



# 1274 NEWSLINE



North Suburban Teachers Union – Local 1274, CFL, IFT/AFT, AFL-CIO

## Municipal Election Issue



- [#SaveNilesLibrary](#)
- [AFSCME Union of Niles-Maine District Library staff: Letter To Our Editor: Is Goal Of Niles-Maine Library Trustees To Let The Library Die?](#)
- [DEMOLISHING PUBLIC LIBRARIES FROM THE INSIDE: NILES PUBLIC LIBRARY IS A WARNING.](#)

Lincolnwood Library is also under fire. The library successfully fought a book challenge at a contentious board meeting last November. Candidates for this election include an extremist slate who advocate for limiting access to LGBTQUI+ books.

**Local 1274 has endorsed the Freedom to Read slate.**

- [Freedom to Read Lincolnwood](#)
- [Candidate Questionnaire Responses](#)
- [Protect Lincolnwood Library](#)
- [Lincolnwood Public Library declines to remove books with LGBTQ content from children's collection](#)

Municipal races might seem less important than state and federal elections, but the results directly affect our day-to-day life. Especially as educators. Vote for people committed to providing high quality, safe spaces for our students and communities.

If you live in the Local 1274 area, please see pages two and three for candidate information on some of the Local 1274 school board and public library races.

[Dark money organizations](#) are targeting public schools and public libraries throughout Illinois. It is important to make careful, informed choices in the April 4th election. These extremist groups conduct training seminars on how to run for board elections and how to get books banned from libraries. They seek to discredit public institutions and impose their harmful views on our communities. Among other things, they advocate banning of LGBTQUI-inclusive books from school and public libraries and are against diversity, equity, and SEL initiatives.

Public libraries are especially vulnerable, as exemplified by the harm done to the award-winning Niles-Maine Public Library after the April 2021 election. Low voter turnout resulted in the election of extremist trustees who reduced services and cut staffing. It is time to vote them out! **Local 1274 has endorsed the Reclaim our Library slate.**

- [Reclaim our Library](#)

### Resources to Inform Voters

[School board elections are coming up: Research before you vote!](#)

[DARK MONEY ORGS ON THE GROUND IN SCHOOL BOARD RACES IN ILLINOIS](#)

# Local 1274 Elections

## Northfield

### Teachers Association, D31 (3 open seats)

**Maria J Vasilopoulos** (incumbent)  
[Northbrook Patch Questionnaire](#)

**Meghan McMillin**

[Northbrook Patch Questionnaire](#)

**Noah A. Frank**

[Northbrook Patch Questionnaire](#)

**Elizabeth Kim**

[Northbrook Patch Questionnaire](#)

**Nicholas G. Parfitt**

[Northbrook Patch Questionnaire](#)

### Support Staff Council, D64 (4 open seats)

[Meet the Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 board candidates](#)

[Candidates for Park Ridge-Niles District 64 school board answer questions, including on \\$13 million overage](#)

**Monika Penksa Rossi**

**Matthew Doubleday**

**Carolina Y. Sales** (incumbent)

**Rachel Georgakis**

**Monica Milligan**

**Bryan Mercado**

**Francine D'Amico**

**Denise Pearl** (incumbent)

### Fairview Teachers Association, D72 (4 open seats)

**Kasey Stewart**

[FTA Video interview](#)

[FTA Candidate Questionnaire](#)

Endorsed by Niles Township Democrats United

Recommended by Skokie Schools Equity Collaborative

**Gretchen Wening**

[FTA Video Interview](#)

[FTA Candidate Questionnaire](#)

Endorsed by Niles Township Democrats United

Recommended by Skokie Schools Equity Collaborative

**Alejandro Magana**

[FTA Video interview](#)

[FTA Candidate Questionnaire](#)

Endorsed by Niles Township Democrats United

Recommended by Skokie Schools Equity Collaborative

**Ross Sawyers**

[FTA Video interview](#)

Endorsed by Niles Township Democrats United

Recommended by Skokie Schools Equity Collaborative

**Christine Sojka**

[FTA Video interview](#)

[FTA Candidate Questionnaire](#)

**Rafael Cavour**

[FTA Video interview](#)

[FTA Candidate Questionnaire](#)

