

# VOTERS GUIDE

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*Contents are responses as provided by the candidates*

## **Voters Guide to the Consolidated Election**

**April 4, 2023**

*Compare Candidates on the Issues*



# Candidate Forum

**Sunday, March 5, 2023, 1:00 PM**

**Highland Park Country Club**

**1201 Park Avenue West - Highland Park**

Listed below in segment order with candidates in alphabetical order

## Highwood City Council

Starting at 1:00 pm

**Four (4) Candidates Running for Three (3) Positions**

**Michael Fiore**

**Cindy Hamilton**

**Andy Peterson**

**M. Brad Slavin**

## Highland Park City Council

Starting at 2:30 pm

**Five (5) Candidates Running for Three (3) Positions**

**Anthony E. Blumberg**

**Jeffrey Ray Hoobler**

**Kelly Nichols**

**Yumi Ross**

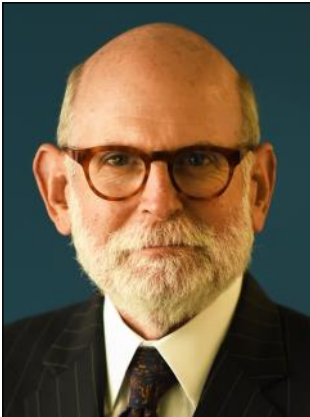
**Adam Stolberg**



Visit our website &  
consider joining LWV

# City of Highland Park Councilmembers Full 4-Year Term ( 5 Candidates—Vote for 3)

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



**Tony Blumberg**  
**City Council**

I have served on our City Council since 2011. I am the liaison to the Housing Commission; Historic Preservation Commission and North Shore School District 113. My past liaison assignments included the Plan and Design, Cultural Arts and, Liquor Control Commissions, the Park District of Highland Park, the Wolters Field Advisory Group, and the Park Avenue Beach Task Force.

I have a BA from Washington University (1980) and a law degree from IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law (1983). I have been in private practice ever since. I have run my own litigation practice since 1994. I am the only practicing attorney on the Council or in this race.

I have been a resident of Highland Park for almost 60 years. My wife grew up in Ravinia. We raised our two children here. If re-elected, I will be the only member of the City Council over the age of 65.



**Jeff Hoobler**  
**City Council**

In addition to continuing support of the very good work the City has done on public safety, infrastructure, and fiscal stability, as a City Council Member, I would advocate to accelerate current plans and design and develop new policies that prioritize economic and business development, vibrancy, the environment, and inclusion.

Born and raised: Norfolk, Nebraska to two school teachers, Dennis and Marion

Education: University of Nebraska - Lincoln, BS Mechanical Engineering; Georgia Tech, MS Mechanical Engineering

Professional: 5 years, Sundstrand Aerospace, designed electrical motors/generators; 2004: Moved to Chicago, designed truck engines, and started working in real estate; 2007: Married Athena, Neonatologist, Lurie Children's Hospital; 2009: Real Estate Brokers License; 2012: Managing Brokers License, CN Realty; 2012: Moved to Highland Park; 2015: Established Ravinia Brewing Company with partners; 2018 - 2020: Opened Ravinia Brewing and BWB Shakes, Highland Park; 2021: Opened Ravinia Brewing Production Facility and Taproom in Logan Square, Chicago.



**Kelly Nichols**  
**City Council**

I am a ten-year resident of Highland Park. I'm married, with elementary school-aged twins in the dual language program. I've been on the City of Highland Park's Sustainability Advisory Group for eight years and currently serve as the chair. Professionally, I have worked extensively as a community organizer, a policy and advocacy specialist, and a coalition coordinator. These skills give me expertise in policy and collaboration with community members, organizations, and other governmental bodies which enables me to better serve our city. I also co-own a business with two other women which teaches home improvement skills. My diverse experiences in work and life allow me to understand and engage with a wide range of people, finding solutions to their issues and concerns. I have always worked for equity, comprehensive inclusion, and policies that have a community-wide benefit. I will bring a unique perspective and new expertise to the City Council.



**CUT  
THRU  
THE  
SPIN.**

**BE INFORMED.  
THE LEADERS  
YOU ELECT**

**MAKE  
DECISIONS  
THAT WILL  
IMPACT  
YOUR LIFE.**





## City of Highland Park Councilmembers Full 4-Year Term (5 Candidates—Vote for 3)

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



**Yumi Ross**  
City Council

I am an architect and have served throughout our community. I am Board President of The Art Center Highland Park where we have done groundbreaking work and was Co-President of the D113 Education Foundation where I also helped innovate. I serve on D113's and D112's Education Foundations, and the Board of Family Service of Lake County. I served eight years on D112 school board, was board representative to NSSD, to City of Highland Park's Human Relations Commission, to the City's Green Alliance of school districts, Highland Park Library, Highland Park Hospital, and the City, an alliance that met regularly to share progress and ideas regarding green sustainable work. On City Council, I will be a unique voice for better urban design which includes helping local businesses. Having worked with all sister governments, I can weave all aspects of our community together to effect positive change and help revitalize Highland Park.



