



rRemarks Data for December 3, 2024 Village Council Meeting

Agenda Section & Item: First Reading - ORD 2024-10553 H. Ordinance: Levying of Taxes for the Fiscal Year Commencing on the First Day of January 2024 and Ending on the Thirty-First Day of December 2024 for Village of Downers Grove Special Service Area #7 (Dunham Subdivision)

Commenter:

Comment: Open to opinion.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter:

Comment: I wholeheartedly DISAGREE with the details in the DG Public Library referendum.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter:

Comment: Dear Mayor Barnett and Village Council:

I write on behalf of the Downers Grove Board of Library Trustees with regard to Council Resolution 2024-10593, which seeks to place a nonbinding referendum on the ballot next April asking "Shall the trustees of the Downers Grove Public Library be elected, rather than appointed?" The resolution is scheduled for a vote on December 3, 2024, and was introduced at the Council's November 19, 2024 meeting.

We respond in detail below, but in short, based on the initial assessment that the unreasonably short timing of the Council's scheduled vote has allowed us to conduct, we believe:

the language of the referendum is nonsensical because we are aware of no legal mechanism to allow for the election of trustees under the existing library structure; the extensive legal and structural changes that would be required to implement an elected library board, such as becoming an independent taxing body separate from the Village, will have costs that will likely result in higher taxes for Downers Grove residents.

Regardless of the merits of the proposal itself, however, proceeding with the referendum on such a chaotic timeline is contrary to the best interests of our residents, and unprofessional to ask of a fellow unit of government—one that has existed in its current form for over 130 years. For that reason, we previously asked that the Council grant us the courtesy of delaying its vote by at least one month to allow us to prepare a proper report on the impact of proceeding with the proposed referendum, but to date, that request has not been granted.

We unequivocally ask that you vote no on this resolution.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Andi Voinovich

Comment: Board, while I understand your desire to include community opinion in regards to this significant change in library governing structure, it is irresponsible of you to do so without significant fact finding beforehand. Please do not put this up for a vote without first offering (or allowing others) to offer crucial information for the community to understand this decision. If what we are hearing about greater expenses for tax payers is true and you do not know the actual numbers yourselves, you are not holding true to your fiduciary responsibility.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Kristen Zagozdon

Comment: I am concerned with the last minute changes proposed to the DG Library Board. I ask that you vote no to the proposed change and allow more time for a

thoughtful discussion regarding the Library Board. We are so grateful for pur DGPL and would hate to lose the many programs and services the library provides. Please vote no

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter:

Comment: I have used Downers Grove Public library since 1951 except for periods when i lived elsewhere. In answer to your next question I am not a resident of Downers Grove but I pay for the privilege of using the library. I'll put aside the issue of how badly this situation has been handled to ask a different question. What is it about the management of the library that you have a problem with? I think it is a service that we can be proud of.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter:

Comment: Yes, I do not believe Council Resolution 2024-10593 should be voted on December 3rd. More time is needed to consider the ramifications of an elected board. This decision should not be made in haste.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter:

Comment: Thoughts on proposed Resolution 2024-10593: I am shocked to see this kind of quick undermining of the library and the Downers Grove community by having a vote with such short notice and within a holiday season. The intent to elect the Library board when the community is overwhelmingly supportive and happy and Proud of this library is a strong indication that these changes are not being done for the betterment of the community, but to undermine the library staff to act in the best interest of its citizens. On top of that it will cost taxpayers more to implement this change. This is outrageous

and will not stand. Vote No on this referendum trying to change to the way the library is governed.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter:

Comment: Leave the library alone. Everytime you get involved, they end up with death threats from the radical right wingers and hate groups.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Danielle

Comment: Dear Mayor Barnett and Village Council:

I write on behalf of the Downers Grove Board of Library Trustees with regard to Council Resolution 2024-10593, which seeks to place a nonbinding referendum on the ballot next April asking “Shall the trustees of the Downers Grove Public Library be elected, rather than appointed?” The resolution is scheduled for a vote on December 3, 2024, and was introduced at the Council’s November 19, 2024 meeting.

We respond in detail below, but in short, based on the initial assessment that the unreasonably short timing of the Council’s scheduled vote has allowed us to conduct, we believe:

the language of the referendum is nonsensical because we are aware of no legal mechanism to allow for the election of trustees under the existing library structure; the extensive legal and structural changes that would be required to implement an elected library board, such as becoming an independent taxing body separate from the Village, will have costs that will likely result in higher taxes for Downers Grove residents.

Regardless of the merits of the proposal itself, however, proceeding with the referendum on such a chaotic timeline is contrary to the best interests of our residents, and unprofessional to ask of a fellow unit of government—one that has existed in its current form for over 130 years. For that reason, we previously asked that the Council grant us the courtesy of delaying its vote by at least one month to allow us to prepare a proper

report on the impact of proceeding with the proposed referendum, but to date, that request has not been granted.

