

Change/Keep Salem Lakes Board

Elevating Expectations for Leadership, Development, and Community Voice

The Village of Salem Lakes is at a turning point. Decisions made in the next few years will shape our tax burden, our development patterns, our infrastructure, and the character of our community. Residents deserve trustees who are prepared, informed, and committed to listening to the people they serve.

Candidate Participation in the 2026 Voter Guide

A sincere thank-you goes to **Dennis Faber, Steve Dunn, Adam Miller, Kerry Verenski, and James Woodke** for participating in the **10-Question Candidate Q&A** and the **Rebuttal Question**. Each of these candidates took the time to provide thoughtful responses, giving residents a clearer understanding of their priorities, values, and approach to governance.

One candidate chose **not** to participate. That decision is disappointing, especially when every other candidate invested the time to engage with residents. Once the Q&A is published, additional submissions will not be accepted. It would not be fair to those who honored the process and met the expectations set for all candidates.

The purpose of this site is straightforward: **to give voters clear, issue-based information so they can choose the individuals best suited to lead during this critical period in the Village's development.**

Community Advisory Bodies and the Need for Responsive Leadership

Many residents have expressed concern that the **current Board has not consistently listened to the Plan Commission or the Economic Development Committee (EDC)**. These bodies are made up of community members who

volunteer their time, bring real expertise, and genuinely want what is best for Salem Lakes.

Their role is essential because they provide:

- **Technical insight on zoning, land use, and economic strategy**
- **Community-driven perspectives beyond the seven trustees**
- **Fact-based recommendations that support long-term planning**

Trustees must be willing to consider all the facts, understand the complexity of development issues, and respect the advisory bodies created to guide these decisions.

Strengthening Public Safety and Fire Services

Salem Lakes has also seen meaningful progress within the Fire Department. **Fire Chief Al Carr has made an ongoing commitment to rebuild and strengthen the department**, and many in the community recognize that he has already been a strong addition to Village leadership. His efforts reflect the kind of steady, professional improvement residents want to see across all departments.

A New Chapter in Village Administration

The Village recently hired a new Administrator, **Michael Kostiuk**. Mike brings an extensive career in law enforcement and has chosen to transition into municipal administration, a field he has trained for and is committed to. Many residents have already noted that he brings professionalism, structure, and positive energy that the Village has needed for some time.

There is optimism across the community that his leadership will help modernize operations, improve communication, and restore confidence in how the Village functions day-to-day.

The Financial Reality Residents Are Feeling

Over the past several years, Salem Lakes has experienced **steady and significant tax increases**. Many residents question whether these increases were necessary or whether spending decisions were made without enough scrutiny or long-term planning.

This is why fresh ideas, and a steady, informed hand, are essential. The Village needs trustees who will:

- **Ask hard questions about spending**
- **Understand the long-term financial impacts of development**
- **Protect taxpayers while planning responsibly for growth**
- **Support professional staff and modernize outdated processes**
- **Prioritize transparency and clear communication**

The future of Salem Lakes depends on leadership that is prepared, disciplined, and focused on the community's best interests.

Moving Forward Together

Change Salem Lakes Board should be committed to raising expectations for how our Village is governed. Residents deserve trustees who listen, who prepare, and who lead with integrity. With the right leadership, Salem Lakes can grow responsibly, strengthen its financial footing, and ensure that community voices, not personal politics, guide our future.

The purpose of this site is to take an unbiased approach and provide information that readers can review, evaluate, and use to make informed decisions.

Please Vote on April 7th 2026 - Voting can take place at the Village Hall or the Highway/Fire Dept building on HWY. C in Trevor by the Sharing Center. Or Vote Early

JUST-VOTE!!!



The Trustees who stepped forward to participate in the Question-and-Answer process invested a tremendous amount of time and effort. Their willingness to be transparent, to explain their positions, and to stand accountable to the public shows how seriously they take the responsibility of serving this community.

As you read their responses, approach this moment with clarity and independence. Do not vote out of habit, personality, or group loyalty. Vote for the candidates whose values, priorities, and judgment genuinely align with your own. You may select only three, and the direction of our Village will be shaped by those choices for years to come.

Thank you to every resident who has taken the time to study these answers. Your engagement matters. Your discernment matters. And your vote, every single one, will determine the future of Salem Lakes.

Dennis Faber



Steve Dunn



James Woodke



Kerry Verenski



Adam Miller



Thank you. Salem Lakes citizens should be proud of these candidates who have answered the call to serve their community.



VOTE

FOR SALEM LAKES

TRUSTEE

Dunn • Faber • Miller

Verenski • Woodke

