
Park District**

I am a life-long Highland Park resident. I attended John F. Kennedy School (now the Lutz Center), Edgewood Middle School and graduated from Highland Park High School (Class of 1979). I received my Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Wisconsin, Madison and my J.D from the George Washington University School of Law.

Over the last 20 years, I have coached dozens of park district sponsored house and travel baseball teams.

I am a former member of the City of Highland Park Zoning Board of Appeals and currently serve as a charter member of the Highland Park Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Re-Elected to the Park Board in 2013, I am currently the chairman of the District's Finance Committee and co-chairman of the Sunset Valley Renovation Committee. I am also the Board's liaison to the Greenprint project team, and the Athletic and Sunset Valley Golf Course advisory committees.



**Barnett Ruttenberg  
Park District**

I have practiced law for more than 45 years. One of my many pro bono projects was the establishment of the Openlands Lakefront Preserve at Ft. Sheridan. I am especially proud to continue pro bono work for Openlands.

I served as chairman of the Highland Park Plan Commission and have been active in the North Shore Yacht Club. That work lead to appointments to the District's Lakefront Advisory Committee and the Rosewood Beach Task Force.

We were all thrilled when the Rosewood Beach project became a reality receiving numerous architectural and parks related awards for its design and the restoration. Marsha and I raised our two sons in Highland Park and enjoyed many District programs, camps and facilities. We continue to be avid users of the Recreation Center, Rosewood Beach and Park Ave Beach and appreciate the many special events we share with our grandchildren.

## *What do you consider key issues to be addressed in the next term?*

Over the next term, the Park District should address the following issues:

- a. Consider the long range lakefront improvement plan at all four beaches.
- b. Improve athletic programs with an emphasis on encouraging participation and competitiveness at all levels.
- c. Promote the girl's athletic programs and ensure that they receive sufficient organization, budgeting and oversight as necessary.
- d. Continue to address hiring criteria and recruitment efforts for camp counselors, athletic supervisors and coaches to ensure that the highest quality people are located and employed.
- e. Implement the five year capital and the Greenprint plan so as to improve the condition of our parks, playgrounds, and facilities.
- f. Continue to improve the budget process with an emphasis on planning and disciplined spending.
- g. Encourage dialogue between the Park District and its users.
- h. Continue cooperation and coordination with the PDHP's sister governments.
- i. Promote participation in senior programming.

### Key Issues and Priorities

My first priority is to maintain fiscal and environmental responsibility as the Park District continues to provide and enhance excellent programs and facilities. The Park Board is implementing the five year Master Plan created with significant community input. The Plan prioritizes necessary capital projects, allowing a thoughtful allocation of fiscal resources and tax dollars. It provides the groundwork for the acquisition and repurposing of the Highland Park Country Club and the renovation of Sunset Valley Golf Course. We must, and will, continue to maintain and upgrade all of our facilities to preserve and enhance what we have as we control future expenditures. In addition, we must utilize sustainable and environmentally friendly technology where feasible.





# CANDIDATE INFORMATION

**Click on the Candidate's Name below to navigate to their biography page**

*\* Emails and Websites/Facebook Pages were submitted by the candidates in response to the LWVHP/HWD questionnaire.*

