

TOWNSHIPS MATTER



VOTE APRIL 6, 2021

VOTER INFORMATION

For the Tuesday, April 6, 2021
Consolidated General Election for
Bloomington Township Government

www.bloomingtontownshipdems.org

www.facebook.com/TownshipsMatter2021

Email: townshipsmatter2021@gmail.com

Dear Bloomingdale Township Voter,

Townships MATTER! It's true. Our township provides service to more than 111,000 residents including those in incorporated villages and unincorporated areas. Our township provides a safety net for many. It provides General Assistance and Emergency Assistance to all township residents based on need. It also provides transportation, including Dial A Ride and Curb to Curb service for older adults and the Senior Assessment Exemption and Assessment Freeze to qualified property taxpayers.

So the elected officials of your Bloomingdale Township must be chosen carefully. As citizens, you have the right to vote and to have your voice heard!

The information in this pamphlet will help you register to vote, request a vote by mail ballot, learn about early voting, and learn about some of the candidates running in the Tuesday, April 6, 2021 Consolidated General Election for Township Government.

Please note the intent of this pamphlet was to include information on candidates from both parties. We formally requested but received no information from the Republican candidates. We suggest you look at their webpage to assess their qualifications at www.bloomingtonrepublicans.com. We hope to expand this pamphlet on a nonpartisan basis for future elections so information on all local races is readily available in one place.

Being an informed voter can be very challenging these days but as citizens we can and we must do it.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Hagerty

Chair of Democratic Party Bloomingdale Township

Bloomingtondale Township Democratic Candidate Biographies

Terrell Barnes-Candidate for Township Supervisor

Terrell is running for Bloomingtondale Township Supervisor to create a more forward leaning Township that innovates, cuts waste, and looks out for the taxpayer while being a guardian for the social safety net.

Terrell has lived in Bloomingtondale Township since 1988. He has served our community as an elected Library Trustee of the Roselle Public Library District since 2015 and recently served as Library Board Secretary. Working with his fellow library trustees, Terrell reviews and approves the Library's annual budget of more than \$2 million, establishes policies that reflect the needs of our community, oversees the general operation of the library, and promotes and advocates for the library in the community.



In 2016, Terrell and the library board conducted a statewide search and hired the current Executive Director of the Library. He regularly casts key votes on construction projects at the Library that improve the lives of library patrons and our community. As a library Trustee during the pandemic, Terrell was able to shift gears and provide leadership as community infection rates changed. He made the motion to reopen the library in late May after there was a decline in our community COVID-19 positivity rates.

Terrell committed to working tirelessly for the Democratic Party after the outcome of Florida recount of the 2000 election. Since that time, he has served as a precinct committeeman and he's been involved in grassroots state government lobbying efforts with a focus on support for working families, defunding for-profit colleges, and establishing concussion safety protocols for kids' sports and adults in the workplace.

Terrell has a deep commitment to peaceful political activism and economic justice for all. On behalf of Little Village Residents in Chicago, Terrell along with other activists recently blew the whistle on HILCO Redevelopment Partners over the environmental fallout of their botched smoked stack implosion. This led to the Illinois Attorney General taking HILCO State Court and allowed Little Village residents to seek relief in court over the environmental impact to their neighborhood. Working with Streetwise and partnering with the private sector, Terrell organized a highly successful hand sanitizer drive to help Chicago's homeless population survive during the pandemic. Terrell believes in community and opportunity for all, responsibility from all, and a free ride for none. Terrell is the author of ['In This Town, Not all Lobbyists are Created Equal.'](#)

Education:

Loyola University Chicago School of Law, Masters of Jurisprudence in Corporate Governance Law M.JUR
University of Windsor, Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, Minor in Philosophy
College of DuPage, Management Supervision Certification, Entrepreneurship Certification

Past and Current Organization Memberships:

Citizens Utility Board, Operation Push, Dean's Diversity Council Loyola School of Law, Southern Poverty Law Center

Wichitthree “Aisha” Thongsen-Candidate for Township Clerk

Aisha has lived in Bloomingdale Township (Glendale Heights) since 2012.

Aisha is running for Bloomingdale Township Clerk because she wants to improve communications with the residents and business owners of the township. As Clerk, Aisha will be the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Open Meetings Act (OMA) Officer for the Township and Highway Road District. She will also be the recorder and registrar for the Township, the Board of Trustees, and the Highway Department. As Clerk, Aisha will be keenly aware of the business of the township and she will share some of that knowledge as content for a new monthly e-newsletter for the community.



