

**AVOCA DISTRICT 37 SCHOOL BOARD (5 FOR 4 FOUR-YEAR SEATS)****Name:** Dan E. Garbis**Age:** 43**Residence:** Wilmette**Occupation:** Attorney**Past local government/relative experience:** None**Garbis**

**What do you think is the biggest issue facing your coverage area and how do you plan to approach it?**

The biggest issue facing our school district right now is the Avoca Center property. We have to decide how we will deal with a structure that is well past its useful life. We have to balance the need to have this land remain public versus the costs associated with maintaining this property. The Avoca Center could potentially cost the district substantial sums of money to maintain, yet selling public land to a private developer may

cause more issues for the district and its residents. The future Avoca School Board must explore all options in retaining the land such as entering into a partnership with the Wilmette Park District to develop the land and keep it public. Selling public land for a quick fix would not benefit the district in future years.

**What makes you a top candidate for this position?**

As a lawyer with an account-

ing background, I specialize in commercial litigation. I have built my career on representing numerous clients that are facing various financial challenges that often result in the filing of legal proceedings. I am an even-keeled individual that believes in solving problems that would benefit all parties rather than engage in contracted litigation that will only result in depleting the assets of the parties involved in the dispute.

Throughout my legal career, I have negotiated and resolved an assortment of cases from small collection matters to complex, multi-million dollar business transactions that have soured. I believe that through my extensive experience, I would make a strong board member who would strive to keep the District's spending within budget without the need to ask our residents for future tax hikes.

**Name:** Gil Gibori**Age:** 44**Residence:** Winnetka  
**Occupation:** Educational Services**Past local government/relative experience:** Not provided**Gibori**

**What do you think is the biggest issue facing your coverage area and how do you plan to approach it?**

The biggest issues facing the Avoca School District is the balance between uncertain fiscal pressures and improving educational excellence. Avoca is running in a deficit spending environment for the first time since the 2009 referendum. Coming to the end of the promised life of that increase in revenue, the Avoca School Board will need to make prudent financial decisions to utilize the revenue available. With state levied fiscal pressures on the district's revenue — possible property tax freeze, recalculation of the school funding formula and shift to a local pension — fiscal creativity and sobriety will be critical.

We value education in our community. Keeping the Avoca Board accountable to the non-parent tax payer — accounting for 70 percent of the constituency — is a critical responsibility to balance while maintaining the exemplary level education our community demands.

New Trier's newest data on the preparedness of Avoca students and complicated results of the MAP and PARCC tests identify specific areas for improvement. Having data is terrific, understanding the results and executing solutions are essential. As an educational professional, I will bring a necessary perspective to the board.

As nearly 50 percent of our prop-

erty taxes flow to the district, and the quality of the schools define our property value, all constituents, not just parents, require a voice on the board. I plan to be one of those voices.

**What makes you a top candidate for this position?**

A new school board candidate must be extremely informed, period. We do not have the time for a learning curve. The immediate issues are too important. We absolutely must hit the ground running on day one.

Fortunately, keeping abreast of the ever-changing landscape of education is a critical part of my professional life as an owner of an educational services company. I deal with educational concerns and strategies daily.

Direct engagement with the myriad stakeholders in the Avoca community has been most informative. I have had several frank and probing meetings with each administrator. Attending almost every school board meeting over the past year, and village board meetings as well, has given me a global sense of the issues affecting our non-parent community.

Committee work has allowed me to delve deeper into the details. Serving on several high-level committees including the Strategic Planning, Communication, Innovation Grant and the Pupil Services Director Selection committees, I have learned the inner workings of the district from the perspective of teachers, administrators and parents.

I am confident that I can join the board with a strong sense of the district's finances, performance and community's — both taxpayer and parent — concerns. I plan to be ready on the first day.

