



### ***Tacky Tactics - The Publishing of Private Emails*** ***Jennifer Karras and John Trkla***

The brashness of the Lake Forest Caucus' political attacks has caused many residents to question their actions. Within days of its Nov. 9 election, the Caucus posted a personal email from Prue Beidler and a FAQ citing Prue as their reason for throwing out the election outcome that didn't affirm their mayoral candidate.

Their decision reveals a fracture in the Caucus' long-standing procedures and bylaws that have made it an esteemed, trusted institution in Lake Forest for nearly 90 years. It also ignited a smear campaign that has plummeted to new lows in our community.

Using private emails should be off limits but sadly has become a campaign tactic. Last month, former Alderman Mike Adelman shared an antagonistic private email he wrote to Prue, which was distributed through the Caucus' email system.

Adelman questioned how the Caucus could even consider her as a mayoral candidate, suggesting she had behaved badly. The facts show otherwise: the Caucus offered Prue several City of Lake Forest positions in which she honorably served and considered her three times for mayor including recently when she became one of two final mayoral candidates.

Adelman also wrote that Prue has some nerve to question the Caucus' choice, saying, "*the Caucus has their reasons, and I don't question their analysis.*" Prue and all of us have the opportunity and the right through a democratic election process to question every choice and candidate it slates.

Our ability to question government leaders, their actions and hold them accountable is at the core of our democracy nationally and locally. It is our right to weigh in on who represents us through the election process.

Together we elect 43 members from across our community to represent us on the Caucus and to identify the best and most qualified candidates to volunteer for boards, commissions, City Council and mayor. We trust these members to preserve the integrity of the policies, processes and procedures established 88 years ago.

Throwing out election results, circulating private emails to attack an independent candidate, and condoning disrespectful behavior is out of character for our Caucus, and our community.

[Mike Adelman's Public Email](#)