

Six vie for three seats on county board

DuPage County Board District 2 - Democrats

Who is Elizabeth "Liz" Chaplin?



The Downers Grove resident was elected to the county board in 2012

after serving on the DuPage Water Commission from 2002-10. She serves as county board chairwoman pro-tem and chairwoman of the board's finance committee. She is past president of Citizens Advisory Group as well as Midwest Ballet Theatre and served as second vice president of the Indian Trail School PTA.

Why is she running?

County government needs to be fiscally responsible and run efficiently and effectively and, as finance chairwoman, she has worked to ensure prudent use of tax dollars while providing important services the people of DuPage County rely on. When tax dollars are spent recklessly, the county cannot afford to do what needs to be done.

Most important issue

Mental health is the biggest issue the county is facing.

Steps to address it

Earlier this year the county board allocated \$10.6 million in ARPA funding toward the Transformational Grant program, which includes funding for nonprofits that address mental health. A planned mental health intake center would be an alternative to jail for someone suffering with mental health issues and would be an important and significant step in addressing mental health.

Other top priorities

Prudent use of tax dollars, keeping the county healthy and safe, addressing the mental health and opioid crisis, making sure all residents have access to safe water and clean air, making sure DuPage is a just and fair community and that everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

Who is Paula Deacon Garcia?



The Lisle resident has served on the DuPage County Board since

2020. She holds a bachelor's degree in communication and public relations from Illinois State University. A retired village of Lisle staff member, she serves as chair of the Lisle Township Food Pantry Vegetable Garden and also volunteers for PADs and Community Kitchens.

Why is she running?

She is a solution finder who likes to research facts and make the best decisions accordingly. Over the last two years she has begun to help implement many projects that will help DuPage County residents' lives, and she would like to see them all completed and see the change for people.

Most important issue

People struggling with mental health issues. The stigma around mental health needs to be removed in order to treat people with mental health needs the same as if they had any other illnesses. She has seen so many families hurting due to this issue and hopes to bring solutions to the county to help.

Steps to address it

Divert individuals having a mental health crisis from the correctional center to a planned Central Receiving Center, where they can be evaluated and transitioned to a place where appropriate care can occur. This will also help individuals who are using opioids to help with their symptoms.

Other top priorities

Public safety, which includes safe roads, storm-water solutions, food insecurity, affordable housing, creating jobs and full staffing at the sheriff's office. She also wants to find solutions to combat climate change and promote sustainability.

Who is Yeena Yoo?



The Elmhurst resident holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Wellesley

College and a law degree and master's in social work from Washington University in St. Louis. She is senior attorney for Catholic Charities Legal Assistance, a committeeman for York Township's 83rd Precinct and serves on the Elmhurst Senior Citizens Commission and the Elmhurst Heritage Foundation board.

Why is she running?

Yoo cares about leveling the playing field for everyone and wants to advocate for under-resourced communities. She also believes DuPage can be a leader in reducing gun violence by addressing issues such as gun suicide, mental health and unintentional shootings by children.

Most important issue

Mental health has been linked to rising opioid deaths and can be a precursor to gun violence. When people are experiencing mental illness, such as anxiety, depression or other disorders, they have higher health costs and are at an increased risk of experiencing poverty.

Steps to address it

Expand outpatient services through community health centers, residential services for people with severe mental illness or wraparound substance abuse treatment programs. This should be done in coordination with schools, homeless centers and in the criminal and judicial system.

Other top priorities

- manage and direct the county budget to cut waste and increase revenue
- enact common-sense policies to reduce gun violence and increase public safety
- enhance county services for people facing food insecurity or needing affordable housing
- advance diversity initiatives to create more opportunities for all residents

DuPage County Board District 2 - Republicans

Who is Nicole Giannini?



The Republican from Villa Park is a real estate/property manager assistant with Willow

Heights Association/HomeSmart

Why is she running?

The Hinsdalean was not able to reach the candidate to request information.

Who is Daniel Kordik



The Villa Park resident holds a bachelor's in accountancy and a

law degree, both from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He is a self-employed attorney and is a past member of the Villa Park Elementary District 45 Board. He is a former planning and zoning commissioner for the village of Villa Park and was York Township clerk from 2005-21.

Why is he running?

Kordik is concerned about public safety and felt called to run after the Dec. 23 shooting at Oakbrook Center. He intends to use his extensive experience in public service and community involvement to address all issues that come before the county board.

Most important issue

Inflation/economy

Steps to address it

He will use his accounting and business background to make sure tax dollars are spent wisely and will make the tough decisions to balance county budgets. He will oppose all new tax increases, like the current county board's vote to double the gasoline tax.

Other top priorities

Public safety. He strongly opposes the so-called SAFE-T Act as is currently written, which requires the release of detainees for serious crimes back on the streets without having to post cash bail.

Who is Sean Noonan?



Noonan is an Elmhurst resident who holds a bachelor's in criminal social justice

and a master's in public safety administration. He was a DuPage County Board Member for District 2 from 2012-20 and is a patrol sergeant for the Bloomingdale Police Department. He is a York Township Republican Organization Precinct Committeeman, has coached youth football and is active with the Elmhurst Knights of Columbus.

Why is he running

Politics is an extension of his public service, and his 20 years in law enforcement gives him a unique perspective as a county board member. He is concerned about public safety in DuPage County and the impact that Chicago policies have here. He believes residents deserve to feel safe in their communities.

Most important issue

Public safety. There has been an obvious increase in crime in DuPage County as a direct result of the failed leadership by counterparts to the east. The DuPage County state's attorney does his job. He supports law enforcement and appropriately charges criminals for crimes they've committed. Without consequences, criminals will continue to seek opportunities.

Steps to address it

He will continue to support law enforcement, the DuPage County state's attorney and all other related departments to ensure residents' quality of life remains intact. He will also continue to support programs to help combat the opioid crisis in DuPage County.

Other top priorities

Public safety, low taxes and economic development.

Complete election coverage is posted online at thehinsdalean.com