

DAN KAUFMAN

for

CITY COUNCIL

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1. State your reasons for seeking a position on the City Council.

While serving on the City Council, and in my prior service in Highland Park, I have gained a tremendous appreciation for the importance of local issues in our residents' daily lives, including the need to ensure that our City is responsive to our community's needs and provides high-quality services. I am running for re-election to the Council because of my longstanding passion for Highland Park, to continue to serve our community and to provide the trusted, experienced leadership we need to make further progress. I hope to be given the chance to continue to serve our residents and community.

2. Describe the skills, talents and experiences you would contribute to your position.

My work on the City Council is the culmination of many years of service to Highland Park. I formerly served as Chair of the Housing Commission and on the Human Relations Commission.

Professionally, I am a partner at Michael Best, where I specialize in employment law, litigation and education law. I served on the firm's Management Committee and as Managing Partner of the Chicago Office.

My civic and community engagement, legal expertise, and leadership experience that includes personnel management have been extremely helpful in my work on the City Council.

I strive to make well-reasoned, balanced decisions with input from the community, City staff, the Mayor and my fellow City Councilmen. I believe that inspiring trust and fostering collaboration are keys to effective leadership.

3. Write a brief job description of your view of this position, including the time commitment required.

A Councilman is a non-partisan public servant who represents the interests of Highland Park residents and our community related to the wide variety of matters that come before and involve the Council. In my view, qualities that help a Councilman serve well include: civic experience in Highland Park; trustworthiness; excellent judgment; transparency; accountability; being a thoughtful listener and a strong advocate; responsiveness; being collaborative; inclusiveness; passion for Highland Park; dedication; and humility.

The time commitment required to be a Councilman is significant and whatever it takes to represent the residents of Highland Park and our community. That means not only preparing for and attending City Council meetings, but also preparing for and attending numerous meetings of commissions, other units of government and additional community meetings. In addition, a Councilman must be accessible and responsive to our residents and others on a daily basis. Fulfilling the time commitment also requires that a Councilman be able to adapt to changing circumstances and respond to emergencies to help meet the needs of the community.

4. What do you feel are the most important issues facing 112/113/City/Park Board and how would you address those issues?

In the next term, Highland Park needs to remain fiscally responsible in light of budgetary pressures, including financial challenges on the state level and pension funding obligations, while continuing to be responsive to our community's needs. While I have served on the Council, we have met these challenges: we have allocated resources efficiently to provide high-quality services and focused on our core priorities of fiscal stability, public safety, infrastructure investment and community vibrancy. If re-elected to the City Council, I will continue to provide leadership to help us achieve our fiscal and community goals.

I also will look for further ways to collaborate with other units of government and communities to help maximize our resources. In the process, I will continue to use my experience and judgment, and be a thoughtful listener and advocate, to make Highland Park an even better place to live, work, do business and visit.

5. How would you reach out and engage all members of the community?

Engaging all members of the community requires a commitment to inclusiveness as well taking the time and effort to act upon that mindset. I have found that demonstrating a desire to listen to diverse voices in our community; attending a wide variety of meetings in our community; and understanding and responding to the broad range of needs of our residents are instrumental to engaging all members of the community. Signing the "Welcoming and Inclusiveness Community Pledge" as well as serving on the Human Services Task Force and the Senior Advisory Committee are examples of efforts and contributions I have made as a Councilman to help us meet the needs of all members of our community. Engaging all members of the community is important, and community outreach is an ongoing process.

In addition, I have found that being accessible, whether in person, or by phone, email or other means, helps to facilitate the engagement of all members of our community. For example, I often bump into and talk with residents at the train station, schools, Rosewood Beach, on the Green Bay Trail, while at the grocery store, strolling in town or elsewhere in Highland Park. Residents ask questions and share their concerns in those various settings. I follow up with City staff and others as needed to answer their questions and address their concerns. In my view, engaging all members of our community is critical and makes us a much stronger, better community.

A copy of our report filed with the State Board of Elections is available on the Board's official website (www.election.il.gov) or for purchase from the State Board of Elections, Springfield, Illinois.
Paid for by Dan Kaufman for City Council.