We unequivocally ask that you vote no on this resolution.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Jeff Panici

Comment: I urge a "No" vote on the referendum asking whether the library board should be elected. There is no reason to further politicize one of the best and most useful resources in our village. The question is also disingenuous, as there is no mechanism to simply change the board's status from "appointed" to "elected" with no impact on the library's finances or operational structure. I understand the desire to seek public feedback, but there are better ways to engage and educate the public than putting a one-sentence nonbinding referendum question on the ballot.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter:

Comment: Why was a resolution to change the structure of the library placed on the agenda with such short notice? The Village Council should at the very least do their own due diligence, and be transparent about that due diligence to the community. What is the purpose of the library resolution? Why was the current library board not informed or consider prior to this being placed on the agenda? What is benefit to the community of this change? We need (and you should require) more information before voting to change a pillar of this community.

Agenda Section & Item: Comments of a General Nature

Commenter:

Comment: This proposal makes no sense at all. The current Board of Trustees does an excellent job. This sounds shifty and political, which a library should not be. I use the library frequently as do my friends. Please don't change something that is not

broke. What happened to transparency? Do not change the library board to an elected Board. The current Trustees are doing an excellent job. I am worried that politically elected Board will begin banning books, and not permit all people to use the library. The current Board is incredible.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter:

Comment: I am a commercial litigation attorney, and it is shocking to me that the Village is attempting to rush a vote on something that significantly affects taxpayers with this library board referendum. Not only is it irresponsible, it is reckless, divisive, and arguably unethical. The obvious gamesmanship here makes me both enraged and embarrassed for the proponents of this resolution and the Village Council. The resolution itself is extremely problematic, given that I can find zero benefit in having an elected library board even before taking into account the millions of dollars and thousands of hours of work it would require. Clearly, a few self-interested proponents of this resolution are strongarming the Village into a rushed and chaotic vote. It appears no one, except the library's Board, has done any research about the impacts of having an elected library Board. The library's preliminary findings support that there is no benefit to DG citizens, and instead, numerous detriments (higher taxes and less staff time spend on the library's 2025 strategic plan, to name a few). Our library Board has been and is successfully meeting or exceeding its community's needs and financial and budgetary goals. Why should taxpayers or the library's budget suffer increases to placate self-interested sponsor(s) of this resolution who likely have little or no knowledge or experience regarding library operations. I can assure you that I will vote against such an unnecessary and damaging referendum, but I hope that the Village exercises prudence at its next meeting and refuses to hold a vote on this issue. If any proponent of this resolution or person in favor of putting it to a vote is an elected official, I will vote against them in the next election.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter:

Comment: I have read that the Village is considering revision of the current process by which DG Library trustees from appointed to elected. Although generally a strong fan of democracy I think that politics has already reared its ugly head way too high with respect to our country's library operations. Please reconsider. Thank you.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter:

Comment: I would like my comments recorded. All of this has happened too quickly. There needs to be more time and discussion both pro and con before this moves forward.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Kate Magnusson

Comment: This makes no sense. Totally unnecessary, complicated, and expensive... not beneficial to the library or the taxpayers of DG. But seriously, why? Why is this even a subject for discussion? The library board, staff, and administration are against it, the taxpayers will suffer, library patrons won't benefit... Honestly just looks like petty, political vindictiveness. Mayor and Council, please spend your time and our tax dollars solving problems that actually exist in DG, rather than manufacturing fake ones.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter:

Comment: I am not in favor of electing board members to the library due to the single issue book banning problem. The ones with an axe to grind might win. Also, it will be a chaotic time the next 4 years. Let's keep the status quo where we can and protect of freedom to read whatever we want.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - ORD 2024-10582 G. Ordinance: Repealing Ordinance No. 6003 Establishing Video Gaming Regulations

Commenter:

Comment: Please consider putting a hold on this proposal until more feedback can be considered. Keep video gaming to a minimum.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: LuAnne Patno

Comment: Library referendum VOTE NO.

Agenda Section & Item: Comments of a General Nature

Commenter: Jacque Morgan

Comment: I strongly agree the library should be granted the request to delay the vote by at least one month to allow them to prepare a proper report on the impact of proceeding with the proposed referendum.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter:

Comment: i believe the library board should be appoint, not elected. There are too many elections choices already.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Allison Heverin

Comment: To the Village Council,

I am writing to express my opposition to Council Resolution 2024-10593, which seeks to place a nonbinding referendum on the ballot next April asking "Shall the trustees of the Downers Grove Public Library be elected, rather than appointed?" I am dismayed by both the fact of the resolution as well as the warp speed with which the Village Council seems prepared to act on something that is of such huge import. My concerns fall into three large buckets. First, I am concerned about the lack of expressed rationale for even having such a resolution in the first place. What problem is the Village Council seeking to address by raising this resolution? The library has been enormously effective in recent years providing outstanding service to residents of Downers Grove that has resulted in well-deserved national recognition. I am not aware of any concerns raised by or to the Village Council about the management or effectiveness of the library. So, why mess with a good thing? This appears to me to be the quintessential "solution in search of a problem." Second, I am stunned by the speed with which the Village Council is intent on pushing this through. Even if there was a well-defined problem that the council was attempting to address, why the rush? Why not give the library board of trustees the time to research and respond to this before rushing it to a vote? Again, there isn't any identified problem that this resolution is addressing, much less anything of an emergency nature that requires such massive haste. Finally, third, the resolution itself is vague and unlikely to be understood by voters. From my own quick research, this resolution has potential major implications for the level of services provided by the library and its passage makes possible that residents will face an increased tax burden. Nothing in the language of the resolution though hints as the major structural change to a unit of government that provides essential services to residents of Downers Grove. If this resolution is to be put before voters, it should at least be drafted in such a way to makes it clear the massive impact it is likely to have on a beloved institution.

