

# Village and D181 races are uncontested

Candidates for open seats on two boards are running without opposition Tuesday, April 4

Three candidates for the Hinsdale Village Board and three for the Community Consolidated Elementary District 181 Board are running uncontested in the April 4 election.

The Hinsdalean reached out to the candidates to find out a little more about who they are and what they hope to accomplish.

## Hinsdale Village Board

### Who is Scott Banke?



Scott Banke

Scott Banke has served as a village trustee since 2019. He was a parks and recreation commissioner from 2009-16 and a board of fire and police commissioner from 2018-19. He's also volunteered with Hinsdale

Little League and HCHS Baseball Club.

Banke is a 59-year-old business systems integration manager who holds a bachelor's in finance from Arizona State University.

### What are his top priorities?

1. public safety
2. maintenance of infrastructure and services
3. fiscal responsibility

### Who is Alexis Braden?



Alexis Braden

Alexis Braden has been a member of Hinsdale's historic preservation commission since 2019. She also serves as a Hinsdale Historical Society trustee, volunteers with the Hinsdale Assembly and

sits on the Oak School future planning committee.

Braden is a 44-year-old public relations//marketing consultant who holds a bachelor's in print journalism from California Polytechnic State University.

### What are her priorities?

1. to ensure public safety
2. to support Hinsdale's historic downtown and its local businesses
3. to promote fiscal responsibility

### Who is Luke Stifflear?



Luke Stifflear

Luke Stifflear has served as a village trustee since 2015. He was a Hinsdale plan commissioner from 2010 to 2015. He's also served on the Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana board and coached

girls lacrosse.

Stifflear is a 54-year-old portfolio manager who holds a bachelor's degree from State University of New York at Oswego and an MBA from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

### What are his priorities?

1. ensure the police force has best in class leadership and resources to protect the community
2. maintain the village's "AAA" credit rating with a focus on prudent expenditures of necessary infrastructure and village services
3. preserve the character of Hinsdale through enforcement of its existing zoning code

## District 181 Board

### Who is Asim Aleem?



Asim Aleem

Asim Aleem has served as a District 181 board member since August of 2022 and on the district's finance committee since 2021. He also has served on the boards of AGAPE Youth Network and Mindful

Medicine Worldwide and as a mentor with Chicago Scholars.

Aleem is a 43-year-old chief financial officer who holds bachelor's and master's degrees in accountancy from the University of Illinois, and an MBA from the University of Chicago

Booth School of Business.

### What are his top priorities?

1. set clear goals to enable all learners to achieve their full academic, social and emotional potential
2. utilize data-driven decision-making to responsibly and strategically manage resources to optimize instruction and student achievement
3. foster constructive relationships and work collaboratively with the community, board, superintendent and district team to improve student outcomes

### Who is Meg Cooper?



Meg Cooper

Meg Cooper has been a District 181 Foundation board member for 25 years. She's also served as Elm School PTO president, as a Girl Scout leader, an AYSO soccer coach, an Assistance

League board member and a member of the HMS referendum and CHMS referendum committees.

Cooper is a 63-year-old executive director of the District 181 Foundation who holds a bachelor's degree in industrial and labor relations from Cornell University and an MBA in finance from the University of Chicago.

### What are her priorities?

1. maintain a strong financial position and leadership team for the district
2. contribute to an environment that is collegial, transparent and respectful of all stakeholders
3. continue to develop social and emotional learning and a curriculum that offers appropriate challenges for all students

### Who is Sinead Duffy?

Sinead Duffy has served as a District 181 board member since 2019. She's chair of the board's finance committee and has been active in organizing speakers and webinars for students through the D181 Foundation.



Sinead Duffy

Duffy served as a senior financial professional and holds bachelor's and master's degrees in business studies from Trinity University in Dublin, Ireland.

### What are her priorities?

1. build on the academic progress the district has made over the last four years
2. continue to review options for all-day kindergarten, the selection and building of a new administration building
3. ensure transparency and taxpayer value regarding school district finances

### Who is Margie Kleber?



Margie Kleber

Margie Kleber has served on the District 181 board since 2017, serving as board president from 2020-22 and as facilities committee chair from 2018-20. She has volunteered with The Lane School PTO,

the Hinsdale Central High School track and field parent group and the Hinsdale Caucus.

The 61 year-old is the assistant to the president of a food company and holds a bachelor's degree.

### What are her priorities?

1. implement a full-day kindergarten curriculum
2. purchase or build an administrative center to avoid excessive annual lease expenses
3. assist in the search for a new superintendent, as Hector Garcia will retire at the end of the 2026 school year