

Two forest district races are contested

DuPage County Forest Preserve District 2



Who is Don Krause?

The Lisle Republican is a lifelong DuPage resident. He did not respond to The Hinsdalean's questionnaire, so this information was culled from his website.

Why is he running?

Always a conservationist, Krause endeavors to protect and enhance the investment residents have in the forest preserves. Having grown up using and supporting DuPage's forest preserves, he will seek the input of citizens in implementing common-sense solutions to enhance and maximize the public resource.

Most important issue

Protect and maintain the preserves

Steps to address it

Optimize operational efficiencies within the district, expand trail connectivity, plant trees and improve security.

Other top priorities

- require referendums for major bonds
- ensure taxpayer value with open bid contracts
- retire the district's debt



Who is Tina Tyson-Dunne?

The Lombard Democrat has been a forest district commissioner since 2020 and holds a bachelor's degree from Columbia College Chicago and master's degrees from National University of Ireland and Trinity College in Ireland. She is the chief of staff for state Rep. Deb Conroy (D-46, Villa Park), volunteers with the forest preserve and is the former chair of the York Township Democratic Organization.

Why is she running?

Tyson-Dunne wants to advance the environmental initiatives of the forest district's master plan and "the transformational work that is taking place." She said fiscally sound decisions have enabled the district to build for the future of DuPage without raising taxes.

Most important issue

Evaluating and responding to the impact of climate change, both in how the forest district is affected as well in identifying opportunities to be a more responsible organization through facility and land management initiatives.

Steps to address it

Install more solar panels across the district as was done at Willowbrook Wildlife Preserve and Blackwell to reduce energy dependence and power some vehicles. Deepen partnerships with organizations like the Conservation Foundation, SCARCE and the DuPage Monarch Project as well as libraries, schools and colleges to better protect and restore the preserves within DuPage County

Other top priorities

- engage in ecological restoration work to support endangered species like the monarch butterfly through use natural methods rather than chemicals
- remove invasive species and restore ecosystems to enable DuPage's natural flora and fauna to flourish

DuPage County Forest Preserve District 3



Who is Marybeth Carlson?

The Westmont Democrat holds a bachelor's in science from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. She is a retired dairy specialist farm advisor/inspector for the state of Illinois and serves on the environmental improvement committee for the village of Westmont.

Why is she running?

A longtime conservationist, Carlson believes she would be a good steward for the forest preserve district and wants to leverage her research skills and understanding of rules and regulations to help the organization effectively carry out its master plan.

Most important issue

Preserving and protecting county forests. Without protecting forests, there would be no areas for the public to enjoy hiking or kayaking or picnicking. They must be managed correctly in order to pass them on to the next generations.

Steps to address it

Bring back the native diversity that is the state's heritage by studying whatever agendas the board puts forward and evaluate them as to their relevance to preserving the natural diversity of the forests, the relevance to the public and the feasibility of the costs involved.

Other top priorities

- place educational placards or signs to identify important trees or natural areas (rendered in Braille, too)
- research the history of the indigenous people who inhabited the DuPage area and better understand how they lived
- work closely with the forest district staff to understand developments and needs at the various locations



Who is Linda Painter?

The Willowbrook Republican has been a forest district commissioner since 2008. She holds a bachelor's in nursing from Winona State University and is a registered pediatric nurse.

She is a Republic precinct committeewoman for Downers Grove Township, a Kiwanis board member, president of the Timberlake Civic Association and a member of the Argonne National Lab Community Leaders Roundtable.

Why is she running?

Painter wants to continue the initiatives and projects she has worked on, leveraging her knowledge and experience as a six-term board member. She cites the new Waterfall Glen parking lot as a success and would like the forest district to purchase more parcels to add to the county's open land.

Most important issue

The forest district needs to ensure safety for visitors to the preserves, supporting forest preserve law enforcement with the right technology to enhance safety.

Steps to address it

Install cameras in forest preserve parking lots as well as QR codes on trail mile markers that, when scanned, would direct a 911 operator to a person's exact location. Also the district should work more closely with the DuPage sheriff's department on enforcement

Other top priorities

- carefully acquire more quality land while keeping taxes flat or possibly lowering them
- create a "Serenity Garden" in Waterfall Glen easily accessible for seniors and/or people with disabilities
- expand the district's tree planting programs

Complete election coverage is posted online at thehinsdalean.com

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