Aisha came to America from Thailand in 2005 to work for an American family for a year as an Au Pair, a student cultural exchange program that provides childcare in exchange for the opportunity to experience life in America. Aisha had a strong interest in the restaurant industry so she attended the International Hotel and Airlines Business School and began working in suburban restaurants first as a cashier, server, and bartender and later as the manager. After 10 years of working and saving, Aisha realized the American dream of becoming a business owner. Aisha became the owner of Sushi Diva Japanese Restaurant in Saint Charles in 2018. In 2020, Aisha became a Field supervisor for the U.S. Census Bureau. In this role, she did community outreach to make sure every person was counted. U.S. Census data impacts the design and implementation of policies and laws in governmental sectors including education, housing, transportation, health, and environmental protection.

Her years in the restaurant industry and her work at the U.S. Census have prepared Aisha for her role as the Township Clerk. Specifically she has very strong administrative skills, financial literacy, and the ability to create and update procedures to keep the Clerk’s office running smoothly. Additionally, Aisha has a genuine belief in giving back to the community and listening to constituents to understand what they care about most.

Aisha speaks English, Thai, and Laos.

Education:

High School in Thailand

International Hotel and Airlines Business School

Ramkhamhaeng University, Bachelor of Arts, Political Science

Elgin Community College, ESL Classes

BIR Training Center, ESL Classes

Mohammed Mortoja-Candidate for Bloomingdale Township Trustee

Mohammed Mortoja is passionate about public service, communication, leadership, and investing in Bloomingdale Township. He believes that community leaders must strike a balance between keeping tax rates low for residents and investing in community improvements that make Bloomingdale Township a place that our businesses and families are excited to call home.



Mohammed feels that being a part of the local government is a service to the community and he is looking forward to serving the community that his children have been raised in. Mohammed is married with three children and has lived in Bloomingdale Township since 2010. Currently Mohammed serves as a precinct committee of the Bloomingdale Township Democrats. He has 20+ years' IT experience and has worked in many industries including: airlines, banking, manufacturing, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, automotive, educational, publishing, agriculture, energy, and non-profit.

Mohammed supports maintaining the current tax or even reducing the rate. Mohammed believes we need to work to be a more business-friendly board that supports businesses that are both just starting out and that have been part of the community for a length of time. Along with community members, businesses are our partners.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a time of need, and to help he has volunteered in the community, especially reaching out to needy families who need food on the table. Mohammed will utilize the food pantry and deliver food-boxes containing monthly necessities to needy people's doorstep.

Mohammed will build collaborative efforts around the following issues:

1. Mohammed will bring his experience in small business and community outreach to advocate for the most cost-effective approach to deliver township services. He will prioritize digitizing information to make services available to all the residents of Bloomingdale Township.
2. Bring integrity, transparency and accountability to Bloomingdale Township government.
3. Ready to fight for homeowners and businesses. He supports maintaining the current tax or even reducing the rate.
4. No child, family, or individual should stay Hungry! Due to the COVID19, many individuals, including our elderly, widowed, refugees, and low-income families are struggling to pay their monthly bills due to either being self-quarantined or having their jobs adversely affected by the pandemic. Mohammed will utilize Township's Food Pantry to address the current challenges that our disadvantaged community members may be facing especially with bringing food to the table. He will be putting effort to deliver a food-box containing monthly necessities to your doorstep.

Education:

Rajsahi University, Bachelor of Arts, Political Science

Michael L. “Pop” Murray-Candidate for Bloomingdale Township Trustee

Mike is running for Bloomingdale Township trustee with the hope of developing opportunities for citizens to work together. Township Government by statute can support the community in a variety of areas. Mike believes Township government can do even more to provide basic and vital human services to members of our community through proactive collaboration with our local governmental entities and non-governmental organizations including churches, mosques, temples and service clubs. Mike is most interested in developing community-wide collaborations in mental health, transportation, food security, and daycare.



Mike and his wife, Barbara have lived in Bloomingdale Township since 1985. Currently, Mike serves as a precinct committee person and Treasurer of the Bloomingdale Township Democrats. In 2016, Mike worked tirelessly as the leader of a grassroots referendum committee for the creation of a 708 Community Mental Health Board* for Bloomingdale Township because he knew there were many unmet needs for people with mental illness, addiction, and developmental disabilities. Mike also knew not meeting those needs in a timely manner greatly increases the cost of treatment for the individual and can have large repercussions for the community as a whole. In 2017 when our community approved the referendum to create the Board, Mike established the [Bloomingdale Township Mental Health Auxiliary Facebook page](#) (not affiliated with the Township government) to publicly support and promote the work of the Board and to communicate about the needs in our community. Mike also is the creator and moderator of the [Bloomingdale Township Community Facebook page](#) (not affiliated with the Township government).

Mike is a longtime active member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Roselle where he has served as an Elder and on the Caring and Service Ministry. Currently, he is active in the League of Women Voters Roselle-Bloomingdale and the DuPage County Prevention and Leadership Team.