I urge the Village Council to vote against this resolution for all of the aforementioned reasons.

Thank you,

Allison

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: James Lenihan

Comment: I have concerns regarding the rushed process for RES 2024-10593. This is an overly vague and uninformed public question that has been given an artificially rushed timeline for purposes of getting it onto the next ballot. Setting aside opinions about the library or the merits of the underlying intent of the question proposed, this public question in its current form does not meet the standards of governance of our Village and lacks the process that other similar ballot questions have had. Please defer this and spend more time analyzing the fundamentals so we can be better informed.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter:

Comment: I unequivocally ask that you vote no on the proposed resolution (2024-10593), seeking to place a nonbinding referendum on the April 2025 ballot concerning the library's governance.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter:

Comment: I believe Trustees should be appointed. Thank You.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Julia Freed

Comment: Please grant the Library's request for an extension on the recent referendum proposal. Also, I would like the sponsor of the referendum to provide a detailed rationale including justification for the referendum, as well as how it will benefit the Downers Grove Community.

Agenda Section & Item:Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Nicole Engler

Comment: I do not support this resolution. Library Trustees should be appointed by the entire Village Council and remain a part of the Village organization. We love our Library and fully support its team.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter:

Comment: I am concerned that the Village Council might interfere with the library's governance. I am very happy with our library.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Todd Thomas

Comment: Please consider delaying the vote on this issue. I believe the library has been so thoughtful, for so long, that this push for a non-binding referendum chooses instead to politicize the library...without an opportunity for discussion and common sense. On a broad level, the banning of books concerns me greatly. However I believe this particular action is a politically motivated response to a politically motivated program at the library. I support LGBTQ issues, however I think the library was wrong in hosting a drag queen bingo, and I believe a reasonable person can understand how I view these differently. I believe the response, to move to make the board elected, and to quickly put it on the ballot as a non-binding referendum to do so, is similarly wrong, short sighted and politically motivated in the opposite direction. I think the library is great, and it has been built upon the work of thoughtful people for decades. So, give the library respect it has EARNED and provide some time for a thoughtful discussion.

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Commenter: Rick Hurckes

Comment: I've been watching the weekly village council meetings on youtube ever since last fall when I brought my son to a meeting for a boy scout requirement. I appreciate the time and commitment you all take out of your busy lives to make our community a better place. I find myself lucky that I can skip through the meetings whereas you all have to sit there and listen to many of the crazy comments that come in. Thank you, truly, for your service.

I am writing today to voice my opposition to the library board proposal. I think moving forward with this proposal will cause the library to be even more politicized than ever. Would directly electing library board members equate to better candidates than appointing them through the village council? I do not believe it would. I think going this route would be bad for the village as it would cause more extremism on the board whereas appointments by village council would allow for more conscience.

Finally, having watched the last meeting in its entirety, it seems to me like the only reason this proposal is up for a vote NOW is so it can be on the April 2025 ballot. This village council never seems to rush into decisions but instead makes careful, thoughtful deliberations. Moving ahead with this now seems to upend that norm. Essentially, the village council should take their normal course of action -- be deliberate, thoughtful, and not rush into decisions -- there is no reason to fast track this process now, there will be future ballots to consider this.

In conclusion, I think moving forward for this is bad for residents. I believe it will cause my taxes to increase, the library board to be too politicized, and I think the village council is rushing into a decision that it needs to fully consider in more time than a single meeting.

Thank you,
Rick Hurckes

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Kristin Anderson

Comment: Please leave the library alone. Don't end up in the news as being a terrible entity trying to ruin something wonderful. Don't be those guys. Don't bring shame upon this town.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Jennifer West

Comment: As a resident of Downers Grove, I am satisfied with how the library is currently managed. I would like to echo what council members Hose, Gilmartin and Sadowski-Fuggit spoke to at the last meeting- there are other ways to hold the library accountable besides direct election of library council members. We have a 5 star library. That doesn't happen overnight. It takes a lot of work from qualified individuals who are passionate about the library's mission and place in our community. We live in a community of inclusion and respect. The council should be supporting and standing by the library- continuing to improve communication between the library and council and using the library council member appointment process to help shape its future. The council should not be parting ways with a beloved institution to simply clean their hands and no longer be held accountable. As council member Sadowski-Fuggit stated, "take accountability" and "sit in the discomfort" a little longer. We elected you to do what is in the best interest of our community. Any action taken to put this on the ballot in April is not in our best interest. I do not appreciate the speed of this action item- especially after a general election that has left many exhausted of the political process.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Grace Goodwyn

Comment: What's the rush? It took you years to come up with the gaming referendum question on the most recent ballot. The library is a thriving institution and industry leader that continues to improve upon itself year after year while being a great value and resource to DG taxpayers. A winning formula shouldn't be messed with.