**Adam Stolberg**  
City Council

Adam Stolberg was elected to the City Council in 2017 for a two year term. He was re-elected to his first four year term in 2019. He is a product of Highland Park Schools and attended the University of Illinois and received his degree in Agricultural Economics.

As your City Council Member, over the last six years, focusing my energy on initiatives that enhanced our community and quality of life, I have put my professional and volunteer experience to work for the residents of Highland Park. Using my background in real estate and applying my perspective as a small business owner, my voice has been essential to conversations and policy decisions that impact how we live, work and play. In all my decision making, I have prioritized fiscal responsibility, public safety, investment in infrastructure, collaborating with our sister governments, and dedicating significant time and support to enhancing business development.



### Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

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 was founded in 1928. In 2011 we became the League of Women Voters of Highland Park-Highwood.

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.

*The League of Women Voters is dedicated to ensuring that every eligible citizen has the ability to participate in the democratic process. Candidate Forums and Voters Guides are part of our League's focus on Voter Services and Voter Education.*

Our local website [lwvhp.org](http://lwvhp.org) is a good place to find upcoming programs and voter information.

Find out about our programs ...


Add me to League's [Mailings](#)

Interested in joining League?

[Join LWVHP-HWD](#)

## City of Highland Park Councilmembers Full 4-Year Term (5 Candidates—Vote for 3)

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

<b>Tony Blumberg</b> <b>City Council</b>	<b>Jeff Hoobler</b> <b>City Council</b>	<b>Kelly Nichols</b> <b>City Council</b>	<div data-bbox="1218 268 1542 1470"> <p><b>Voter</b></p> <p><b>Information</b></p> <p><b>Consolidated Election Day is April 4th</b></p> <p><b>Vote by mail Begins Feb 23rd</b></p> <p><b>Early Voting in HP is March 20th to April 3rd</b></p> <p><b>The most convenient early voting site for HP-HWD is at the Highland Park Public Library</b></p> <p><b>Voters may request mail-in ballots now at <a href="http://LakeVoterPower.info">LakeVoterPower.info</a>.</b></p> </div> <div data-bbox="1218 1596 1542 1806">  </div>
<p>Recovery from the July 4<sup>th</sup> tragedy and the pandemic are the most significant issues we face as a community. These events affect every aspect of our lives including the revitalization of our downtown, public health and safety and cooperation. How we treat each other defines who we are as a community. I have helped residents work through issues with neighbors, the City and in productive, positive ways. My candidacy represents stability and transparency.</p> <p>Soon we will be considering how to memorialize the terrible events that befell our city last summer. This affects everyone and everyone will be heard. Some ideas will be followed. Others will not. Retaining our respect for differing views and preferences requires leadership by example. I have filled that role during my tenure on the City Council.</p>	<p>I wholeheartedly support Highland Park's pillars of Public Safety, Fiscal Stability, Infrastructure Development, and Community Vibrancy. Yet, we can be even more welcoming and dynamic.</p> <p>As the small business co-owner of Ravinia Brewing and BWB Shakes, I am concerned about the empty storefronts in our community. We have too many wonderful assets to not have bustling dining, retail, and artistic districts.</p> <p>It's why HOOBLER Means Business - my highest priority.</p> <p>As a parent of three school-age children, I want to do more to stem climate change. Our City can't turn the tide alone, we must all do our part.</p> <p>It's why HOOBLER Means Green.</p> <p>As a community leader, I value Highland Park's broad range of diversity. We have more diversity than most of our neighboring communities. This means our policies, programs, outreach, and memorialization of the incidents of the last fourth of July must include everyone.</p> <p>It's why HOOBLER Means Inclusion.</p>	<p>Issues of public safety, fiscal responsibility, and the future vitality of local small businesses are key to Highland Park's future. As a Councilmember, I would continue putting policies in place that support clean air and water, ensuring a sustainable future for our children.</p> <p>It's very important to look at long-term planning with an eye toward accessible housing: supporting people who want to age in place as well as new families. Increasing density as appropriate around our business district will get feet on the street to support our local businesses.</p> <p>The policies connecting all these issues are rooted in the whole community approach that I favor. My vision is a healthy and diverse community that has access to resources needed to be resilient, connected, and protected both from climate change and the chaos of a changing world. This provides a solid and stable environment for people to live, work, and play.</p>	

## City of Highland Park Councilmembers Full 4-Year Term (5 Candidates—Vote for 3)

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

#### Yumi Ross City Council

Among the key issues are how to revitalize Highland Park by helping local businesses, how to build better infrastructure, buildings, streetscapes, and green spaces, and how to improve public safety. Furthermore, our great arts organizations, enjoyed by Highland Park residents as well as the entire region, can be leveraged to help our city's businesses, improve life for our residents and the overall vitality of Highland Park. I will help build relationships with the Park and School Districts--we are one community. I will work to integrate all organizations in a mutually beneficial and complimentary way. For the entire city to thrive, each part should not be considered in isolation but rather as an urban design whole and I have unique background, great experience, and have worked with all sister governments, to make progress in this work. All entities working together harmoniously is crucial to the revitalization of our City.

