

SEPTEMBER 8, 2022 7:00 PM

# BCDI COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

Running for Public Office-101



# WHO WE ARE

**BCDI is a BIPOC & Women-led non-profit organization committed to strengthening Batavia's commitment to diversity, equity and belonging through anti-racist education and efforts. Together we will "Build a Better Batavia".**

BCDI operates within non-hierarchical shared leadership structure where "We recognize each other and meet as equals in our humanity- what exists at the core of us -before relating through roles, status and expertise." [From The Practice of Leading with our Humanity, as part of The Shared Leadership Framework™]

## **Our Leadership Council:**

Robert Buckley, Marisa Pfautz, Chris Lowe & Kathleen Meeks.

To find out more about us please come say "hello" or visit our website at [bataviacdi.org](https://bataviacdi.org)



# GOALS

- Increase education about various issues in our community
- Build a coalition of support in our community
- Help identify ways individuals can support change



# MEETING STRUCTURE

1. Mission and Vision
2. Rules of Protection
3. Norms and Expectations
4. Special Guest Speakers
5. Q&A
6. Close and Next Steps



# MISSION & VISION

**Mission:** Our mission is to cultivate and strengthen Batavia's commitment to diversity, equity and belonging.

**Vision:** Our vision is to create a sense of belonging for all members of our community through our commitment to justice, equity, diversity and inclusion. We understand that by centering the needs and uplifting the voices of the most vulnerable, we all become more free of oppressive systems and ways of thinking. We envision a Batavia that is welcoming and affirming to all - a city that embraces our diverse ways of being and serves the needs of all its citizens, so that all who live here can thrive, grow and prosper.

# RULES OF PROTECTION

1. We recognize that white supremacy is entrenched in our nation, Batavia and ourselves. We use this meeting time to practice checking our own biases and privileges as we uplift voices that are not often centered and to imagine what this shift will look like in our larger community.
2. We understand that we will make mistakes and that it is not a personal attack on ourselves or our character if we are asked to de-center our voice in this meeting space.
3. We appreciate we are learning together about how white supremacy shows up in our points of view and how we move within the world.
4. We accept that it is on each one of us to do personal anti-racist learning and reflection work and that this is a marathon that takes both strength building and determination.
5. We acknowledge our privileges and are mindful of how much time we claim in a conversation. We practice elevating and centering voices that may often go unheard.

# NORMS & EXPECTATIONS

## REMINDERS for Q&A Later:

1. **Questions only pertain to the following areas:**
  - a. Clarification or fact questions. ie. What misconceptions are there we should be aware of?
  - b. What will this mean for de-centered and vulnerable members of our community?
2. Remote Questions: Send to **Batavia Community Diversity Initiative**
3. For people in the room, please raise your hand and someone will bring the mic over so that we can hear the question.

# OVERVIEW

- 1. Considerations When Running for Office**
- 2. What to Know about each Office Position**
- 3. What to do Once You Decide to Run**
- 4. Q&A with Office Holders**





LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF CENTRAL KANE COUNTY

A stylized illustration in shades of blue and white. It depicts four individuals at a podium with microphones. Two people are raising their arms in a celebratory gesture. The background includes faint icons of a flag, a speech bubble with an equals sign, and a person's profile. The overall theme is civic engagement and public speaking.

# How To Run For Office

**HISTORICALLY, LOCAL  
ELECTIONS SUFFER  
FROM LOW VOTER  
TURNOUT AND LACK  
OF CANDIDATES.**

# VOTING IS YOUR SUPERPOWER

**We all know that voting is your voice; that without active participation in democracy, there is no option for change.**

**There is another way for active participation in democracy...run for office. Local elections may be the most important elections.**



**DID YOU KNOW MANY  
CANDIDATES IN OUR  
AREA RUN UNOPPOSED?**

# LOCAL ELECTIONS MATTER



**Our local elected officials are the ones who create the local laws, policies, and budgets that affect us the most. These elected officials run every two or four years with little citizen involvement.**

**Historically local elections suffer from:**

- 1. low voter turnout and**
- 2. lack of candidates**

**Hopefully by providing some basic information on how to run for office you are motivated to fill one of the open vacancies in your community.**



**Note:**

**Here's the small print/disclaimer...Please know that the information presented should not be construed as legal advice. Always feel free to reach out to your county election authority with any lingering questions that may exist.**



**Running for public office can seem daunting but there are a multitude of resources available for potential candidates, which range from basic checklists to organizations that want to support emerging leaders.**

*Again, the information presented here should not be considered a legal opinion or the final answer to questions you may have.*

# RUNNING FOR OFFICE IS A PERSONAL DECISION

Only you can decide if you should run for office. However, some questions you may want to ask yourself include:

- What talents can you bring to the board?
- What ideas do you have?
- Do you have an open mind and not make decisions until all sides of the issue have been presented?
- Are you willing to listen to all perspectives?
- Are you confident to express your opinion...to speak up? Do you have a thick skin since people won't always agree with you?
- Will you be able to support board decisions...even when a decision conflicts with your personal views?
- Do you have a friend who would also like to run? Or do you think your friends would contribute time and energy to get you elected?