Agenda Section & Item: Comments of a General Nature

Commenter: Karen Schmidt

Comment: Please review the sound settings / microphone usage on the village council YouTube recordings. The last meeting recorded 11/19 the comments on library discussion is loud at times and then barely audible other times even within the same speaker. Fortunately I was able to understand the content using closed captions.

Agenda Section & Item:Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Sarah Dunn

Comment: I'm writing in regards to the Library Referendum question: "Shall the trustees of the Downers Grove Public Library be elected, rather than appointed". There has not been enough time for the Downers Grove Library Board of Trustees to discuss this referendum. Just as there was a year to discuss video gaming in local restaurants before it was on the ballot in November's election, there should also be the same amount of time for the library board to discuss this proposal.

Also, I feel that the the trustees of the DGPL should be appointed and not elected. In the initial meeting on 11/12/24 there was also a question of the DGPL becoming an independent unit of government. The cost of this would be too high for residents. The library is a valuable resource for all it's residents. Please do not take that away. Thank you. Sarah Dunn

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Megan Walsh

Comment: I request that the Village Council votes NO on resolution 2024-10593. I see no reason, nor benefit, for the library board of trustees be changed to an independent unit of government which would mean the trustees are elected versus appointed. The public already has the current ability to share their opinions and ideas about the creation and funding of library programs with the library board of trustees. I fully support the Downers Grove library and its board of trustees. They have consistently provided excellent services and programming that benefit everyone within the community, including marginalized groups, despite opposition from a small minority of small minded people who wish to impose their narrow views on the majority.

Agenda Section & Item:Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter:Julie Brethauer

Comment: Dear Mayor Barnett and Village Council,

If the Library Board is not in favor of this proposal being on the ballot in April, and have not asked nor are asking for a change in the procedure of seating Library Board members, it seems as though this proposal isn't a good use of taxpayer time or money.

I oppose putting the proposal on the ballot.

Thank you.

Julie Brethauer
34-year DG resident

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Jeanne Topic

Comment: As a former resident of Downers Grove for more than 50 years, I believe the library Board of Trustees should remain positions appointed by the Village Council

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Michael Partlo

Comment: Matt Topic, President of Downers Grove Board of Library Trustees, makes some very good points, in his Nov 26 letter to the DG Village Council. Especially, Spring of 2025, being too soon for a library ballot referendum. During the last 25 years, under the stewardship of 'appointed' library trustees, I know the DG Library to be a world class operation, granting the public, free access to publications and promoting transfer of

knowledge activities. DG Village Council interests in a ballot referendum measure, should first partner with/solicit, input from Library Trustees

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Andrew Lee

Comment: After the last few horrid years, the library and its staff have proved the need for independent oversight, and need to be able to be removed by the people paying them, us.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Jill Bartelmey

Comment: I am deeply concerned about a recent Downers Grove Village Council agenda item regarding placing an advisory referendum question on the April ballot asking whether the library should become an independent unit of government, separate from the Village.

The agenda item was not only a surprise—to library staff and trustees, several council members, and the community—it's also pointless and presumptuous on the part of VC, who has no authority to act on the issue.

IF the Village and Library want to consider operating separately, the procedure to move forward must be initiated by the library board or by petition (from 10% of voters). Not Village Council.

Instead, VC is inexplicably rushing to place a purposeless question on the ballot of a low-turnout election while skirting any accountability. Mayor Barnett feels “no particular obligation” to educate voters. It seems all responsibility—from educating voters to responding to results—is placed squarely on the library, who did not request this.

On December 3, VC will vote on whether to include this now stripped-down question, devoid of any context to the ballot: “Shall the Downers Grove Public Library Board be

elected, rather than appointed?" Omitted is that an additional government body, costing taxpayers significantly more money, would be created first.

Until recently, VC used an incorrect process for appointing trustees (mayor-led vs. full council). Three recent appointments, utilizing the correct collaborative process, have gone smoothly.

Only two DG library trustees have ever been removed. Both were seated using the incorrect process. Both displayed open disdain for the institution they served. And both were appointed by members currently serving on VC (Barnett and then-mayor Tully), who remain indignant at being held accountable. I'm not surprised that rather than hold themselves accountable to their constituents, they prefer to dictate when and how the library should be accountable to theirs.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Terisia Wernett

Comment: As a 20 year resident of Downers Grove, I am unclear as to why this has been brought to the Board and why there seems to be haste in having the resolution voted upon. Before voting yes or no as to whether the current structure should change, I would like to understand the "why" behind this request. Without that information, the residents of Downers Grove do not have enough information to make an informed decision. I ask that this Resolution be given more time for open discussion. Thank you.
Terisia Wernett

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: James Schloss

Comment: I am unable to attend the meeting on December 3 but feel strongly about two subjects I would appreciate be addressed. 1. There is a rumor I have heard from several people that the village will approve gaming contrary to the November vote result on this issue. Will the village be approving gaming in contradiction to that vote? 2. I would like to see a delay in the decision for the non binding resolution the would require the creation of a new independent taxing body for the library. We have found the library

to be a most valuable resource for our family and community. It is reasonable to delay this resolution vote until the community can learn about this from all parties.

