

Dennis Faber - Top Three Priorities

1. Our Lakes

They are the reason we are named *The Village of Salem Lakes*. We must keep them paramount in our minds, protect them, and rehabilitate them to preserve our unique heritage. Our lakes were the reason people from all over the world settled in the Town of Salem, which was formed in 1842 - six years before Wisconsin became a state. Silver Lake annexed out of the town in 1928. Paddock Lake annexed out in 1960. In 2017, the Town of Salem annexed into the Village of Silver Lake, forming our unique and beautiful community, the Village of Salem Lakes.

2. Our Taxes

We reassess our property values every two years. These last two years saw increased value in every category of property, with substantial increases in some. This evaluation is based on actual sales of comparable properties.

In my opinion, the pandemic had a lot to do with people wanting to move here - at virtually any price - for our quality of life. From 2020 to 2024, we experienced inflation of around nine percent per year, followed by high interest rates and skyrocketing prices for goods and services.

Because our village has lakes, proximity to good-paying jobs along the interstate and in Illinois, and a history of recreation, good schools, and affordable living, these factors contributed to the sharp increase in property values, which resulted in this year's tax increase. However, you must realize that if your home were in one of our neighboring villages, your village tax would be even higher. I am not saying these neighbors are mismanaged - only that it reinforces how difficult it is to provide services, road maintenance, and other statutory requirements in this economic environment.

3. Harmony and AI

Throughout my years as an elected official, it has been most rewarding when my colleagues and I worked through differences civilly and respectfully. This positively impacts our staff, employees, and how the public views us. Certainly, there have been citizens who are incredibly supportive, and others who are not complimentary - which is expected when decisions do not go their way or are not fully understood.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) must be embraced, understood, and utilized within the

next two years, as it is now at the forefront of the Village of Salem Lakes' future. If re-elected, I am certain that experience and village history will be important ingredients in implementing AI, and I look forward to contributing both.

Steve Dunn - Top Three Priorities

1. Getting our budget in order. I believe there is unnecessary spending in certain areas, and I am already looking into this.
2. Getting our zoning ordinances in order.
3. Getting our building department running more efficiently so applications are processed in a timely fashion.

Adam Miller - Top Three Priorities

My priorities focus on strengthening community involvement and improving how the Village operates:

1. Increasing resident participation in Village decisions.
2. Streamlining the permitting process to make it more efficient.
3. Finding ways to lower or maintain property taxes through better management and smarter planning.

Kerry Verenski - Top Three Priorities

Fiscal responsibility, transparency, and uniting communities.

I am committed to strengthening Salem Lakes through responsible fiscal management, open communication, and collaboration with neighboring communities. These principles guide every decision I make and reflect the values our residents expect from their local government.

James Woodke - Top Three Priorities

First: Restore Public Confidence in the Village Board

By clearly identifying the Village Board's objectives and goals to residents. If you don't have a strategic plan, how are you going to achieve what you want to?

Second: Provide Information and Education to Residents

Explain where the Board believes we are, what direction we want to go, and how we plan to achieve the objectives and goals identified for the Village. Explain why and how things must be done, because laws, ordinances, and reasons may not be obvious to residents.

Third: Identify Creative Ways to Increase Revenues and Decrease Expenses

At the current pace, our expenses are greater than our revenues. Our choices are to increase revenues, decrease expenses, and/or borrow money.