

What Happened on November 9th

The Lake Forest Caucus endorsed Randy Tack as its candidate for Mayor despite being rejected by about two-thirds of participating Caucus members in November at its annual meeting. The Caucus blamed the loss on longtime member Prue Beidler, claiming she manipulated the outcome and they therefore wouldn't honor the results of their democratic election. Here, for the benefit of residents, is a factual summary of events leading to Prue Beidler's decision to run for Mayor.

On November 9th, as part of the Caucus' established selection process of identifying, vetting and slating volunteers for leadership positions, it held its annual meeting and election to introduce and confirm its candidates. All registered voters in Lake Forest were welcome to attend and to vote, yes or no, for each nominee.

Appearing on the slate in November were three nominees for D67 and D115 School Boards, one aldermanic nominee for each of the City's four wards, and one nominee for Mayor. The Caucus' mayoral nominee was Randy Tack.

Once Lake Forest residents learned Randy Tack was not affirmed, and the Caucus then overturned the results of their own election, Prue decided to run as an independent candidate for Mayor. Up until then, Prue was ready to support the Caucus' mayoral nominee after taking part in their interview process a third time and becoming one of two final candidates to succeed George Pandaleon as Mayor.

Hundreds of citizens who voted on November 9th and hundreds more who did not, were upset the Caucus chose to throw out the election results. For 88 years the Lake Forest Caucus has been a nonpartisan committee dedicated to the greater good of our community, with the motto, "If You Live in Lake Forest, You Are the Caucus." Caucus members themselves are elected, volunteer their time, and follow meticulously scripted procedures for selecting candidates for our boards, commissions, city council and Mayor.

Overturning their established democratic process and blaming Prue as their justification is at the core of residents' concerns, which also include the

publishing of private emails and misinformation in their Annual Meeting FAQ, both of which appear on the Caucus' website.

As the vote to affirm a candidate is open to all registered voters in Lake Forest, Prue sent out a private email on November 5th that the Caucus obtained and published. Prue's email expressed her dismay over the city's 162 years of male Mayors, the current all-male slate of city council candidates, and informed her Lake Forest friends of their right to vote in the affirmation election. The election was held, all other Caucus candidates were affirmed, except Randy Tack who was NOT affirmed by a 2/3 margin.

Almost immediately, the Caucus went on the offensive attacking Prue, saying on its website that "special interest," "single-issue voters," and "biased information," are behind hundreds of people motivated to vote against Randy Tack and who distorted the outcome of an open election.

When pressed to explain what they meant by special interests, the Caucus instead launched public character attacks on Prue, a long-time resident, community leader and Caucus supporter, saying she is "entitled... advocating voters with biased information... and disloyal to the Caucus." If that is true, then why did the Caucus nominate Prue three times as Ward 1 Alderman, recommend her for appointment to the Cemetery Commission, and interview her three times for Mayor?

We live in a special, close-knit community. We raise our children together, worship together, vote together, and trust the Caucus together. Is it not incumbent upon us to question a system that we have trusted for almost 90 years when it deviates from its own process? We have every right to hold the Lake Forest Caucus to the same high standards of integrity we expect of our leaders, and of ourselves.

[Lake Forest Caucus FAQ](#)

[Prue Beidler Private Email](#)

[Caucus Pamphlet](#)