Regards, Jim Schloss

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Jack Carson

Comment: I'm writing to encourage the village council to reject the proposed referendum regarding Downers Grove Public Library. The library should continue to have their own budget line within the city's budget and operate with their own appointed Board separate from the Village. The Council cannot make decisions on behalf of the library and its own board of trustees. Please vote against moving forward with this proposed referendum.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: james kavanagh

Comment: I support Matt Topic's (President Downers Grove Public Library Board of Trustee) November 26,2024 letter on this topic.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Barbara Cosentino

Comment: I strongly urge a vote of no to this resolution. Our library is a treasure, which provides and meets the community's ever evolving needs, and has done so for over 130 years. The referendum would disrupt this process, raise taxes unnecessarily, and burden a staff that is already being threatened by outside parties. A rushed vote would harm our community, and only invite outside interests that mean us harm. Please vote no for the sake of our community.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Katrina Shenton

Comment: I am writing to express my opposition to the resolution proposing this ballot question. As written, it is misleading and problematic. Rushing a ballot measure like this without the proper time and resources to educate voters is irresponsible and it seems the council already has a full docket of items on the agenda. Furthermore, the effects of such a measure if implemented are extremely concerning, as laid out in the Library Board President Matt Topic's November 26th open letter to the council. Our library is a gem and a pillar of our community, and I implore the council to vote no on this resolution so that we can keep it as such.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Jean Stone

Comment: This resolution is an absolute waste of precious time and resources. The focus needs to be on making sure that taxpayers are not continually burdened by increased taxes for any reason. This library-related resolution shows the lack of focus on what is important to taxpayers, as well as those of us that utilized the valuable library services. This is one of the best library in the country - you need to act like it.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Michelle

Comment: Introducing this referendum without giving the library ample notice is irresponsible. Not giving the board a chance to discuss this before voting on the referendum-- and trying to push it during a holiday season at that-- is cowardly. Libraries are a crucial service to the public, and they do not deserve this mistreatment.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter:Andrea Knudsen

Comment: To the members of our Village Council,

We are unable to attend tonight's council meeting, but are compelled to share our concern about Council Resolution 2024-10593, the proposed non-binding referendum regarding the selection of our library trustees. While we understand and support conversation about governance and transparency, this proposal falls far short of council's thorough and thoughtful process related to the video gaming referendum on the ballot weeks ago.

This is a decision with HUGE repercussions for our library—one of the assets of our village that, without hyperbole, influenced our decision to raise our family in Downers Grove. We expect and depend on council's leadership, but this is not the careful consideration your library—and your constituents—deserve. The process to appoint library trustees has been amended, which in itself has the potential to improve library board governance. We hope you'll reconsider rushing to include this non-binding referendum to the April ballot.

Respectfully,
Andrea and Andy Knudsen

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Peggy Delaney

Comment: The DGPL is the heart of our community. The current model of operation has been in place for 130 years. The community deserves to preserve our library and keep its current operations in place. The DG community needs to see our Village Board support our library and not be a part of the attack on this critically important institution that our community loves.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Melissa Troy

Comment: The library is a well run and respected institution in our suburb, far superior to other suburban libraries. Why would you risk raising taxes, and potentially losing services in order to put this on the April ballot? And why did you change the wording at the last minute? And why not give the library enough time to properly present their side? Is this because of a grudge regarding a trustee who was dismissed due to a lack of

integrity? Sad that our village council is turning into another political boy's club. Shame on you.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: MJ Kowert

Comment: I urge the Council to vote against Resolution 2024-10593 proposing the addition of a non-binding referendum on the April 2025 ballot regarding election of the Library Board of Trustees. While I appreciate the concerns Councilperson Davenport has identified and share in the desire for increased accountability of the Library Board, especially in light of the drama of the recent past; the referendum, as it is written, is ill-conceived and misleading and will ultimately provide little to no value to guide the Council in its evaluation of this decision.

Asking voters to decide if they think electing, rather than appointing, the Library Board on a Yes or No referendum without a full exploration of such a question's implications is irresponsible. This question, as written, entraps our community members to vote "yes" based on the shared understanding that democracy is good, and that elections are our right and are favored over appointments.

However, the public will not have had the opportunity to understand what is being asked of them. Quite frankly, it is not evident that the Village Council itself understands and appreciates the question being asked. This referendum could also be asked as follows: "Should the Downers Grove Library become a Library District, separate and independent from the Village, which will mean the establishment of a separate and distinct taxing body, which will have yet-to-be-identified consequences?" You could see how a "Yes" vote could easily turn to a "No" vote and vice versa. A referendum on the April 2025 ballot will be as valuable as asking a magic-8 ball or flipping a coin - you will get an answer, but one that lacks information, analysis, and an affirmative decision by the voter.