# WHAT TO CONSIDER?

Ultimately you want to think about...

**What is *Your* Passion?**

**Schools and education? Should you run for School Board?**

**Recreational programs? Should you be on the Park District Board?**

**Library services? Maybe the Library Board?**

**Or city or township services?**

All these offices/positions need representation of the community because they make decisions regarding programs and policies. This is where your engagement in democracy can make a difference.

In April 2023, many of these local governmental bodies will have positions up for elections. These elected positions are *nonpartisan*, which means no political party affiliation.



**WHY RUN?**



# WHY SHOULD YOU RUN FOR OFFICE?

***One of the reasons people run is to help the community.*** This is the classic reason people run for office. You see your community needs help, and you believe you have the desire/skills/ideas to fill that need.

***Another reason is advocating for causes.*** There might be a specific cause or policy that's affecting your community, and you feel that you can have a real impact on the issue by running for office.

# DO YOUR RESEARCH

There's still more homework to do. You wouldn't accept a job without a job description, so be sure to know...what will be involved when you are elected.

Look at the city, township, board website and attend meetings of the specific governmental unit that interests you.

- Look at the meeting schedule – How often do they meet?
- Read minutes of past meetings.
- Talk to current board members – ask questions.
- How much time is required to prepare for meetings?

You need to know you *can* do this. As you're evaluating the costs and benefits of running for office, you also have to consider what is the cost of NOT running.

**WHAT DO THE  
DIFFERENT BOARDS  
AND COUNCILS  
PROVIDE TO OUR  
COMMUNITY?**

# SCHOOL BOARD

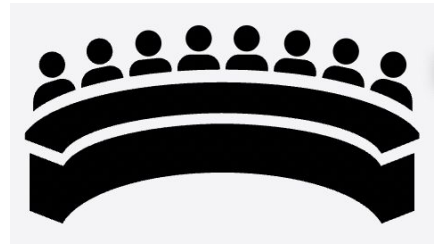


**Board members are more than policy-makers and administrators; they are advocates for students and their parents and entrusted to engineer a better future. Your vote for the school board directly affects the education of students in K-12 schools.**

**The school board is the link between the classroom and the community.**

1. They decide how and what students are learning by setting policies, curriculums, and budgets for the school district.
2. Voting for school board members affects funding for programs like arts, music, and sports; the school calendar; and what time school begins and ends.
3. They hire or fire district superintendent

# CITY COUNCIL



**The Council makes policy decisions to maintain and enhance the health, safety, and welfare of citizens and visitors.**

**These decisions include, but are not limited to:**

Matters of annexation; tax impact; budgets; contracts; citizens' and others' concerns; acceptance of subdivision improvements; establishment of and variations in housing, subdivision, building, drainage, zoning, and traffic codes; and establishing license fees and other charges.

**Requirements for these offices include the same as Mayor and County Clerk.**

1. Council members have the final vote in creating laws and approving a city budget.
2. Additionally, they may develop their own initiatives, as well as responding to the mayor's proposals.
3. They approve or reject key department heads.
4. The mayor usually has more power than an individual council member, and a council supermajority may be required to override a Mayor's veto of Council-approved legislation. Nevertheless, the council has ultimate say on which laws are passed.

# PARK DISTRICT BOARD



**Park District Board Members serve without compensation, locally elected commissioners represent their fellow citizens and interpret their views.** They have the primary responsibility of spending tax monies, fees, and donations designated for park and recreation services. They spend, and spend wisely, millions of dollars every year.

**As a Park District board member, you'll take on the responsibility for** helping to set goals, formulate policies, and establish services that will meet the present and future needs of the citizens of your district.



# LIBRARY BOARD



**The library board are powerful advocates for libraries.** Through the coordination, hard work, and determination of trustees, new libraries have been built, budgets have been restored and increased, and new respect has been generated for the powerful role libraries play in communities.

**As part of a trustee board, trustees serve on a volunteer basis, can be elected, and are tasked with the duty of helping to direct the funds and policies of an institution.**

1. In general, the library board of trustees has a role in determining the mission of the library,
2. setting the policy that governs the library,
3. hiring and evaluating a library director,
4. and overseeing the general management of the library.