In the past, Mike served on the Roselle District 12 School Board and the YMCA Policy Committee. He also volunteered with Exodus World Service as a citizenship tutor and as a member of their New Neighbor program.

With a deep belief in the power of community, Mike hopes to help create a Township where everyone feels welcome, heard, and empowered.

Education:

Oak Park River Forest High School

Baldwin Park High School (CA)

Mount San Antonio Community College (Walnut, CA)

California State College at Los Angeles

*The mental health authority operates under the provisions of H.B. 708, Illinois Revised Statutes, also known as the Community Mental Health Act.

Tom Suhrbur-Candidate for Bloomingdale Township Trustee

Tom is running for Bloomingdale Township Trustee because he wants to make some significant reforms to benefit all constituents. Tom believes through no fault of their own, many of the Bloomingdale Township taxpayers know very little about how our township government operates. He wants to help change that by publishing a quarterly newsletter that would be mailed to all residents and business owners to share key information including:

- 1.) Lists of all contracts over \$500 received by vendors
- 2.) Names and township email addresses of all elected officials
- 3.) Description of all township services
- 4.) A suggestion box for feedback from constituents
- 5.) Calendar of events including a schedule of meetings
- 6.) Ad space for local township businesses
- 7.) A list of all building/property maintenance codes covering township residents and information about the enforcement of code violations that lower property values



Tom is an advocate for fiscal responsibility and transparency. Under the current administration, monthly township public business meetings typically last no more than 20 minutes. Bloomingdale Township trustees currently receive an annual salary of \$8,040. As an elected Trustee, Tom will study the work and time required of the elected officials to ensure the salaries and benefits provided are fair to the taxpayer and he'll propose a salary reduction if justified. Additionally, Tom will donate his entire annual salary for every year of his term to support the Township Food Pantry and other Township services.

Tom will support a measure to require all elected township officials to submit monthly timesheets and expense reports for township business. He will also insist on timely publication of all meeting announcements, agendas, minutes, and budgetary items being considered so the public can attend or comment.

Tom and his wife, Barbara, have lived in Bloomingdale Township (unincorporated Glen Ellyn Countryside) for forty years. Their three children attended District 16 Queen Bee Elementary School District and Glenbard West High School. Tom worked for the Illinois Education Association for 26 years. Prior to that, he taught Social Studies for 17 years--his last teaching job was at Geneva High School in Geneva, Illinois.

Tom has dedicated much of his life to public service. He organized the Glen Hill Elementary PTO and he helped to organize Concerned Parents of Queen Bee School District, which exposed political corruption and misappropriation of school district funds and led to felony indictments and the restoration of program cuts. For the past nine years, Tom has served as the elected Bloomingdale Democratic Party Precinct 21 committeeman. For more than 35 years, Tom has served on the Executive Committee of the Illinois Labor History Society.

Education:

St. Joseph High School

University of Illinois at Chicago, Bachelor of Arts, History

University of Illinois at Chicago, Master of Arts, History

Northern Illinois University, Certificate of Advanced Studies-Labor History

Voting Mechanics Simplified

For complete information visit the DuPage County Election homepage.

<https://www.dupageco.org/election/>

Who is eligible to register to vote?

In order to register to vote, you must meet these qualifications:

- You must be a United States citizen
- You must be at least 18 years old on or before the next election (OR for a General Primary, must be 17 and will be 18 by the General Election)
- You must live in your election precinct at least 30 days before the next election
- You must not currently be convicted and serving a sentence
- You cannot claim the right to vote anywhere else

How do I register to vote?

You can begin the process of registering to vote in DuPage County using this link:

<https://www.dupageco.org/Election/Voting/37059> . You can check to see if you are already registered, register online, or download an application as a PDF file and fill it in and mail today. You can also register at many locations throughout DuPage County. To check your eligibility to vote, please read through the following requirements. If you have any questions can contact the Election Division.

You must register at least 28 days prior to an election in order to vote in that election. You can register online, by mail, or in person. Following the close of registration, Illinois allows for "Grace Period" Registration and Voting beginning the 27 day prior until the day before an election. Online registration is available through the 15th day prior to Election Day.

Online

You may complete an application online via the Illinois State Board of Elections website. Link to register to vote: <https://ova.elections.il.gov/>

To apply electronically you must provide:

- Your Illinois Driver's License number or Illinois Secretary of State issued State ID number
- Date the license or ID was issued
- The last four digits of your Social Security number
- Your birth date

In person

You can register in person at local City, Village, or Township Halls in DuPage County or at the Election Division's office in addition to some local Libraries. When registering, be sure to bring two forms of identification with you, one of which must have your correct name and address on it. You do not need a photo ID to register.