**Estera Tomuta**

[FTA Video interview](#)

[FTA Candidate Questionnaire](#)

**Saji Philip**

[FTA Video interview](#)

[FTA Candidate Questionnaire](#)

### Niles Council of Teachers and Support Staff, D71

(3 open seats)

**Victoria Pichla Luz** (incumbent)

Recommended by Niles Council of Teachers and Support Staff

**Kenny Krueger** (incumbent)

Recommended by Niles Council of Teachers and Support Staff

**Joe Kuffel** (incumbent)

Recommended by Niles Council of Teachers and Support Staff

**Jo Ann K. Girel**

**Mele Hachim**

**Katarzyna Szymelfenig**

### East Prairie Council, D73 (1 open seat)

**Tracy Lande**

Recommended by Skokie Schools Equity Collaborative

**Frank Santoro** (incumbent)

**Nina Johnson** (incumbent)

### Skokie 73.5 Support Staff Council (4 open seats)

All four candidates are recommended by Skokie Schools Equity Collaborative

**Louis Mercer** (incumbent)

**LaTasha Nelson** (incumbent)

**Bushra Amiwala** (incumbent)

**Kelli Nelson** (incumbent)

### Niles Township Federation of Teachers and Support Staff, D219 (4 open seats)

[Board of Education 2023 Candidate Forum](#)

[Niles D219 High School students question board candidates on priorities](#)

**Amber Wood**

Endorsed by NTFSS ([NSTU Candidate Questionnaire](#))

**Endorsed by NSTU Local 1274**

D219 Equity Candidate

Endorsed by Niles Township Democrats United

Recommended by Skokie Schools Equity Collaborative

**Mateo Farzaneh** (incumbent)

Endorsed by NTFSS ([NSTU Candidate Questionnaire](#))

**Endorsed by NSTU Local 1274**

Endorsed by Niles Township Democrats United

Recommended by Skokie Schools Equity Collaborative

IFT member

**Kennya 'Ken' Durr**

Endorsed by NTFSS ([NSTU Candidate Questionnaire](#))

**Endorsed by NSTU Local 1274**

D219 Equity Candidate

Endorsed by Niles Township Democrats United

Endorsed by Skokie Schools Equity Collaborative

*(Continued on the next page)*

**Celia Stennett**

Endorsed by NTFSS ([NSTU Candidate Questionnaire](#))  
**Endorsed by NSTU Local 1274**  
 D219 Equity Candidate  
 Endorsed by Skokie Schools Equity Collaborative  
 Endorsed by Niles Township Democrats United  
 NSTU member

**Ramsen Sheeno**

**Sidney Stein**  
**David Y. Ko** (Incumbent. [NSTU Candidate Questionnaire](#))

**Evanston/Skokie School District 65**

[D65 Board Candidates LGBTQ+ Parents Forum](#)

**Omar Salem** (NSTU member and IFT Professional Issue Director)

**Endorsed by NSTU Local 1274**  
[Endorsed by Chicago Federation of Labor](#)  
 Endorsed by Skokie Schools Equity Collaborative

**Mya Wilkins**

Endorsed by Skokie Schools Equity Collaborative

**Sergio Hernandez**

Endorsed by Skokie Schools Equity Collaborative

**Ndona Muboyayi**

**John Matthew Martin**

**Niles-Maine District Library**

**Becky Keane**

**Endorsed by NSTU Local 1274**  
[Reclaim Our Library slate](#)  
[Endorsed by Chicago Federation of Labor](#)  
 Recommended by Skokie Schools Equity Collaborative

**Umair Qadeer**

**Endorsed by NSTU Local 1274**  
[Reclaim Our Library slate](#)  
[Endorsed by Chicago Federation of Labor](#)  
 Recommended by Skokie Schools Equity Collaborative

**Roberto Botello**

**Endorsed by NSTU Local 1274**  
[Reclaim Our Library slate](#)  
[Endorsed by Chicago Federation of Labor](#)  
 Recommended by Skokie Schools Equity Collaborative

**Jason Trunco**

**Endorsed by NSTU Local 1274**  
[Reclaim Our Library slate](#)  
[Endorsed by Chicago Federation of Labor](#)

**Mike Movido**

Recommended by Skokie Schools Equity Collaborative

**Lincolnwood Public Library**

[Candidate Questionnaire Responses](#)