**WHAT ARE THE NEXT  
STEPS IF I DECIDE TO  
RUN FOR ONE OF  
THESE OFFICES?**

# Congratulations!

## You've decided to run!

**Next step? Go to your county election and pick up your candidate packet.**



## The candidate packet will include:



1. Statement of Candidacy - must indicate the candidate's address and the office being sought. This form also includes a statement affirming that the candidate is qualified for the office being sought and must be signed by the candidate and *notarized* before being returned to the county election office;
2. Statement of Economic Interests - assures there will be no financial conflict of interest for the position you are seeking. Public officials who make governmental decisions that could affect their personal financial interests must annually disclose certain personal investments, interests in real property, sources of income, gifts, loans, and business positions. The original statement of economic interests must be filed with the [Illinois Secretary of State](#), which will then issue the receipt of the statement of economic interests for the candidate to file with the [Illinois State Board of Elections](#). Be sure to keep the receipt that shows you have filed your state of economic interest as you will need to turn in that receipt when you file your petitions and statement of candidacy;

## Candidate Packet Cont...

4. Loyalty Oath, (optional) - swearing that the candidate does not plan to teach or advocate for the overthrow of the government, and that they're not affiliated with any communist groups;
5. Fair Practices Act Statement, which is also optional to complete; and
6. Petition Signature Sheets - Petition signature sheets must be of uniform size, numbered consecutively, and bound together in book form with one edge secured. The header of each page of the petition should contain the same information.



*You must complete the top portion of each nominating petition prior to circulating the petition(s) for signature. It is important that your name appear exactly the same on the petition sheets, Statement of Candidacy, and Loyalty Oath.*

# General Rules for Petition Signature Sheets



- A person cannot sign for someone else.
- A signer must be a registered voter within the jurisdiction.
- Signer must fill in his/her name as it appears on his/her voter registration.
- It is advisable to use a pen, but pencil signatures are allowed.
- Avoid Ditto marks – but should someone do that – the circulator is allowed to fill in information...other than the voter's signature.
- People can sign as many petitions as there are seats available.
- You can sign your own petition.
- You can have only one circulator per petition sheet. But you can have many sheets, and they do not have to be completely filled out.
- The circulator has to have a notary witness for the sheet that they have passed around. You can go to any banks in town to have something notarized.

*You can prefill in city, county and state.*

# Signing and Circulating Petitions

Any US Citizen can circulate your petition. They must personally witness when someone signs (they can't leave it on a table, for example) and complete the bottom of the petition and have it witnessed by a Notary.

## Collecting Signatures

Collecting signatures following a pandemic can be a challenge. You may want to purchase several pens to give to signers so people don't have to. Be sure to set signature goals that will help you meet the deadlines for submitting your paperwork.





**It's time to turn in your paperwork.  
Follow the checklist provided by your county elections office.  
Your papers are filed, you are now a candidate  
and can begin thinking about your campaign.**



# Strategies for reaching voters

- Door hangers? Phone calls? Social media? “Knocking”? Lawn signs? Will you Participate in forums and candidate guides? Will you answer the questionnaires submitted by local papers
- What friends can you recruit to help...media posts or making phone calls, or holding pandemic-permitting ethical guidelines will you follow?





Once you have your strategy, you can determine your budget and ask for support if needed.

Most local elections don't have to worry about Campaign Finance rules since you do not have to report any campaign contributions until your campaign raises more than \$5,000 of donations or expenditures. This includes in-kind donations.

Once you have your strategy, you can determine your budget and ask for support if needed.



## **Come Election Day...Relax...The Work is Done**

We are hopeful you will step up and run for office. You don't have to have a law degree, have a PhD, or be a Political Science major. What you *do* have to have is the desire to make a difference and be a part of the decision-making process to improve your community.

Be a part of the change you would like to see - be an active part of our democracy.

# ELECTION TIMELINE 2022-23

## Fall of 2022

- December 12-19, 2022: Filing period for candidates seeking election on April 4, 2023
- Petitions may NOT be circulated prior to September 20, 2022

## Spring of 2023

- Election Day for Local Offices: Tuesday, April 4, 2023



# OPEN SEATS APRIL 2023 ELECTIONS

## **Batavia Park District**

- The park board has 5 commissioners and 2 seats will be on the ballot

## **Batavia Library Board**

- The library board has 7 trustees and 3 board positions will be on the ballot

## **Batavia School Board**

- The school board will have 3 of 7 seats on the ballot April 2023 election.
- Summer 2023 Superintendent Retires: The School Superintendent position is a licensed, staff position that will be filled through interviewing qualified applications. Candidates must have a professional educator license with a superintendent endorsement.
- \*Note: The new superintendent will be selected by the current board before April's election, but the community should still be involved in the process