**Name:** Jamie Taylor**Age:** 43**Residence:** Winnetka**Occupation:** Homemaker**Past local government/relative experience:** Treasurer of Northfield Community Nursery School; Board member of the Chicago Dancing Festival; Volunteer**Taylor**

at Avoca School District 37

**What do you think is the biggest issue facing your coverage area and how do you plan to approach it?**

The biggest issue facing residents in my coverage area is the District's ability to sustain its reputation for delivering students a nurturing learning environment with a tradition of academic excellence given the finan-

cial uncertainty facing the District. My top priorities are to ensure: 1) A vertically aligned, rigorous curriculum from K-8, which prepares students for the demands of high school; 2) The improvement of intervention systems to better assess, support and differentiate student learning; 3) Effective communication from the District to staff, parents and the greater

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**Name:** Jun Yoshitani**Age:** 50**Residence:** Wilmette**Occupation:** Finance, industrial manufacturing**Past local government/relative experience:** None**Yoshitani**

**What do you think is the biggest issue facing your coverage area and how do you plan to approach it?**

Without question, the biggest

issue for Avoca District 37 is the financial uncertainty we face due to multiple factors. Potential threats to funding including a property tax freeze, the shift in pension costs and redirection of public school funds via voucher programs require us to be fiscally disciplined, proactive and creative. We are also in a deficit position for the first time in several years. Due to these factors, it is critical that we align our strategic objectives with spending decisions. Linking strategic

priorities to spending will ensure we make prudent investments and remain fiscally responsible.

**What makes you a top candidate for this position?**

As a results-oriented finance professional, with experience in industries including consumer products and manufacturing, I have the skills required to analyze trends, assess risks, and most importantly, execute on key strategic objectives, all in a fiscally responsible manner.

**Name:** Rick Zelinsky**Age:** 48**Residence:** Northfield**Occupation:** Technology executive**Past local government/relative experience:** Current D37 Board**Zelinsky**

of Education vice-president, two-term Avoca School Board member

**What do you think is the biggest issue facing your coverage area and how do you plan to approach it?**

Avoca Center is the biggest issue facing the next Avoca School Board. Avoca Center

is a former school building that has been rented out since 1977. The Board and the community-at-large agreed that performing the substantial renovations required to a building not used to educate children was not in the best interest of the district. Thus,

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## NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR (1 FOR 1 FOUR-YEAR TERM)

**Name:** Alan Goldberg

**Age:** 73

**Residence:**

Wilmette

**Occupation:**

Retired

**Past local government/**

gov- **Goldberg**

ernment/

**relative experience:**

Two 4-year terms as trustee, New Trier Township; One term as member and two terms as chair of the New Trier Township Committee on Disabilities



**Why did you decide to run?**

I decided to run so that I could lend my experience to serving as supervisor with a solid base of experience on what does and doesn't work.

**What do you think is the biggest issue facing your coverage area and how do you plan to approach it?**

The biggest issue facing the township is to continue providing necessary ser-

vices in a cost efficient and transparent manner.

**What makes you a strong candidate for this position?**

I feel that based on my experience in running the State developmental disabilities council (during the terms of Jim Edgar and George Ryan) as well as more than 20 years as president of United Cerebral Palsy of Illinois (UCP), [it has] taught me how to deliver quality ser-

vices in a transparent and cost efficient manner.

I have also served as special assistant to the director of the Office of Special Education Services in the U.S. Department of Education.

**What do you want most for people to know about you?**

I would want people to know that I believe in giving back to the community that I have lived in for more than 60 years.

and what is essential to implement change.

I hold an undergraduate degree in architecture from the University of California at Berkeley and an MBA from the University of Chicago. My prior work experience includes structured finance and loan syndications for a commercial bank and equity analysis for an investment advisory firm. My architecture education and finance skills equip me with the tools to navigate the sale of the Avoca Center, update aging buildings and tackle budget and financing issues.

to serve the Board as both a parent and, more recently, a general community member. I am a technology professional by trade and was initially drawn to the Board of Education after serving the District as a parent on the Technology Committee that established and implemented Avoca's highly successful 1-to-1 laptop initiative. It's been an honor to give back to the Avoca community through my Board work, and I look forward to continuing to share my passion for technology and to focus on students while ensuring the best use of our taxpayers' resources.

## NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE (7 FOR 4 FOUR-YEAR TERMS)

**Name:** Stacey Woehrl

**Age:** 50

**Residence:**

Wilmette

**Occupation:**

Finance professional/

stay-at-home mom

**Past local government/**

**relative experience:**

CPA/finance degree; Various positions with social service agencies on the North Shore, primarily through the Junior League of Evanston/North Shore; Currently Chair of the Fitting Futures program, which seeks to educate and empower low-income women with professional attire to be confident in an interview

**Why did you decide to run?**

My desire to make a difference in our community. I believe I can help significantly reduce the 35 percent-plus overhead that

currently exists at New Trier Township.

**What do you think is the biggest issue facing your coverage area and how do you plan to approach it?**

My biggest issue is fiscal responsibility with taxpayer dollars. As far as I can tell, the New Trier Township trustee race has not been contested in over 100 years. I firmly believe that since the voters now have a choice in this race, the conversation has begun as to what is best for NT Township. Communication expenses are over \$120,000 annually, yet a very low percentage of our residents actually know what services the Township currently delivers to our community. Could we utilize the building the Township owns to rent out space? Could we share resources with other area townships such as Northfield? These are a few ideas I would like to explore if elected.

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**Woehrl**

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## WILMETTE VILLAGE BOARD

# Mather Place granted Class A liquor license

**TODD MARVER**  
Freelance Reporter

Mather Place will now serve alcohol thanks to a Wilmette Village Board decision at its Tuesday, March 14 meeting. The board voted to increase the number of Class A liquor licenses from three to four to allow Mather Place to have one.

Mather Place has two restaurants on premises for the use of its residents and their guests. The restaurants are not open to the public. Mather Place de-

sires to offer liquor at the restaurants for residents and guests. Since the liquor will be sold, Mather Place requires a liquor license. A Class A license authorizes the retail sale of alcohol by restaurants without bars, but only when the sale is incidental and complementary to the sale and consumption of meals, eaten at tables served by wait staff, for consumption only on the premises where sold. It is unlawful for any holder of

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## TAYLOR

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community as a whole; and 4) Prudent management of the District's aging facilities. I support the sale of the Avoca Center to provide a financial cushion to the District. Specifically, the District is operating at a deficit because it is unable to raise revenues to cover its expenses. Meanwhile, the District is required to invest in a backlog of mandated life safety projects. Finally, given its sparse staffing levels at the administrative level and the

prospect of a property tax freeze, the sale is the best solution from both a financial and operating perspective. However, the sale is a complicated process that impacts many residents so I would proceed with caution.

**What makes you a top candidate for this position?**

I believe the District will benefit from the fresh perspective of a passionate parent board member. I am qualified to serve due to my strong interpersonal and analytical skills. I have attained meaningful

relationships with administration, staff and parents over the past nine years. I have first-hand experience with most services offered by the District including the preschool, gifted programs and support services. I am also a dedicated volunteer. I currently chair the eighth grade graduation committee and serve as room parent. I served on the committee that developed the Strategic Plan, which is valuable because I learned firsthand, from multiple stakeholders, how they perceive the District's strengths and weaknesses

the greatest benefit to the district.

**What makes you a top candidate for this position?**

Over the past eight years serving the District, I have provided thoughtful leadership to the Avoca School Board. As a board, we have successfully navigated through many mandated changes in education (Common Core, Performance Evaluation Reform Act, etc.) while retaining an excellent academic program and a balanced budget. My background in technology provides a unique perspective to

the Board as 21st century skills continue to be infused with technology to enhance learning. Lastly, I look forward to the implementation of our recently created strategic plan.

I have lived in the Avoca School District for the past 16 years with my wife and two children. Both of my boys attended Avoca from kindergarten through eighth grade and are now a freshman in college and a junior at New Trier High School. I've been on the Avoca District 37 School Board for the past eight years, the last two as Board Vice President. I've had the pleasure

## ZELINSKY

From Page 10

the new Avoca Board of Education will need to decide what should be done with the property. Current options being considered include selling the parcel to a developer to build single-family homes, working with the Wilmette Park District to develop the property for a village-wide purpose or razing the building and retaining the land as greenspace. I look forward to continuing to engage the Avoca community to ensure the option selection provides