#### Adam Stolberg City Council

We have accomplished so much together but our work is not done. We need to address aging infrastructure, financial obligations, supporting those in need, providing for our seniors, and helping our downtown businesses adapt to a new retail landscape. We need to attract new businesses and help assist existing businesses. We need to focus on public safety and create policies that are fiscally responsible, sensitive to the needs of individual neighborhoods, the environment, and the lifestyle of residents of all ages. As a long-time proponent of our inclusionary housing program, I will continue to support those in need.

We know that our community will forever be changed by the tragic events of July 4th. We must pay homage and respect to those whose lives were tragically lost and to the victims who will forever carry physical and emotional scars. I will continue to work to ensure that all who have been affected continue to have access to the resources they need.



The League of Women Voters Illinois has a valuable tool available to the public. Check it out by clicking on the image (above) or by browsing to <https://illinoisvoterguide.org/>. There you can find out if you are registered, important dates for upcoming elections, explore your ballot and more.

*LWVHP-HWD has a long history of sponsoring nonpartisan election activities like candidate forums.*

*Our next forums will be **March 5th**, starting at 1:00 pm at the Highland Park Country Club (See poster page 2).*

**Since the beginning of 2016, the League of Highland Park/Highwood has registered more than 800 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. We have also attended events at Everts Park in Highwood and the Lot in Highland Park. We expect to increase our presence at these outdoor events once they restart in the late Spring/early Summer.*

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 4, 2023**



## City of Highland Park Councilmembers Full 4-Year Term (5 Candidates—Vote for 3)

***Do you have particular environmental priorities, and do you see potential opportunities for connecting climate change-related issues with other priorities in our community?***

<b>Tony Blumberg</b> <b>City Council</b>	<b>Jeff Hoobler</b> <b>City Council</b>	<b>Kelly Nichols</b> <b>City Council</b>	
<p>I was instrumental in passing our dark skies lighting code to reduce light pollution. I supported our code requirements for recycling building materials in construction, and management of our water to reduce consumption at every level. I have supported the expansion of community composting with the Composting for All program, and the elimination of coal tar in driveway sealant treatment in Highland Park. Our City has a policy to reduce greenhouse gases, which I support.</p> <p>A critical element of including sustainability initiatives is managing the economic impact of compliance. Developers consistently agree that they can meet whatever is required as long as it is clear and uniform. My input has helped maintain that goal.</p> <p>I serve on the Leaf Blower Working Group, with neighboring communities' elected officials, staff, and industry experts. We are developing long range policies to address noise and pollution associated with landscaping equipment.</p>	<p>Highland Park has a well-thought-out comprehensive Sustainability Plan. From its recommended actions which have been implemented, the City has become more planet friendly. But we are moving too slowly! The consequences due to climate change are dire. Climate change is already here.</p> <p>The City should accelerate electrification in its purchasing and implementation decisions as well as educate, encourage, and ease processes so residents and businesses can do their part. My home is fully solar-powered since 2017 and my family and business partners are always seeking ways to do more. I fully support the City's composting program, which will be implemented for all residents later this year. I also support exploring additional restrictions including a ban of gas-powered leaf blowers by commercial users. Highland Park's three-year plans are inspirational, but we need a longer term strategic plan to make Highland Park a zero-emissions City.</p>	<p>The policies that increase environmental sustainability and mitigate the impacts of a changing climate will also support a population aging in place, keep our air and water clean, improve public safety, and ensure fiscal responsibility.</p> <p>Reducing greenhouse gas emissions would be a priority for me, along with climate preparedness, which is a less costly investment than managing extreme weather and other climate impacts as crises. Specifically, my focus as your Councilmember would be on decarbonizing City properties and vehicles; transitioning away from fossil fuels in Highland Park; electrifying transportation; supporting local initiatives to reduce lawns and incorporate more native plants into our landscape; and using green infrastructure like rain gardens and bioswales to absorb excess stormwater caused by extreme weather.</p>	<p><b>What is a ...</b></p> <p><b>CONSOLIDATED ELECTION IN ILLINOIS ?</b></p> <p><i>A consolidated election in Illinois is a type of election that takes place on the first Tuesday in April of odd-numbered years. It allows local governments, including municipalities, school districts, and park districts, to hold their elections at the same time. Voters can cast their ballots for multiple offices and referendums on the same ballot.</i></p> 



## City of Highland Park Councilmembers Full 4-Year Term (5 Candidates—Vote for 3)

***Do you have particular environmental priorities, and do you see potential opportunities for connecting climate change-related issues with other priorities in our community?***

### **Yumi Ross City Council**

A longtime environmental advocate, I served on a global warming awareness project team and spoke at the United Nations on behalf of our climate change school curriculum. I strongly advocated for sustainability in D112. Proud that the district saved millions through energy conservation, I shared our progress as school board representative to the City's Green Alliance. My own house is fully powered by solar energy. Sustainability should be considered as much as possible in decision-making. I believe in collaboration with sister governments, researching grant programs, initiatives, and best practices everywhere. I will advocate for more sensitive infrastructure solutions, less degradation of the environment, increased landscaping in public areas and streets, improved public education/outreach, and sharing of success stories, so residents know how to help the environment, help prevent climate change, and save money. This is good for Highland Park, for our planet, as well as for our financial bottom lines

### **Adam Stolberg City Council**

As a Councilmember, leaving a better planet for our children and grandchildren is something I consider in all my decisions. Everything from purchasing hybrid or electric vehicles for municipal use whenever possible and appropriate, to helping write new codes that foster responsible development that include bird friendly glass, green buildings and roofs, dark sky compliant lighting on commercial buildings, and EV chargers on site and in garages. We have offered to assist local restaurants in establishing composting programs and have prohibited coal tar use on driveways. We can continue to do more.