## **Batavia City Council**

- The city will have 7 of 14 alderman positions on the ballot (note there is one alderman for each ward) April 2023

# Q&A

**Reminder:** Please submit questions in the chat to the chat moderator:  
**Batavia Community Diversity Initiative**

# SPEAKERS

**Patricia Hayes Lackman**

League of Women Voters of Central Kane County

**Andrew Deitchman**

Batavia Library Board

**Dan Chanzit**

Batavia City Council

**Chris Lowe**

Batavia School Board

**Molly Connolly**

Batavia Park District



**HOW CAN ALL OF US  
GET INVOLVED IN THIS  
WORK?**



# GET INVOLVED

- **Encourage others to run!**
- **Contact one of our guest speakers for next steps.**
  - Andrew Deitchman, Library Trustee: [andrew.deitchman@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.deitchman@gmail.com)
  - Dan Chanzit, City Council: [dchanzit@cityofbatavia.net](mailto:dchanzit@cityofbatavia.net)
  - Chris Lowe, School Board: [chris.lowe@bps101.net](mailto:chris.lowe@bps101.net)
  - Molly Connolly, Park District Board : [molly@bataviaparks.org](mailto:molly@bataviaparks.org)
- **Contact Patricia Hayes Lackman for specific questions.**
  - [phlackmanil@aol.com](mailto:phlackmanil@aol.com)
- **Continue to follow BCDI on social media and on our website for further resources and education materials!**

# GET SUPPORT

Connect with orgs that specialize in candidate support such as:

**Sheshouldrun.org** (supporting women running for office)



**Runforsomething.net** (supporting progressive candidates under 40)



# STAY ENGAGED

## Be in the know with BCDI:

- Join the **BCDI Membership** group on Facebook
- Attend the **Community Conversations** regularly to stay up to date on issues like these that impact our community
- Visit our website to access this deck and those from our previous Community Conversations.



# STAY ENGAGED CONT..

## Engage in continuing education:

- **Freedom Library Onboarding Materials:** See our partner organization, Freedom Library, on our website for onboarding common learning materials. These are for all individuals to continue doing our own work on ourselves as we move through community organizing together. These common learnings support a foundation for unified efforts and support.
- **Open Source Resources:** Review open source resources on our website that BCDI, and our partner organization, Freedom Library have modified and curated for use in our community and beyond. Our hope is that these can be helpful for other organizations and collective groups working to build more just, equitable and anti-oppressive communities.

Contact [education@bataviacdi.org](mailto:education@bataviacdi.org) for more questions about materials and upcoming discussions about our content.



# LOCAL BUSINESS

We want to uplift local businesses, initiatives, therapy resources, projects, artworks, creative endeavors, etc., from and for members of our community who identify as BIPOC and LGBTQIA2S+ and the allies who support us. Please email us at [education@bataviacdi.org](mailto:education@bataviacdi.org) to add your information to our directory and/or get in touch.

**BIPOC** - Black, Indigenous & People of Color

**LGBTQIA2S+** - Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and/or Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, Two-spirit, and the countless affirmative ways folx choose to identify.



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# THANK YOU!

Please support the labor of this BIPOC & Women-led organization and our upcoming programming by making a donation at our website: [bataviacdi.org/donate](https://bataviacdi.org/donate)



# Contact info:

## Batavia Park District

- Contact Allison Niemela Executive Director of Batavia Park District
- 630-879-5235
- [allisonn@bataviaparks.org](mailto:allisonn@bataviaparks.org)
- The park board has 5 commissioners and 2 seats will be on the ballot April 2023

## Batavia Library Board

- Contact George Scheetz Library Director Batavia Library
- 630-879-1393 ext350
- [gscheetz@bataviapubliclibrary.org](mailto:gscheetz@bataviapubliclibrary.org)
- The library board has 7 trustees and 3 board positions will be on the ballot April 2023 election

# Contact info CONT...

## Batavia School Board

- Contact Lisa Hichens-Superintendent Batavia School District
- 630-937-8810
- [Lisa.hichens@bps101.net](mailto:Lisa.hichens@bps101.net)
- The school board will have 3 of 7 seats on the ballot April 2023 election.
- Summer 2023 Superintendent Retires: The School Superintendent position is a licensed, staff position that will be filled through interviewing qualified applications. Candidates must have a professional educator license with a superintendent endorsement.
- \*Note: The new superintendent will be selected by the current board before April's election, but the community should still be involved in the process

## Batavia City Council

- Contact Laura Newman, City Administrator,
- 630-454-2050
- [Lnewman@cityofbatavia.net](mailto:Lnewman@cityofbatavia.net)
- The city will have 7 of 14 alderman positions on the ballot (note there is one alderman for each ward) April 2023