What City positions does the Caucus find candidates for?

Each year the Caucus recommends candidates for nomination for Mayor and for one Alderman from each of the four wards. Under Caucus policy, as stated in the by-laws, a candidate is recommended by the Caucus for no more than three one-year terms as Mayor or three two-year terms as Alderman.

The Caucus also recommends candidates to fill the elected positions of City Marshal and Collector, City Treasurer, and City Supervisor. Generally, the Caucus recommends candidates for these honorary positions for no more than three one-year terms.

At the Annual Meeting, the Committee on Candidates presents its slate for nomination to these elected positions. Upon approval by voters attending the Annual Meeting, candidate names are then petitioned to be placed on the municipal ballot.

District 115 High School Board members are also recommended for nomination by the Caucus at an Interim Meeting held every other summer. Lake Forest traditionally has four representatives on the seven-member board. The other three are from the Lake Bluff and Knollwood areas, also served by the district. Maximum Caucus recommendation is for two four-year terms.

The Caucus is also responsible for making recommendations to the Mayor for appointments to these City boards and commissions:

Plan Commission Building Review Board Zoning Board of Appeals District 67 Board of Education (Grades K through 8) Recreation Board Library Board Cemetery Board Board of Trustees -Police Pension Fund



Is the Caucus system democratic?

It's not a new idea. Nor is it unique to Lake Forest. It dates back to the town meetings of the American colonists and is used in some form or another by many small municipalities.

The Caucus peer group candidate review/recommendation system is a democratic process. No political hierarchy dictates candidate selection.

A broad base of public participation and involvement is also an expression of democracy in action. The Caucus policy of deliberate turnover for both City positions and Caucus committees helps to insure such a base.

The Caucus does offer only one choice on the ballot. But the Caucus-sponsored names on the ballot are there as a result of a democratic process. And you do have a voice in that process. Your input will be heard, your influence will be felt if you participate at the selection level. If you help to identify qualified candidates. If you get involved.

What can you do if you disagree with the Caucus and its candidates?

You have the right to disagree. And you have several options.

All or part of the slate can be rejected by majority vote at the Annual Meeting. The Committee on Candidates is then charged with presenting a new slate as soon as possible. You can then present candidates for Committee consideration.

You can convene your own party and place your own slate on the ballot by petition. You can file as an independent candidate yourself or support an independent candidate and petition for ballot inclusion.

You may conduct a write-in campaign for yourself or other candidates. However, the Caucus discourages write-in campaigns, believing that all voters have the right to know when and why disagreement exists.

