



The April 4th Election

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If you usually don't vote in local elections you're not alone. Average voter turnout for Lake Forest Municipal Elections is roughly 15% of the registered voters in our community. That's not necessarily a bad thing. It's more an indication that our Caucus system of government works as a trusted embodiment of the residents of Lake Forest.

If you are reading this and fall into the 85% of voters who have trusted our Caucus to present the best slate of candidates for all of Lake Forest, please vote in our Municipal Election on April 4th.

It is obvious we have a heated Mayoral race. What may not be as obvious is why it's such a heated race. A lot of material is circulating online and in print on the mayoral candidates and you should vote your conscience.

What makes this election unique is that the Caucus' candidate for mayor, Randy Tack, was rejected in November at its annual meeting. Tack simply didn't receive a vote of confidence from residents. Yet, the Caucus ignored voters, broke their bylaws, and proceeded to announce Tack would still be their candidate for mayor.

In the past, the Caucus followed clearcut bylaws governing the Annual Meeting affirmation vote. Their 1986 Lake Forest Caucus pamphlet declares that if a candidate is not endorsed, the Committee on Candidates is to regroup and present an alternative candidate to the voters. Its bylaws state that "...a majority vote of those members present at a duly convened meeting shall be required to take action on any matter presented for a vote." (Section 3.05)

In the 88-year history of the Lake Forest Caucus no vote has ever been nullified. Moreover, no vote has ever been nullified to reaffirm the same candidate. The Annual Meeting vote was not close, either. Roughly 2/3 of the votes cast did NOT endorse Randy Tack, yet the Caucus declared the vote to be non-binding and cancelled the voters of Lake Forest.

On its own merit, this was an unconscionable act, but it did not stop there. After declaring the vote as non-binding, the Caucus then publicly blamed Prue Beidler, the second-choice candidate in the Caucus vetting process, for manipulating the outcome of an open election, a claim that has no legal standing in the State of Illinois.

Additionally, they posted on their FAQ page that they consulted with outside legal counsel who advised them to declare the vote as non-binding. This is also not true as uncovered by Philip Arouca, the Second Ward Caucus Chairman, when he requested the Caucus leadership to disclose who counseled the decision to declare the vote non-binding.

The leadership of the Caucus told Philip that the law firm was Mayer Brown. Jamie Moorhead, a Lake Forest resident and attorney, then contacted the principals at Mayer Brown and they

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replied in writing “Mayer Brown does not represent the Lake Forest Caucus, let alone all Lake Forest registered voters. We have not provided an opinion letter to the Caucus.”

I personally reached out to the leadership of the Caucus requesting they share the attorney(s) and written opinion(s) and have had no reply from any of the five members I emailed.

So their claims of voter manipulation, which has no standing in the State of Illinois, and their declaration that it was legal to do so based on legal counseling, which never occurred, have broken the trust and eroded the confidence that the Caucus represents.

Much more has ensued including the public distribution of private emails, vitriolic attack emails of Prue Beidler from the Caucus, claims that the affirmation vote was symbolic and has only been a part of their process for seven years, and the list goes on.

If you vote in this election, please note that in re-endorsing Randy Tack as their Caucus candidate, our Caucus has violated the trust in our community, ignored the will of the people, and broken bylaws in the process.

We need reform in our Caucus leadership if we are to ever restore trust in this sacred institution and bring community back to Lake Forest. This election is as important as who our next Mayor will be; it's about what our community will be.