I implore the Village Council to vote against this Resolution and instead, move to propose this referendum on the November 2026 ballot once the public, and the Council itself, understands the implications of such a change.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Tom Kinane

Comment: I feel this resolution is seeking to change something that is not broken. The Library Board has been doing a great job running the Downers Grove Library. To add such a resolution with no input or conversation with the current Board of Library Trustees is an egregious use of power. Village residents deserve to know why the Village Council is attempting to overthrow a well run organization that has been in existence for 130 years. A postponement or removal of this Resolution is requested.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Dana Birch

Comment: The Downers Grove Public Library is an important institution in Downers Grove. Its programs are vital to our community. They were a major player in the development and love of reading for our children here in Downers Grove. Please stop trying to separate the Library from the Village. We as constituents voted the Village Board in to do positive things for our community, not tear down its institutions based on anyone's private agendas. The library here in Downers Grove is just that, a positive community institution. Stop trying to sneak incorrectly approved and underhanded referendums designed to trick the populace into causing harm to the library or any other community institution. Leave the library alone, and let the library board do the work it is supposed to do.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Beth Green

Comment: The Downers Grove Public Library is a vital and positive institution in Downers Grove. Its programs are diverse, consistently available, and support all age groups. They continue to be a driving force in the development of a sense of community and love of reading for children and adults in Downers Grove. Please do not separate the Library from the Village. The Village Board has an obligation to do positive things for our community, not alter this institution in a way that would make it harder for it to serve the community. This referendum is quickly and quietly sneaking through the processes designed to help the populace and would cause harm to the library

institution. Please support the library as a part of the village, and let the library board do the amazing work it has consistently done. There is no need to change something that is working very well as is.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Natalie Doak

Comment: The library has not been provided enough time to analyze the impact of this proposed change.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Linda McConaughy

Comment: Another sneaky move by the council. Shame on you

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Jaclyn Okkema

Comment: The proposed resolution regarding the library should NOT be on the upcoming ballot. The public should have more time to learn and understand the consequences that would follow if the library were to become a separate government entity. Pushing this onto a ballot before the majority of the public even knows about it seems irresponsible. Such a big decision should be put on a ballot that will have a larger voting turn out and only after people have had time to make an informed decision. I love our library and think it has been a welcoming and beloved part of our community. I'm tired of it being attacked.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Kate Albrecht

Comment: I recently learned about Council Resolution 2024-10593 and encourage our village commissioners to vote "no."

Awake Illinois is an anti-LGBTQ, pro-book banning organization based in Naperville. They've been hard at work for the past few years targeting our public libraries and the programming they offer to serve ALL members of our community, and Downers Grove Public Library has been an ongoing target. They've protested Pride Month programming, for example. Southern Law Poverty Center has flagged them as a hate group.

Long story short, their work here in DG involves getting candidates who support their stances onto our school boards, village council and library board. In a chaotic turn of events over the past two weeks, the DG Village Council has rushed a vote onto its agenda for its meeting for DG to consider electing its library trustees instead of appointing them (Council Resolution 2024-10593).

The library itself didn't ask for this, and the Downers Grove Library Foundation opposes it. In fact, the village has rushed this to a vote without allowing the library board a chance to discuss it at its own public board meeting, which honestly feels rather shady timing-wise. This change would be a lose-lose for our community—it boils down to higher taxes for residents and less programming for the library.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Sue Stealey

Comment: I do not support any changes to our current system of an appointed library board

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Jessica Nastal

Comment: Dear Village Council members,
I am writing to document my opposition to RES 2024-10593 and to urge your "nay" vote.

My parents brought our family to Downers Grove in 1987. As a child, the DG Public Library was my haven. The librarians knew and welcomed me, whether it be in the stacks or at the Teddy Bear Picnic in Fishel Park. It was that safe "third space" where

my friends and I could spend our afternoons and evenings as adolescents to study and connect and be ourselves. This is where I had my first job as a teenager, with a manager who still works at the library, who still remembers me, and who now makes my own daughter feel like she belongs. The library was central to my development and, frankly, to my choice to return to the village and rent an apartment downtown (so we could be within walking distance!).

I imagine many of us who have grown up in Downers Grove, who have made it our home, who are raising our own families here have similar stories and warm memories of this nationally-recognized institution. RES 2024–10593 threatens this vital institution and its role in our community.

I find the resolution deeply troubling for the following reasons:

- Commissioner Davenport has provided no evidence or rationale to substantiate the need for this significant restructuring of the library's governance. Transparency is a cornerstone of good governance, yet this proposal has been presented without adequate context, explanation, or stakeholder input. If the stated goal is to enhance transparency, then the absence of supporting information undermines that very objective.
- It is concerning that no discussions appear to have taken place between the commissioner, the library staff, or the library board. The Village's vision statement emphasizes that DG "will be a hub for inclusiveness, acceptance, mutual respect and cultural excellence, fostering a strong relationship with community institutions to promote an excellent quality of life and community pride." The rushed timeline and unilateral approach to placing this divisive item on the council agenda contradict these values.
- The timing of this proposal—just two weeks before the deadline to adopt a resolution for the April ballot and during the Thanksgiving holiday period—severely limits opportunities for public engagement, council deliberation, and meaningful discussion. Such a truncated process is not conducive to informed decision-making on a matter of this magnitude.
- The proposed resolution to introduce a non-binding vote is no simple matter. I am troubled some of our commissioners see it as such; that suggests to me they do not have a firm understanding of what is being proposed, and that the choice to rush this through has provided them with only a surface-level grasp of the matter. If current Illinois law does not support the election of trustees under the library's existing

governance structure, then implementing the change would necessitate an extensive and costly structural and legal process—which would be profoundly complex.

