

# PAUL HINTERLONG FOR NAPERVILLE

## SUPPORT PAUL ON TUESDAY APRIL 2ND 2019

### Daily Herald City Council Candidate Questionnaire 2019 Election

**What are the most important issues facing your community and how do you intend to address them?**

Economic growth, affordable housing, mental health awareness and the opioid epidemic. We must work harder to attract more businesses to Naperville. From our small businesses to our large corporations, we must find sustainable solutions to increase our revenues to cover our adopted principles to pay down our debt and increase our reserves to secure a sustainable future.

Whether you're a senior, empty nester, just out of college or a young family trying to stay in Naperville or move to Naperville, it's extremely hard to find something affordable to meet your needs. It's imperative that we concentrate on finding solutions in our ordinances and zoning codes to address these needs.

Mental health situations have become a priority for our public safety departments. We are putting every one of our public safety employees through crisis intervention training to get them the training they need to help them cope with situations that arise every day. Currently we have all of our fire personnel and about 30% of our police officers trained in our crisis intervention program as well as other city personnel.

The opioid epidemic in DuPage County is still a challenge. Deaths associated to opioid use is up 13% and deaths caused by fentanyl use alone is up 76% from last year. We need to aggressively continue to work with other government agencies and social service groups to get these statistics down to zero.

**What makes you the best candidate for the job?**

Experience, commitment.

I have more experience than any other candidate in this race. I started out as a planning and zoning commissioner for three and a half years before I was first elected when the great recession was in full swing. I helped manage this city through the toughest time the majority of us have ever seen without real estate tax increases, stressing more efficient ways of providing services and doing more with less. I've been involved in the creation of every one of our master land use plans and their revisions.

My community involvement spans over the last 25 years as an active member of numerous boards, commissions and non-profits as my civic involvement above reflects. This experience has allowed me to get a great feel for the pulse of this community and in turn has made me a good listener and a voice of reason because of it. I am committed to being a civil servant and committed to keep Naperville the best place to live and raise a family.

**Describe your leadership style and explain how you think that will be effective in producing actions and decisions with your village board or city council?**

I guess I'd best describe my leadership style as a consensus builder. Whether its balancing the budget, zoning issues, developments or just neighborhood issues, I find myself as one that strives to work with others with one goal in mind and that's what is best for Naperville as a whole. We have a diverse make up of our council and we are fortunate that we all share the same goal of "what is best for Naperville." It can be hard at times to reach a consensus, but that's where I find myself at my best to find a common ground that all can agree on. I'm proud of this council in the jobs and actions they've taken to get to the decisions we've made for the betterment of Naperville.

**How would you describe the condition of your community's budget, and what are the most important specific actions the town should take to assure providing the level of services people want?**

In 2015 we adopted a policy that charges us specific goals and ends policies. We established three principles that we had to meet and are as follows. First, is that the city will pass a structurally balanced budget annually. Second, the city commits to continuous improvement in the delivery of necessary and cost-effective services. Thirdly, the city will actively seek to increase its reserves to 25% and reduce its debt by 25% in the next eight years. With these goals in place for the last 4 years, we are actually ahead of our targets on both our reserves and the reduction of debt and has also allowed us to reduce our tax rate from .8081 in 2015 to .6815 this year, which equates roughly to a \$150 savings on the average household property tax bill. We have continued through our efforts to maintain a AAA bond rating since 1995 and through the great recession, which very few communities have been able to do.

**What's one good idea you have to better the community that no one else is talking about yet?**

A few years ago, on a vacation to Hawaii, I was impressed by the way they moved people around the island. It was a government run busing system that for \$2 a day you could travel anywhere on the island getting on and off wherever you please. I was so impressed by the number of people that used the system and how well it worked. This would be a great amenity for Naperville to consider. It could circle Naperville all day long using a few buses so the waiting time for the bus would be reduced and would get countless vehicles off the roads and alleviate some traffic congestion. We could do a survey of all the stops people would want to stop at and design a route that fits the needs of the residents from young adults to our seniors. Of course, we would need to find a funding source for the service, but if it's utilized like I think that it would, it might be worth taking a look into or at least be worth a conversation.