**Sheri Doniger**

**Endorsed by NSTU Local 1274**  
[Freedom to Read Lincolnwood Slate](#)  
 Endorsed by Niles Township Democrats United

**Deborah Silver**

**Endorsed by NSTU Local 1274**  
[Freedom to Read Lincolnwood Slate](#)  
 Endorsed by Niles Township Democrats United

**Georgia Talaganis**

**Endorsed by NSTU Local 1274**  
[Freedom to Read Lincolnwood Slate](#)  
 Endorsed by Niles Township Democrats United

**Mary Silber**

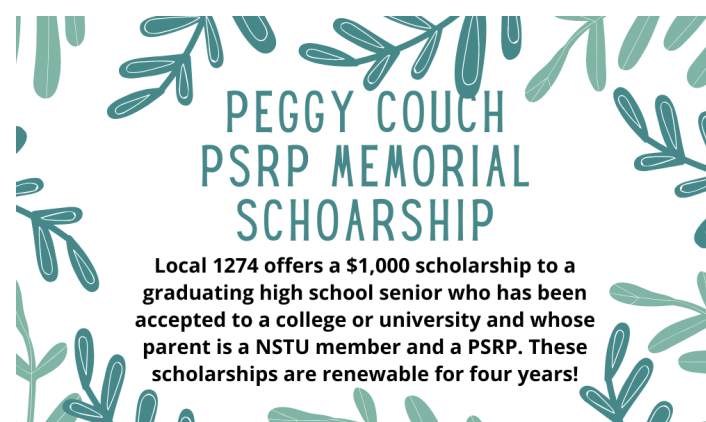
**Endorsed by NSTU Local 1274**  
[Freedom to Read Lincolnwood Slate](#)  
 Endorsed by Niles Township Democrats United

**Skokie Public Library**

All four candidates are recommended by Skokie Schools Equity Collaborative

**Dino Marinovic**

**Gene Griffin**  
**Michelle Julaton Mallari**  
**Mary Pietrucha**



**[Peggy Couch PSRP Memorial Scholarship Application](#)**

Email the application by 4 PM, May 9, 2023 to [couchscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:couchscholarship@gmail.com).



*Cassie Creswell and Caroline Bilicki from Illinois Families for Public Schools came to the NSTU Exec Board meeting to discuss their work supporting pro-public education school board candidates for elections this spring.*

## Message from the President

This newsletter is dedicated to informing our members about the importance of the April 4 municipal election. The next few weeks are critical to our schools, communities, and families. Municipal elections like those on April 4 are often low turnout elections despite the fact that school, library, park district, and village/city boards and councils have a tremendous impact on all who live in a given community. Please stay informed about your local elections and vote for the right candidates this spring. Also please engage your family, friends, and neighbors to encourage them to vote for candidates who support public education, working families, and labor rights. Take a moment to learn more about the candidates in the key races around our local to be sure that you are as informed as possible.

Also, the NSTU has proudly endorsed Brandon Johnson for the Chicago mayoral runoff election that ends on Tuesday, April 4. Over 25% of NSTU members live in Chicago, and whether you live in Chicago or not, we should all do what we can to help support his inspirational campaign that is built around supporting public schools, working families, and improving the city of Chicago. Here are other ways that you can support Brandon's campaign.

Bradon is a middle school history teacher who serves on the IFT executive board and has been a Cook County Board Commissioner since being elected in 2018. Brandon and his campaign have truly built a broad, multiracial, multigenerational political movement that has been driven by grassroots activists. Brandon earned a spot in the mayoral runoff largely because of his campaign's ground game based on hundreds of volunteers knocking on thousands of doors across the city. Brandon is an inspiring and dynamic leader who has centered his campaign on a message of hope, unity, and economic and racial justice. Elections matter to our students, schools, and families. Let's all do whatever we can to engage and get our families, friends, and neighbors to vote for pro public schools candidates.

In solidarity,  
Pankaj Sharma



### NSTU Local 1274 Proudly Endorses Brandon Johnson for Chicago Mayor



#### 1274 Newsline

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