- The resolution provides no analysis of the financial impact of restructuring the library board, including the potential costs to the Village, library, and taxpayers. This omission is inconsistent with the council's fiduciary responsibility. Additionally, the rushed nature of this proposal has already required the reallocation of human resources unnecessarily.
- Commissioner Davenport's stated desire to place the library board under the explicit control of the Village Council raises serious concerns about intellectual freedom and free speech. In the current climate of national and local challenges to libraries, education, and the advancement of knowledge, this proposal is not only ill-advised but chilling.
- The Downers Grove Public Library has a proven track record of excellence, as evidenced by its 2022 recognition as one of the top ten libraries in its budget class, its more than 1 million circulated items in 2023, and a 20% increase in in-person visits from 2022 to 2023. This performance clearly demonstrates the library is well-governed and thriving under its current structure. The library operates transparently and demonstrates its accountability to its stakeholders (for instance, the information in this paragraph is publicly available on its website). Suggesting otherwise without evidence is misleading and undermines public trust in this highly-valued institution.

The rushed nature of this proposal, pushed through without stakeholder input, suggests a poor understanding of its implications and an unnecessary attempt to advance a personal agenda at the expense of the library's independence and the community's trust. I urge you to reject RES 2024–10593 and instead prioritize fostering collaboration and thoughtful governance in line with Downers Grove's vision statement.

Sincerely,
Jessica Nastal

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Michelle Weed

Comment: I am strongly opposed to the new, very hastily added, proposal to add a question to the April ballot about having the Downers Grove Public Library become an independent unit of government and have the library trustees be elected rather than

appointed. My main objection is that this proposal does not follow standard procedure and does not allow time for the Library board to meet and discuss or for due process before the council needs to vote to meet the December 9th deadline. It would also put the burden on the library board to educate the public about what this referendum could mean, and with much lower voter turnout in April, that is too heavy a burden. The video gambling proposal had over a year to educate the public prior to vote. This is a big deal. We cannot have the village board circumventing due process. For example, when Bill Nienburg was appointed to the library board in June 2022, just months before the Drag Queen Bingo I might add, that appointment didn't follow due process and was instead appointed by Mayor Barnett and simply approved by the council. Both the Library board and village trustees voted to remove Nienburg from his role in April after his extreme and controversial behaviors in his official role. Let's not repeat that nightmare by not following the proper process. Secondly, I also have concerns that divorcing the library from the village will create a massive tax increase for Downers Grove residents like myself, who will already undoubtedly be subjected to high inflation due to tariffs from the Trump administration. Turning the Downers Grove Public Library into it's own independent unit of government would mean negotiating costs and ownership of the library's parking lot and property lease; a change in cash flow and operations which could have an upfront cost in the millions; increase pension costs; require hiring two full-time staff members; and of course, impact the library's budget which in turn impacts programming. We need to be doing everything we can to support our library, which is one of the best in the area and one of the reasons people move to Downers Grove. Making this move so hastily is not in the best interest of the library, the residents, or the village of Downers Grove. I ask that you absolutely vote NO on this resolution.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Tom Mysliwiec

Comment: I would ask the Council to vote no on this resolution 2024-10593. Please take time to evaluate and communicate the problem that is being solved for DG residents, and to research all the consequences of this change.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Jil Martin

Comment: I am both confused and disheartened to learn that the Village Council has decided to schedule a vote on a resolution without prior notice to the body that is impacted, namely, the Library Board, and only two weeks after it was initially proposed -- with a lengthy holiday weekend right in the middle. This is hardly the sort of conduct that I expect from Downers Grove's Village Council. While governing often grinds slowly, there are reasons for this, most notably, to give everyone affected notice and an opportunity to be heard.

If the Library Board is to be so significantly impacted, there needs to be time for it to do its own due diligence as to the legality and effects of what is being proposed and to have input into the final referendum, if any. It is unacceptable that the Village Council has not granted the Library Board the time that it has requested to research and report on these issues.

The Downers Grove Library is one of the crown jewels of the Village. Personally, it was a significant factor in my decision to remain in Downers Grove when I purchased a new property several years ago. Very few communities are fortunate enough to have the caliber of facility that the residents of Downers Grove enjoy. It is unclear whether the referendum that is proposed is legal, and even more unclear whether it is in the best interests of the library, and therefore, of the Village residents. The only way to do what is best for the Village, which is the sole reason that the Village Council exists, is to provide the Library Board with the professional courtesy of sufficient time to perform its due diligence and provide input into any further decisions on this matter.

