

ELECTION DAY IS APRIL 4

This guide is meant to serve as a starting point. Main sources: [Kane County Chronicle](#) (KCC) and [Daily Herald](#) (DH) questionnaires, the [League of Women Voters](#)' (LWV) forum on 3/2/17 (recorded by BATV), and candidates' websites and Facebook pages/comments, as noted.

CITY of BATAVIA CANDIDATE COMPARISON (LWV)

		1 N. Washington	TIF Districts	Home Rule	Sanctuary City	Notable (various sources)
1st Ward Alderman	Carl Dinwiddie	oppose	oppose	oppose	oppose	Combat Veteran (Navy Jet Pilot, Viet Nam), retired NTSB Aircraft Accident Investigator, NTSB Central Region Chief, and more (website: www.carldinwiddie.wordpress.com); 33 yrs as a federal investigator, knows how to listen, question, research, analyze; will inform public of issues and seek their input (KCC)
	Scott Salvati	support	support	support	uncertain, leaning support	Business owner, Lighthouse Marketing Services; Batavia Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors; 25+ yrs marketing experience, project management, business ownership (KCC)
Mayor*	Jeffery Schielke	support	support	support	oppose**	Mayor 36yrs; length of service has led to past and present influential positions on CMAP Council of Mayors, Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, resulting in outside funding for Batavia projects; Batavia's ambassador and historian
	Jason Stoops	support	support	support	support	School Board 4 yrs (current V.P.): voted to raise tax levy every year, voted to keep all the money from the Chicago Premium Outlets Mall (\$6 million/yr) without using any of it to lower property taxes, voted for artificial turf; votes brought School District finances to current negative 5-yr financial forecast

*Batavia has a weak mayor/strong council system, where the mayor has no legislative power other than as a tie-breaker, but serves mainly to be city representative, nominate appointments (approved by council), and supervise administration and city employees as the city's chief executive officer.

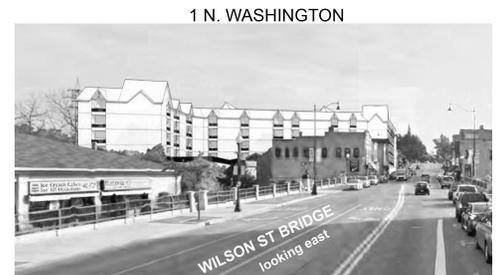
**From a follow-up phone call, since he did not answer the question at the forum (Schielke said he was signaled his time was up at the forum before he could finish his answer. He said Batavia police have worked with ICE in the past to get criminals, e.g., drug dealers, here illegally, off the streets of Batavia permanently, and he will continue to support the police.)

1 N. Washington project-- Massive 6-story, 186-unit apartment complex planned by Shodeen for the block of Washington and Wilson in downtown Batavia, with ground floor commercial space, taxpayer-backed with \$14 million in GO bonds for its 350-space underground parking garage that will be shared by its residents and the public, replacing the city parking deck

TIF Districts--Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Districts redirect any increase in tax revenue away from the many taxing bodies (city, school district, park district, etc.) and keep the money within the boundaries of the TIF, for 23 years. Tax dollars that should be spent on schools and flooding issues in the 1st Ward instead go to developers, select businesses, and nonessential projects like streetscapes and arches downtown.

Home Rule--Status given to cities when they reach population 25,000. Home rule gives the City nearly unlimited power to tax, regulate, and incur debt. It takes away the power of citizens to put bonds to referendum and allows the City to create a multitude of taxes, as well as a Stormwater Utility that would add another fee to your utility bills, based on impermeable surface area of your property (as has been proposed and will likely come back before the Council soon). Home rule can be removed via referendum.

Sanctuary City--"The term 'sanctuary city' is a broad term applied to jurisdictions that have policies in place designed to limit cooperation with or involvement in federal immigration enforcement actions." (CNN)



SCHOOL BOARD

Vote for UP TO 4 (tip: vote only for those you *really* want to represent you, otherwise any votes cast simply to reach the maximum number will dilute the power of your vote for the candidates you truly support)

All School Board candidates say they want what's best for the kids. All candidates are willing to delegate their power to the “experts” (teachers, staff) in matters like curricula (DH), instead of representing the community’s interests as is their duty as elected representatives. No candidate proposes to decrease school spending, even as enrollment is declining.

	School Spending (Taxes) (KCC)	Notable (various sources)
Jonathan Gaspar	maintain*	School Board 4 yrs: asks good questions, listens to the public, has at times been the sole “no” vote on the Board, reflecting the most conservative approach of all Board members; supports trades programs for students as an important alternative to college; however, has voted for every tax and budget increase and artificial turf
Tina Bleakley	did not answer	School Board since 2012: has voted for every tax and budget increase and artificial turf
Susan Locke	did not answer	School Board 4 yrs: has voted for every tax and budget increase and artificial turf; however, opposes a new referendum to ask taxpayers for more money to fix the negative financial forecast (KCC)
William McGrail	maintain-increase	Works at IL Math & Science Academy as Producer/Media Director; concerned about mental health, drug prevention issues facing students; short on specifics on surveys, vague on answers on Facebook’s “We Love Batavia” page
Robert Baty-Barr	increase	Endorsed by Progressives of Kane County ; when asked his opinion on gun rights, abortion, gay marriage, artificial turf, and sanctuary cities, he supports them all (from Facebook’s “We Love Batavia” and “Baty-Barr for BPS 101 BOE” pages)

*To “maintain” for the School Board has meant to increase taxes by the legal maximum amount every year, capped by the Consumer Price Index or 5%, whichever is less, plus new construction. Such annual increases are assumed in all the district’s projections.

PARK BOARD

Vote for UP TO 2

	Notable (various sources)
Gary Foiles	Current Treasurer of Park Board, brings 35+ yrs of park district managerial experience, Certified Parks & Recreation Executive certification, supported renovation of existing structures, including the quarry and Shannon Hall (“Gary Foiles for Batavia Park District Commissioner” FB page); takes pride in partnerships (e.g., for Depot Museum expansion) that relieve taxpayer burden (LWV); Kane County Reporter lists him as voting in 11 primaries, all Republican
Kevin Riley	Named “Rising Star Commissioner” in his 1st term, would like to see park district add 2-3 softball/baseball diamonds on land on West Main St (by dog park) to bring in more tournaments and revenue from outside Batavia, Wants to go further than renovation, promote land conservation (LWV); Kane County Reporter lists him as voting in 2 primaries, both Democrat
Thomas Dorsey	Endorsed by Progressives of Kane County (endorsement bio says he worked on the Obama campaign as a student); focus on clean water, open space, renewable energy (“Tom Dorsey for Batavia Park District Commissioner” FB page); says he would bring “change and innovation” (LWV); Kane County Reporter lists him as voting in 1 primary, Democrat

FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT REFERENDUM

The referendum on the ballot asks voters to approve issuance of \$50 million in bonds for land acquisition and capital projects, costing taxpayers a projected \$22/yr in property taxes (on a \$250,000 house). There is no listing anywhere of specific projects or costs.

There is some criticism of the Forest Preserve District’s past use of referendum funds, when bonds were used to acquire a large tract of land for the Brunner Family Forest Preserve, but a portion of it was then sold to the Kane County Board for planned construction of a 4-lane highway/toll bridge, the Longmeadow Parkway, through the preserve. Conflict of Interest is alleged, since the Forest Preserve Commissioners are also Kane County Board members. Google “Brunner gravel mining” and look at the [Elgin League of Women Voters’ study](#) for details on the purchases and a proposal to mine the preserve for gravel.