By mail

You can also register by mail using an approved registration application form. You may download a PDF

registration form or you may contact the Election Division to have a form sent to you. Instructions are included on the form for where to mail it.

Please note the following deadline information:

- You must print, sign, and mail or deliver this form no later than 28 days before the next election.
- If you do not receive a confirmation within 4 weeks of mailing or delivering this form, call the Election Division at (630) 407-5600.

Military and Overseas FPCA Registration

Military and Overseas can also register online with FPCA.

How do I update my voter registration?

You may update your voter registration using the online registration application or by emailing, faxing or mailing a signed request letter. The request letter should include your name, date of birth, old and new addresses, and your signature. The letter may be scanned and emailed to jessica.stachniak@dupageco.org, or faxed to (630) 407-5630, or mailed to DuPage County Clerk Election Division, PO Box 1087, Wheaton, IL 60187.

The updated information will be attached to your previous registration.

How do I cancel my voter registration?

You may cancel your voter registration by emailing, faxing, or mailing a signed request letter. The request letter should include your name, date of birth, old address, and your signature. The letter may be scanned and emailed to jessica.stachniak@dupageco.org, faxed to (630) 407-5630, or mailed to DuPage County Clerk Election Division, PO Box 1087, Wheaton, IL 60187.

Links to Registration Applications and Forms from DuPage County website

- [Check your voter information](#) (Voting Status, Polling Places, Sample Ballot)
- [Find a registration location near you](#)
- [Additional Information for Grace Period Registration](#)
- [Register Online](#)
- Form to Register by Mail in [English](#) (PDF) / in [Spanish](#) (PDF)
- [FPCA Registration](#)
(NOTE: The downloadable registration form must be printed, physically signed, and mailed or delivered to the Election Division no later than 28 days before the next election.)

How do I request a Vote by Mail ballot?

You can request a mail in ballot beginning Thursday, February 25th. After you have filled out your ballot, you can return it by mail or take it to any official drop box. To track your ballot or to find your nearest drop box go to the DuPage County Election website. <https://www.dupageco.org/Election/Voting/37059>.

Use this link to request your Vote by Mail ballot: <https://www.dupageco.org/Election/VotebyMail/>

Here's a screenshot of the page you'll need to fill out. To apply electronically you must select 2021 Consolidated General for "Upcoming Elections" and provide:

- Your last name
- Your date of birth
- The last four digits of your Social Security number
- Your Illinois Driver's License number not including dashes

The screenshot shows the DuPage County website's 'Request a Vote by Mail Ballot' page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for News, Meetings, Careers, Directory, and Contact Us. The main header includes the DuPage County logo and the text 'THE COUNTY OF DUPAGE WHEATON, ILLINOIS'. Below the header is a blue navigation bar with links for HOME, I WANT TO, COURTS, PROPERTY INFO, SERVICES, COUNTY BOARD, ELECTED OFFICIALS, and DEPARTMENTS. The main content area has a breadcrumb trail: Home > Other DuPage Agencies > Elections. The title is 'Request a Vote by Mail Ballot'. A red warning message reads: 'PLEASE READ BEFORE YOU REQUEST A VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT'. Below this, there are links for early voting sites and polling places. The form section is titled 'Upcoming Elections' and has a dropdown menu set to '2021 Consolidated General'. The 'Last Name' field is labeled 'YOUR LAST NAME HERE'. The 'Date of Birth' field has dropdowns for Month (January), Day (1), and Year (2004). The 'Last 4 digits of Social Security' field contains '1234'. There is an 'Or' option and a 'Drivers License Number' field labeled 'ENTER LICENCE HERE' with a format note: 'Format: X11122223333 - do not include dashes'. A 'Search' button is at the bottom.

Where can I find locations, days and times of Early Voting Sites near me?

Use this link: <https://www.dupageco.org/Election/Voting/EarlyVoting/>

Where can I find my Election Day Polling Place?

Use this link: <https://www.dupageco.org/VoterLookup/>

About the Democratic Party of Bloomingdale Township

We are a Party from all walks of life, from all kinds of backgrounds.

We believe that **diversity is our strength**, and this belief reinforces the core beliefs that tie Democrats together.

Democrats believe that **we're greater together than we are on our own** – we succeed when everyone gets a **fair shot**, everyone does their **fair share**, and everyone **plays by the same rules**.

Our party is focused on building a community that **lifts up and values every resident of Bloomingdale Township, the state, and nation**.

Critical to the success of our community is participation by all

Visit www.bloomingtondemocrats.org or email us at townshipsmatter2021@gmail.com for more information.

About the Republican Party of Bloomingdale Township

Information was formally requested from the Republican Party of Bloomingdale Township but no information was furnished by the party.

Visit <https://www.bloomingtonrepublicans.com> for more information.