## **ABOUT OUR VOTERS GUIDE**

*The League of Women Voters of Highland Park and Highwood has been publishing a Voters Guide for decades. Since 2010, we have been publishing electronically. Our circulation continues to increase with each election cycle. We feel that the Guide is a good way to let voters know more about their elected officials. We especially feel this is important as our communities have had an influx of new residents.*

*Our League has made a commitment to include biography and key issues questions for uncontested/unopposed candidates.*

*Included in this Voters Guide (pages 12 through 16) are candidates who are running in local uncontested elections.*

*An uncontested election is an election in which the number of candidates is the same as or fewer than the number of places available for election, so that all candidates are guaranteed to be elected.*





## City of Highwood Alderpersons Full 4-Year Term (4 Candidates—Vote for 3)

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



**Michael Fiore  
Aldersperson**

My wife Nancy and I along with our two children are Life Time Highwood Residents. I have attended Oak Terrace, Northwood and Highland Park High School.

I am committed to our generational community. I began my public service in Highwood when I served as Chairman of the Highwood Zoning Board. I was also a member of the Highwood Home Rule Task Force. Currently, as an Alderman I am proud to have served the residents of the City of Highwood since 2007.

I am proud that I have been part of a City Council that has worked together over the last decade to restore our great City of Highwood. I am not finished. There is still work to be done. I want to continue to serve the residents of the City of Highwood to make sure our Neighborhoods continue to grow along with making our Business District prosper.



**Cindy Hamilton  
Aldersperson**

A 14-year veteran of Highwood, I'm a working mother of three children. I've been an engaged volunteer and helpful neighbor, supporting Oak Terrace Elementary School, a robust Highwood Library and Community Center, and efforts to push back on encroaching Fort Sheridan commercial development. My professional background is in retail as I've worked five+ years managing Nike's midwest community investments, communications and civics — working to get more people to vote. I'm running for office because of my deep commitment to public service and community-building efforts — without any Highwood business ties. For example, I've baked and delivered meals as a Lasagna Love volunteer for several years, I built pandemic fundraising efforts to support Highwood restaurant workers in partnership with Mano a Mano Family Resource Center, and I'm a proud Spanish language learner thanks to the Highwood Library's educational resources.



**Andy Peterson  
Aldersperson**

- My family has lived in Highwood for over 100 years, and I am presently raising 4 kids in our community. I have served on the Highwood City Council since 2011, continuing a longstanding family tradition of civic service that includes both my late grandfather and great aunt previously serving on the City Council (the latter with the unique distinction of being its first women member).
- For me, the motivation to civic service is uncomplicated. It is simply about safeguarding and progressing the qualities that define Highwood and that a great many of us enjoy and appreciate (i.e., safety, diversity, rich history, fun, relative affordability).
- To that end, I am really proud of the concrete progress the Mayor and City Council have made over the past decade and hope to earn the opportunity to continue this momentum. No one will work harder than me at listening, thinking, communicating, and doing for our community.



**M. Brad Slavin  
Aldersperson**

I raised my children in Highland Park until 2009 when I moved to Highwood. My children attended Wayne Thomas, Northwood and Highland Park High School. My decision to move to Highwood is one of the best I have ever made. I also chose Highwood for my Farmers Insurance office. Highwood is a vital part of my daily life, and I will continue to do everything I can to make Highwood the best place to live in the area.

In addition to being an Alderman man for 10 years, I've been a very active member of the Celebrate Highwood charity and for the last two years, its' President. I am proud of the work we do and giving back to my community. We provide an incredible assortment of festivals and community events. My heavy Involvement with the charity, record of achievement, tenure and active participation as Alderman makes me highly qualified to continue the work I began a decade ago.

