

2025 CONSOLIDATED Primary Candidate Survey

Please **complete this survey no later than 12/20/24**. Please contact Bruce Johnson, Chairman at 847-668-8516 if you have any questions.

Thank you for your desire to serve. The Algonquin Township Republican Party wants to help you reach our voters. When our voters don't know who to vote for they often don't vote as seen by the low number of voter turn out during Primary Elections. The Democratic Party are NOT having a Primary Election. They are selecting their Candidates in a Caucus. That's why we created this Survey. We'll be posting your answers on our website www.algtwpgop.org and contacting our voters to access the website to help them determine who to vote for.

We invite all Candidates to complete the survey and help us inform our voters. The survey allows voters to view how candidates intend to govern—information they need to feel confident they're picking the best person for the role.

Minimally, please answer the first four questions:

- **Who are you? Tell us about yourself in 200 words or less.**
- **What are three goals that you want to achieve if elected?**
- **What skills and experience do you bring to the office?**
- **What would you do to bring greater financial transparency and accountability to government?**

Candidates can decide which additional questions to answer. We believe that the first four questions illustrate why a candidate is running and what they hope to achieve in office.

Thank-you for completing the survey. It helps us to help you inform our voters.

Email *

kevin.byrnes21@gmail.com

Name *

Kevin Byrnes

1. Who are you? Tell us about yourself in 200 words or less. *

I am a proud Crystal Lake resident, husband, father, and U.S. Marine Corps Veteran. I enlisted in 2003 and served honorably for over nine years, with deployments to Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Balkans. In 2008, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff selected me to represent U.S. military non-commissioned officers at a NATO recognition ceremony in Belgium—a reflection of my leadership and service.

After my military career, I continued to serve our community in law enforcement before launching a successful Veteran-Owned business. Through this, I developed the skills of fiscal responsibility, accountability, and leadership, which I now bring to public service.

Since 2020, I have been an elected Republican Precinct Committeeman for Algonquin Township, focused on promoting strong Republican candidates who align with our community's values. Additionally, I serve as Secretary of the Crystal Lake Lions Club, dedicating time to helping those in need through service and fundraising, living by the motto, "We serve."

With my background in leadership, public service, and fiscal stewardship, I am deeply committed to serving Algonquin Township with integrity and dedication, ensuring our community thrives for years to come.

2. What are three goals that you want to achieve if elected? *

Mandate Fiscally Conservative Practices: I will ensure that all township budgets are responsible to taxpayers by keeping the levy from rising beyond what is minimally required. I will focus on eliminating waste, cutting unnecessary expenses, and prioritizing efficiency. I am particularly committed to ending the misuse of taxpayer money on excessive legal bills caused by political infighting of the current trustees, which has already cost us nearly \$30,000. Such reckless spending is irresponsible and contrary to fiscally conservative principles. I will bring accountability and sound financial management back to the board.

Expand Township Services: I will work to enhance key services that directly benefit our residents. This includes improving the township recycling program, expanding senior services, and restoring the general assistance fund. The current board's decision to cut nearly half of the general assistance fund in a political move against the Supervisor has hurt Algonquin Township citizens who rely on emergency assistance. I will prioritize rebuilding these vital programs to serve our community better.

Promote Ethical and Collaborative Leadership: By fostering transparency, trust, and collaboration among board members, staff, and residents, I will ensure decisions are made ethically and in the best interests of our community, free from political vendettas.

3. What skills and experience do you bring to the office? *

I bring a wealth of skills and experience that uniquely qualifies me to serve as a Trustee. My nine years of honorable service in the U.S. Marine Corps instilled in me a strong work ethic, leadership skills, and a commitment to service. During my military career, I led diverse teams under challenging circumstances, receiving numerous accolades for my professionalism and dedication, including recognition from the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Following my military service, I continued serving my law enforcement community, where I developed critical problem-solving, communication, and decision-making skills. These roles required me to act with integrity and accountability—values I carry into public service. As the owner of a successful Veteran-Owned business, I have honed the skills of fiscal responsibility, strategic planning, and effective resource management. Running a business requires making tough financial decisions, optimizing resources, and maintaining transparency, all essential for serving as a Trustee.

Additionally, my role as an elected Republican Precinct Committeeman and Secretary of the Crystal Lake Lions Club has provided me with direct experience in community engagement, public service, and working collaboratively to address community needs. These experiences have prepared me to serve Algonquin Township with integrity, efficiency, and a focus on results.

4. Why are you running for the position? *

When elected, I will proudly donate my salary to local Veterans' organizations to support those who have selflessly served our nation.

As a proud resident, Veteran, and small business owner, I am committed to fiscal responsibility, transparency, and effective leadership. The current political infighting and reckless spending have eroded trust in our township. I aim to restore it by eliminating waste, like the \$30,000 spent on political disputes, and focusing on real value for residents.

I will prioritize expanding township services, including improving recycling, restoring funding for general assistance, and enhancing senior services. These programs directly impact our community, and I am determined to ensure they receive the attention they deserve. Algonquin Township needs leadership that avoids unnecessary conflict, prioritizes the community, and delivers practical solutions to build a stronger, united future.

5. What would you do to bring greater financial transparency and accountability to government?

To bring greater financial transparency and accountability to Algonquin Township, I would prioritize the following initiatives:

1. **Implement Transparent Budgeting:** I would advocate for the creation of a detailed, user-friendly budget that is accessible to the public. Residents should be able to see exactly how their taxpayer dollars are being allocated, with clear breakdowns of expenses and revenue streams. This transparency will foster trust and ensure accountability.
2. **Introduce Regular Financial Reporting:** I will push for routine financial updates to be shared during board meetings and made available online. These reports would include detailed summaries of expenditures, revenues, and project updates, allowing residents to track the township's financial health and hold leadership accountable.
3. **Cut Wasteful Spending:** I would work to eliminate unnecessary expenditures, such as the \$30,000 wasted on legal fees from political infighting, and refocus those funds on essential services. Fiscal discipline will be my guiding principle.
4. **Promote Open Communication:** By engaging residents in the budgeting process through public forums and soliciting feedback, I will ensure that financial decisions reflect the priorities of our community.

These steps will create a culture of financial responsibility, transparency, and accountability in Algonquin Township.

6. What are the primary concerns being expressed by voters and where do you stand on these issues?

The primary concerns expressed by voters in Algonquin Township center around fiscal responsibility, the quality and availability of township services, and the need for ethical and transparent leadership. Here's where I stand on these critical issues:

1. **Fiscal Responsibility:** Voters are frustrated with wasteful spending, particularly the nearly \$30,000 spent on legal fees due to political infighting among the current board. I stand firmly against such reckless use of taxpayer money. My focus will be on implementing fiscally conservative practices, eliminating unnecessary expenses, and ensuring that every dollar is spent efficiently and transparently. I will work to restore trust by prioritizing the interests of residents over political agendas.

2. **Township Services:** Many voters are concerned about cuts to vital programs, such as the general assistance fund, senior services, and community programs like recycling. I strongly believe in expanding and improving these services to better meet the needs of our community. For example, restoring the general assistance fund, which was cut as part of a political move, is a priority for me to ensure we support our residents in need.

3. **Ethical Leadership and Transparency:** Residents are calling for leaders who put the community first, avoid unnecessary conflict, and maintain transparency. I am committed to fostering collaboration among board members, maintaining open communication with residents, and ensuring decisions are made ethically and in the best interest of the township.

By addressing these concerns with integrity, accountability, and practical solutions, I will work to restore trust in our township government and deliver results that benefit everyone.

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