Office	Candidate	* Email	* Website
Mayor City of Highland Park	<a href="#">Bob Crimo</a>	<a href="mailto:BobCrimo@gmail.com">BobCrimo@gmail.com</a>	<a href="http://www.BobCrimo.com">www.BobCrimo.com</a>
Mayor City of Highland Park	<a href="#">Nancy Rotering</a>	<a href="mailto:nancy@friendsofnancy.com">nancy@friendsofnancy.com</a>	<a href="http://FriendsOfNancy.com">FriendsOfNancy.com</a>
City Council of Highland Park	<a href="#">Anthony Blumberg</a>	<a href="mailto:aeb@ablumberg.com">aeb@ablumberg.com</a>	<a href="http://tonyblumberg.com">tonyblumberg.com</a>
City Council of Highland Park	<a href="#">Michelle Holleman</a>	<a href="mailto:ElectMichelle@michelleholleman.com">ElectMichelle@michelleholleman.com</a>	<a href="http://michelleholleman.com">michelleholleman.com</a>
City Council of Highland Park	<a href="#">Yumi Ross</a>	<a href="mailto:yross@rossgroup.net">yross@rossgroup.net</a>	
City Council of Highland Park	<a href="#">Adam Stolberg</a>	<a href="mailto:info@friendsofadamstolberg.com">info@friendsofadamstolberg.com</a>	<a href="http://friendsofadamstolberg.com">friendsofadamstolberg.com</a>
North Shore School District 112	<a href="#">Lisa Hirsh</a>	<a href="mailto:lchirsh@att.net">lchirsh@att.net</a>	<a href="https://facebook.com/lisahirshnssd112schoolboard/">facebook.com/ lisahirshnssd112schoolboard/</a>
North Shore School District 112	<a href="#">Melissa Itkin</a>	<a href="mailto:melissaitkin@hotmail.com">melissaitkin@hotmail.com</a>	<a href="http://www.melissaitkin112.com">www.melissaitkin112.com</a>
North Shore School District 112	<a href="#">Adam Kornblatt</a>		
North Shore School District 112	<a href="#">Jeffrey Schrimmer</a>	<a href="mailto:jschrimmer@gmail.com">jschrimmer@gmail.com</a>	<a href="http://www.friendsofjeffrey.com">www.friendsofjeffrey.com</a>
Township High School District 113	<a href="#">Gayle Byck</a>	<a href="mailto:gaylebyck@comcast.net">gaylebyck@comcast.net</a>	<a href="https://facebook.com/ByckforD113/">facebook.com/ByckforD113/</a>
Township High School District 113	<a href="#">Kenneth Fishbain</a>	<a href="mailto:kenfishbain@gmail.com">kenfishbain@gmail.com</a>	
Township High School District 113	<a href="#">Joe Tyler Gerber</a>	<a href="mailto:joefor113@gmail.com">joefor113@gmail.com</a>	
Township High School District 113	<a href="#">Michael Perlman</a>	<a href="mailto:Perlman4D113@gmail.com">Perlman4D113@gmail.com</a>	<a href="https://facebook.com/Perlman4D113/">facebook.com/Perlman4D113/</a>
Township High School District 113	<a href="#">Daniel Struck</a>	<a href="mailto:danstrucko208@gmail.com">danstrucko208@gmail.com</a>	<a href="http://danstruckdist113board">danstruckdist113board</a>
Township High School District 113 2-year	<a href="#">Michelle Culver</a>	<a href="mailto:culvermom@gmail.com">culvermom@gmail.com</a>	
Township High School District 113 2-year	<a href="#">Jodi Shapira</a>	<a href="mailto:brunochief@att.net">brunochief@att.net</a>	
Park District of Highland Park (uncontested)	<a href="#">Cal Bernstein</a>	<a href="mailto:cbernstein@pdhp.org">cbernstein@pdhp.org</a>	
Park District of Highland Park (uncontested)	<a href="#">Barnett Ruttenberg</a>	<a href="mailto:bruttenberg@pdhp.org">bruttenberg@pdhp.org</a>	

**Note: There will be 4 uncontested Alderman positions on the ballot for City of Highwood residents:  
4-year: Michael Fiore, Andy Peterson, M. Brad Slavin; and 2-year: James Levi**

## About the Voters Guide

Questions were posed by the Voter Service Committee of the LWVHP/HWD.  
Responses are as provided by the candidates and were not edited by the LWVHP/HWD.



The questions, receipt of information and publishing for this guide have been contributed by LWVHP/HWD members:  
**Editor: Nancy Goldberg; Rose Feder, Bryna Gamson, Judy Miller, Carole Kohn, and Marlene Senescu**