## City of Highwood Alderpersons Full 4-Year Term (4 Candidates—Vote for 3)

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

Michael Fiore Aldersperson	Cindy Hamilton Aldersperson	Andy Peterson Aldersperson	M. Brad Slavin Aldersperson
<p>To continue the momentum that I have been a part of on the City Council for the last decade. Specifically, making sure we keep up with the infrastructure repairs in our neighborhoods. Continue to support and promote Public Safety. Lastly, making sure we help new business come to town and are successful. If they succeed we succeed. We all will continue to grow and prosper as a whole. We are Highwood Strong.</p>	<p>I will prioritize smart, strategic development that supports downtown businesses. I will carefully consider housing opportunities that can maintain our city's charm, while limiting TIF usage to ensure our tax dollars go to city services and schools, and not wealthy developers. I will ensure our Highwood Library and Community Center — a recipient of the National Medal for Museum and Library Services — continues to thrive without inappropriate pressure and threats from Aldermen. I will push back on commercial development in Fort Sheridan, one of only 1600 national historic landmarks in the US. I will explore continued investment in infrastructure and beautification projects like Everts Park. I will push Highwood City Council to take a more active role in reopening our Fort Sheridan lakefront access. I will highlight conflicts of interest that may come up during development decisions, given City Council members' business and property ownership.</p>	<p>1) Put a moratorium on additional large scale redevelopment and 2) continue disciplined investment of public funds and other resources in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business friendly: Reduce unwarranted red tape &amp; fees and support Celebrate Highwood &amp; Chamber of Commerce events</li> <li>• Employee compensation: Regular merit-based pay increases for the day-to-day operators of the city</li> <li>• Finance: Overfund cash reserves &amp; pension funds and borrow only when mission critical or otherwise sensible</li> <li>• Infrastructure: Prioritized preventative maintenance, repairs &amp; reconstruction</li> <li>• Library &amp; Community Center: Support the Board to carry out its strategic plan</li> <li>• Neighborhood livability: Dedicated &amp; trained personnel and purposeful policies &amp; programs</li> <li>• Public safety: Dedicated &amp; trained personnel and purposeful policies &amp; equipment</li> <li>• Public spaces: Improve existing parks as well as evaluate opportunities to develop new ones along with broader beautification policies &amp; programs</li> <li>• Relative affordability: Look for opportunities to reduce resident fees, hold the line on property taxes &amp; creatively using available tools to stimulate economic development</li> <li>• Revitalizing blighted properties: Targeted investments along with other available tools</li> </ul>	<p>It is my strong desire to continue the work and progress we have made in Highwood. My effort has helped make it a thriving, safe and desirable place to live, work and play. The key to going forward is to continue to be open-minded and forward thinking. Continued work on Public Safety, Financial Management, Infrastructure, Public Space, Economic Development and Support for the Highwood Library and Community Center. Work also needs to keep Highwood an affordable place to live.</p>

## City of Highwood Alderpersons Full 4-Year Term (4 Candidates—Vote for 3)

***If elected to the City of Highwood Council, how do you envision ways to promote better voter participation?***

<b>Michael Fiore Aldersperson</b>	<b>Cindy Hamilton Aldersperson</b>	<b>Andy Peterson Aldersperson</b>	<b>M. Brad Slavin Aldersperson</b>
<p>That is a great question. Unfortunately, very difficult to answer. As everyone is aware voter turnout on off year elections are low. The reason I got involved is that I did not like certain aspects of our local government. Instead of barking I started to go to meetings to learn what was actually going on. I then decided I can make a difference. I believe I have. Therefore, citizens of Highwood should try to become more involved. Come to our meetings. Volunteer and join one of our many committees. Our meetings rarely have anyone in attendance. My interpretation is that we have been doing a great job.</p>	<p>As a former non-partisan Lake County voter registrar, I love this question! There is much work to be done electorally, given low turnout numbers in the 2019 Consolidated Elections (there was some improvement in 2021!). Some of my ideas include: the City Council can use its connections to downtown businesses and Celebrate Highwood events to offer opportunities to register voters and educate folks about the local election calendar — can we partner with the landlords of the new apartment complexes and encourage them to hand out voter registration forms along with leases? Materials and outreach can be executed in both English and Spanish. Automated city communications like the Highwood News Flash can be modified to include election and voter registration information.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify evidence-based practices successfully used in other cities to promote better voter participation.</li> <li>• Develop a plan – informed by the above practices - to 1) register unregistered voters and 2) increase turnout among registered voters.</li> <li>• Identify potential partners to help execute the plan.</li> <li>• Execute the plan.</li> </ul>	<p>Highwood voter turnout is traditionally low, especially in off-year elections. By working with the City and the Highwood Library and Community Center we need to have an on-going program of outreach. This needs to include assistance with voter registration and disseminating more information about items that are of interest and consequence to the residents of Highwood. I would also like to see more participation in our City Council meetings; it is unusual to have more than a few residents attend any given meeting.</p>



## Mayor, City of Highland Park | Park District of Highland Park, Commissioner

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



**Nancy Rodkin Rotering**  
Mayor

Nancy Rodkin Rotering was elected Mayor of Highland Park in 2011 and re-elected in 2015 and 2019. As the first woman elected Mayor, she reformed city government and built a culture of transparency, collaboration, and ethics. In her role as Mayor, Nancy has led the City in prioritizing fiscal re-

sponsibility, including maintaining a Aaa bond rating, investing heavily in infrastructure and public safety, and promoting community strength and vibrancy. She has fought to prevent gun violence for over a decade.

An attorney for more than 30 years, Nancy is a graduate of the University of Chicago Law School, has an MBA from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management, and a BA from Stanford University in Economics. She is also a graduate of Highland Park High School, Edgewood Middle School, and Braeside Elementary School. Nancy and her husband Rob proudly raised their four sons in Highland Park.



**Terry Grossberg**  
Park District

I am a lifelong resident of Highland Park, where I have raised my two children who attended District 112 and 113 schools. I am a collaborative and attentive leader, dedicated advocate, and I believe in providing equitable education for all students. My service to District 112 began in 2019.

Currently, I am the Vice-President of the NSSD 112 Board of Education. I also serve on the Leadership Council for True North Educational Cooperative 804 (formerly NSSD). I am the district liaison to the City Of Highland Park's Human Relations Advisory Group, I serve as the Board representative for the NSSD 112 Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee and I am a member of the NSSD 112 Policy Committee. It has been an honor and privilege to serve my community the past four years.

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

I look forward to continuing to work with my City Council colleagues and City staff on our City's four policy priorities: fiscal stability, public safety, infrastructure investment, and community vibrancy. Encouraging public engagement and collaborating with our sister governments will allow us to meet our community's needs responsibly now and in the future.

Major issues continue to include:

- Minimizing the impacts of variable revenues and expenditures
- Ensuring that our personnel have the best tools and technology available to safeguard our community
- Planning and managing short- and long-term infrastructure investment
- Prioritizing the retention and recruitment of local businesses

Last summer's mass shooting will continue to be an important part of our decision-making. The heartbreaking individual and collective experiences of our community will inform our on-going effort to create a permanent memorial, remembering the seven individuals who were taken too soon, and those who were harmed, still working to move forward.

The key issues which need to be addressed include what to do with our aging West Ridge Center, and handling the many climate related issues which are plaguing municipalities throughout the country. Increased frequency and intensity of precipitation wreaks havoc with our beaches, bluffs and our buildings and shelters. On the bright side, we are excited by our new passive park – The Preserve, our new boating ramp and breakwater at Park Ave., and an almost completely rebuilt Centennial Ice Arena. Additionally, we are creating more space for Pickle Ball and are in the planning stages for a new – multi level and weather resistant – baseball field at Fink Park.

## North Shore District 112 School Board 4– Year Term

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



**Jenny Butler**  
District 112

My husband and I moved to Highland Park in 2004. We have three sons – a junior at HPHS, a freshman at HPHS and a 6th grader at Edgewood. I graduated from Northwestern University with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and I work as a management consultant with cross-industry project experience.

Over the past 10 years, I have volunteered in PTO leadership roles at Lincoln, Indian Trail and Edgewood and worked closely with District 112 administrators as President of the PTO Council. I am currently President of Edgewood PTO and on the Executive Board for HPHS PTO.

I have also participated in District 112 facilities planning advisory committees and the 112 Caucus. Recently, I led the communications and social media campaigns for Yes to Invest in D112, the pro-referendum group. I was fortunate to work with an incredible group of community members to help pass the District 112 referendum.



**Lisa Hirsh**  
District 112


I am a lifelong resident of Highland Park, where I have raised my two children who attended District 112 and 113 schools. I am a collaborative and attentive leader, dedicated advocate, and I believe in providing equitable education for all students. My service to District 112 began in 2019. Currently, I am the Vice-President of the NSSD 112 Board of Education. I also serve on the Leadership Council for True North Educational Cooperative 804 (formerly NSSD). I am the district liaison to the City Of Highland Park's Human Relations Advisory Group, I serve as the Board representative for the NSSD 112 Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee and I am a member of the NSSD 112 Policy Committee. It has been an honor and privilege to serve my community the past four years.




**Melissa Itkin**  
District 112

Prior to moving to Highland Park with my family in 2013, I lived and worked in Chicago for nearly 20 years. I hold a bachelor's degree in Journalism, University of Missouri, and an associate degree in Graphic Design, American Academy of Art. Committee and volunteer work sparked my interest in running for the NSSD112 School Board in 2019. As a current Board member, I serve as Secretary, Facilities Committee member, and liaison to the 112 Education Foundation.

I remain passionate about providing educational opportunities for every child, and I believe our Board has achieved significant progress toward that objective. We collaborated with and supported the district's leadership team through a global pandemic, a devastating community tragedy, the opening of two newly renovated middle schools, and the passing of a referendum to dramatically improve five elementary schools. I am proud of the work that we've done and excited for the challenges ahead!





# DISTRICT 112



## North Shore District 112 School Board 4– Year Term

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

<b>Jenny Butler</b> <b>District 112</b>	<b>Lisa Hirsh</b> <b>District 112</b>	<b>Melissa Itkin</b> <b>District 112</b>	<div style="text-align: center;">    <h1 style="color: #000080; margin: 0;">See Next Page</h1>   <h1 style="color: #000080; margin: 0;">DISTRICT 112</h1>    </div>
<p>With middle school renovations nearly complete and a successful referendum to finance the elementary school construction projects, District 112 is poised for a bright future. During the next four years, there will still be important decisions to be made about the future homes of the administration, preschool and operations. The School Board will need to provide diligent construction finance oversight to ensure adequate funding for Phase 3 facilities projects.</p> <p>Another key issue will be continued evaluation of District 112 curriculum (both academic and social-emotional) across all schools and programs to provide students with excellent, equitable educational opportunities. District 112 needs to improve student outcomes, help students recover from pandemic-related learning loss and ensure that students are prepared for success in high school. Supporting, attracting and retaining outstanding administrators, teachers and staff in District 112 will be key to achieving these goals.</p>	<p>With the passage of the referendum, the board will be working alongside the administration to ensure that construction projects are on time and on budget. Since the longtime facility questions have been answered, the district can remain focused on its mission, educating our students. Coming out of the pandemic, we need to prioritize social emotional learning for our students and staff. We must improve student outcomes, focus on safety and security, and lead with a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion.</p>	<p>The Board supported academic interventions, curriculum coaching and specialists to address the impact of the global pandemic on student learning and mental health. Ongoing analysis of student achievement data will guide our next steps toward closing gaps.</p> <p>The 2022 referendum vote secured funding for much needed Phase 2 renovations across five elementary schools. These complex and overlapping projects will require astute fiscal stewardship, clear communication and tenacious focus over the next several years. Planning for Phase 3 will include decisions about the pre-school location, district offices and remaining school buildings. The Board will navigate these multi-faceted facilities discussions while prioritizing teaching and learning that supports all students in reaching their potential.</p> <p>As the effect of the pandemic and this summer's tragedy on our students, staff, and community continues to evolve, the Board will implement safety and security measures that protect the learning environment and nurture a culture of confidence and kindness.</p>	



## Township District 113 School Board 4– Year Term

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



**Jody  
Elliott-Schrimmer  
District 113**

As an educator, Ph.D. candidate, and parent, I will bring vital collaborative, analytical, and communication skills that are necessary for each of those roles. As a member of the ETHS English department, I have worked collaboratively to help revise the curriculum. When researching and writing about education, I review data, analyze it, and write about my findings. I understand the importance of using good data to drive decision-making. I also understand how some data can be used to tell an incomplete picture.

As a board member of a local mental health organization, and a current D113 school board member, I know how to lead, motivate, and communicate with people for the betterment of our students' education. From the superintendents to the building leaders, to the teachers and students, I have collaborated and partnered with countless stakeholders, and we've made some important successes as a result.



**Anne Neumann  
District 113**

I've served on the Board since June 2021. I've gained valuable board experience serving as Board Vice President and through my work on the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Facilities committees.

My husband and I have resided in Deerfield for the last 24 years. Our three children attended District 109, two are current Deerfield High School students and one is a 2021 graduate.

I am a working Board Member for CATCH Inc. Community Action Together for Children's Health, a nonprofit organization that empowers families to prioritize mental health in their children. Previous volunteer experience includes PTO Co-President for both Deerfield High School and Walden Elementary School and as a District 109 Destination Imagination Team Manager for more than 10 years.

I have 20 plus years of experience in project management, marketing, and client relationship development. My volunteer and professional experience helps inform my work on the Board.



**Greg Nieder  
District 113**

As a graduate of Highland Park High School, 25-year Deerfield resident, and parent of Deerfield High School students with diverse academic and extracurricular interests, I am keenly aware of the long-standing history of excellence and achievement in the district as well as the important contribution both high schools make to these communities. I will draw upon my career in commercial real estate investment, operation, finance, and development as the district contemplates any required future capital needs. In addition, my background as a CPA and business owner will serve to inform my approach to working with district-wide staff and maintaining a focus on fiscal responsibility, balanced with upholding the district's stated mission to prioritize the needs of students first in all aspects of delivering a 21<sup>st</sup> century educational experience that prepares them for success beyond high school.



**Dan Struck  
District 113**

As is the case with many families, we moved here when we were expecting. My twin daughters attended 112 and HPHS, graduating last year. They are now first years in college. My son is a Junior at HPHS. It has been wonderful watching the kids grow and blossom in 113. All students in 113 deserve particularized opportunities to unlock their potential.

Before beginning service on the 113 Board, I was an active volunteer in our community's public schools. I was active in our elementary school PTO, twice served as an officer on the District 112 Caucus, was a member of both the 112 and 113 Caucuses, and was a member of a Superintendent's facilities committee in 112.

I have served on the 113 Policy Committee since joining the Board and have been the Committee's chair for the last two years. We have worked diligently to align policy with 113's mission.

## Township District 113 School Board 4– Year Term

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

<b>Jody Elliott-Schrimmer District 113</b>	<b>Anne Neumann District 113</b>	<b>Greg Nieder District 113</b>	<b>Dan Struck District 113</b>
<p>I am proud of the work that the Board has done to support current efforts to address the mental health and well-being of students and teachers, but I think we can do even more. There is a mental health epidemic occurring in the United States that is affecting everyone, but specifically teenagers. Students need additional support, and teachers need tools to continue to support them during this difficult time. As a member of the board, I will continue to ask questions like the following: What policies can be put in place to be more responsive to the mental health needs of students and staff? Do our students feel a sense of belonging when they come to school - if not, what programs can be put in place to shift the culture? We will continue to plan goals that align with our school's mission to ensure a healthy and successful future for our students.</p>	<p>I will continue to focus my efforts in the following key areas:</p> <p>Academic Excellence: Ensure we recruit and retain exceptional, talented staff. They then deliver the academic and extracurricular programs that provide every student the opportunity to receive an education that enables them to grow to their fullest potential.</p> <p>Fiscal stewardship: The financial priority is student engagement and learning through a balanced budget. We have demonstrated the strength of the District's Fund balance twice over the last 24 months with our financial response to student and staff needs during COVID and July 4<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>Communications: Continually work on clear, concise communication with staff, students, parents/caregivers and taxpayers. That will foster more trust and confidence. We need to continue to find effective ways to have meaningful dialogue with the community on a regular basis.</p> <p>The future is bright for District 113. I look forward to providing continuity in Board leadership.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continual improvement in creating an environment that maximizes the success of every student</li> <li>• Districtwide fiscal planning, and coordination between the campuses</li> <li>• Successful implementation of the teacher contract currently being negotiated</li> <li>• Provide stability as the district moves past COVID-19 and the events of July 4, 2022</li> </ul>	<p>It is impossible to predict what issues will arise over the next four years. The Board does not set the agenda; we provide oversight and hire one employee, the Superintendent. What the Board does control is how it will approach the challenges and issues of the next four years. We are responsible for ensuring alignment with 113's mission. It is our continuing responsibility to ask how our decisions serve the mission of providing all students with the opportunity to realize their potential through a rigorous and engaging curriculum in a positive environment that foster meaningful relationships, varied experiences, and the cultivation of individual passion and excellence. This mission and the Board's responsibility for ensuring fidelity to this mission, must provide the framework for addressing the challenges that will arise over the next four years. "Cultivating passion, unlocking potential, inspiring excellence – everyone, everywhere" is not just aspirational, it is our duty.</p>

# 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
City Council of Highland Park	<a href="#">Anthon E. Blumberg</a>	<a href="mailto:Tony@tonyblumberg.com">Tony@tonyblumberg.com</a>	<a href="http://www.tonyblumberg.com">www.tonyblumberg.com</a>
City Council of Highland Park	<a href="#">Jeffrey Ray Hoobler</a>	<a href="mailto:Jeff@VoteHoobler.com">Jeff@VoteHoobler.com</a>	<a href="http://www.votehoobler.com">www.votehoobler.com</a>
City Council of Highland Park	<a href="#">Kelly Nichols</a>	<a href="mailto:kellynicholshp@gmail.com">kellynicholshp@gmail.com</a>	<a href="http://www.kellynicholsforhp.com">www.kellynicholsforhp.com</a>
City Council of Highland Park	<a href="#">Yumi Ross</a>	<a href="mailto:friendsofyumi@gmail.com">friendsofyumi@gmail.com</a>	<a href="http://www.YumiForCouncil.com">www.YumiForCouncil.com</a>
City Council of Highland Park	<a href="#">Adam Stolberg</a>	<a href="mailto:stoli690@me.com">stoli690@me.com</a>	<a href="http://Friendsofadamstolberg.com">Friendsofadamstolberg.com</a>
City Council of Highwood	<a href="#">Michael Fiore</a>	<a href="mailto:msfiore@sbcglobal.net">msfiore@sbcglobal.net</a>	<a href="http://www.highwoodelection.com">www.highwoodelection.com</a>
City Council of Highwood	<a href="#">Cindy Hamilton</a>	<a href="mailto:cindy@hamiltonforhighwood.com">cindy@hamiltonforhighwood.com</a>	<a href="http://Hamiltonforhighwood.com">Hamiltonforhighwood.com</a>
City Council of Highwood	<a href="#">Andy Peterson</a>	<a href="mailto:ajohnpeterson@gmail.com">ajohnpeterson@gmail.com</a>	<a href="http://www.highwoodelection.com">www.highwoodelection.com</a>
City Council of Highwood	<a href="#">M. Brad Slavin</a>	<a href="mailto:mbradslavin@gmail.com">mbradslavin@gmail.com</a>	<a href="http://www.highwoodelection.com">www.highwoodelection.com</a>
City of Highland Park, Mayor	<a href="#">Nancy Rodkin Rotering</a>	<a href="mailto:nancy.rotering@gmail.com">nancy.rotering@gmail.com</a>	
Park District of Highland Park Commissioner	<a href="#">Terry Grossberg</a>	<a href="mailto:tgrossberg@pdhp.org">tgrossberg@pdhp.org</a>	
North Shore School District 112	<a href="#">Jenny Butler</a>	<a href="mailto:jennybutlerd112@gmail.com">jennybutlerd112@gmail.com</a>	
North Shore School District 112	<a href="#">Lisa Hirsh</a>	<a href="mailto:lhirsch@att.net">lhirsch@att.net</a>	
North Shore School District 112	<a href="#">Melissa Itkin</a>	<a href="mailto:melissaitkin@hotmail.com">melissaitkin@hotmail.com</a>	
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Township High School District 113	<a href="#">Anne Neumann</a>	<a href="mailto:anneneumann113@gmail.com">anneneumann113@gmail.com</a>	
Township High School District 113	<a href="#">Greg Nieder</a>	<a href="mailto:Greg.nieder@gmail.com">Greg.nieder@gmail.com</a>	
Township High School District 113	<a href="#">Daniel Struck</a>	<a href="mailto:danstruck0208@gmail.com">danstruck0208@gmail.com</a>	

**Note: The candidates in the darker gray rows are participating in the League of Women Voters (LWV HP-HWD) Candidates Forum on March 5th.**

**The candidates in the lighter gray rows are participating in unopposed/uncontested elections.**

## 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; Elaine Adler, Rose Feder, Sue Piro and Marlene Senescu**