I urge the Village Council to either cancel its scheduled vote for December 3, or to vote against the resolution, whichever is procedurally appropriate, instead granting the Library Board the period of time that it reasonably needs to prepare its analysis and report before any such vote is rescheduled.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Gail Bieschke

Comment: Please do not rush/ram this through without the opportunity for the library board and the public to become educated on the subject. This is extremely unfair a sure doesn't feel very democratic.

Agenda Section & Item: Comments of a General Nature

Commenter: Patricia Gabris

Comment: The Downers Grove Library Board is not broke does not need to be fixed nor do you need to potentially raise my property taxes by making unnecessary changes.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Sarah Kurpiel

Comment: Dear Council Members, I strongly encourage you to vote no on Council Resolution 2024-10593. The short notice of this resolutions is irresponsible and will negatively impact the Library's strategic plan, operational priorities, and budget. Under its current structure, the Library consistently achieves its mission. So why interfere? Why now? This proposal would have negative consequences, including increased taxes and a reduced Library budget, meaning fewer services and programs for residents at a time when we need them more than ever. Please vote no on Council Resolution 2024-10593. Thank you.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Danielle Delise

Comment: I do not support library to become independent of government in downers grove. I would like to stay as is.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Matt Lynch

Comment: I am writing in regards to the proposed referendum concerning the Downers Grove Public Library. This would represent a major change to how a beloved institution functions within the broader context of Downers Grove, and the proposed wording for the ballot communicates absolutely none of the context. Why is this being pushed through so quickly and quietly and circumventing the correct procedures for such things? This is not good governance. I urge the board to, at minimum, take more time to evaluate the possible repercussions of such an action before moving forward. It does not belong on the ballot for these upcoming elections.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Heather Prince

Comment: I urge the Village Council to vote "no" on adding the nonbinding referendum question regarding the trustees of the Downers Grove Public Library. The chaotic process to add this item to the agenda has short-circuited the regular protocols of the Council, leading one to question the motives behind such a move. The library is an outstanding resource for each and every user and has functioned well in its current supervisory system since its founding. Let it continue to do its increasingly valuable work of providing resources to all without disruption and increased burden upon Village residents.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Heidi Engel

Comment: I prefer the DG library board organization to remain the same. Don't break a system that is currently working. A separate taxing body will add complication and potentially added cost and taxes. We love our library.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Alan Scott

Comment: I lived in Downers Grove for many years but moved to Westmont about five years ago. Nonetheless, my child goes to elementary school in Downers Grove (D58) and we visit the Downers Grove library once or twice a week because it is one of our favorite places.

In a letter I wrote to the council about this issue, I received the response that the question is: "A straightforward question seeking public input" and "What is being considered is simply a question."

Does it really need to be clarified that the way a question is framed can influence the outcome, especially when contextual groundwork has not been provided?

In the 11/19 meeting discussion, there seemed to be an acknowledgement of this and the framing of the question was revised. But then the original, more straightforward (but also more problematically framed) version was ultimately chosen for RES 2024-10593.

The library board referendum feels like an act of political theatre at a time when libraries are one of the new fronts in the culture wars, which are themselves an extension of the political battles dividing our nation.

To those on the outside looking in, it looks like personal vendettas being played out in public. It feels like those who argued in favor of moving this referendum forward on the agenda are being disingenuous about their intentions. It feels ugly. It feels dysfunctional.

So what is the real intention of asking this question?

Say what you will, it looks, sounds, and smells political. And if it isn't, then it really calls into question the common sense judgement of those who voted for this that they'd so recklessly throw the library and community into the political crosshairs on an ill conceived whim.

Work with the Library Board of Trustees. Talk with them. Negotiate with them. But please **reconsider doing any additional damage/harm to our beloved and beleaguered library.**

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Jonathan Whitall

Comment: As an unincorporated user of the library system, I have to manually pay a yearly fee for access. The idea of my taxes increasing as the result of unnecessarily adding a large amount of overhead by turning the DGPL into a separate taxing body is unacceptable.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Leslie Burrell

Comment: I am writing to urge the council to vote no on council resolution 2024-10593. The library and its advisory board are a tremendous benefit to Downers Grove. They

have been operating effectively for over 100 years and this resolution, should it be voted in next April, would be damaging to a sterling institution in our community.

I visit the library often with my toddler and it is one of the best libraries I have ever encountered. I have also undergone the surreal experience of attending library board meetings this past year and seen firsthand how the library trustees are fielding unwarranted attacks from coordinated, non-local, far right groups. This echoes a disturbing National trend of attacks on libraries and educators. The library does not deserve to suffer further attack from the village's own council!

Shame on you for stoking this unwarranted mistrust in our most beloved public institution. Vote no on 2024-10593!

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: JOHN E VERCELLINO

Comment: This proposed advisory referendum question about the library—which was not done in partnership with the Library Board of Trustees—would likely require extensive changes, including creating an independent taxing body that would force additional costs onto taxpayers. The residents of Downers Grove do not need additional taxes to support a structure which appears to have no tangible benefits.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Brendon Parrish

Comment: I OPPOSE RES 2024-10593.

As a resident of Downers Grove for 11 years and a frequent user of the library, having two 8 years old children who if we walked into the library right now, the librarians would recognize and give cheerful heartfelt 'hellos'! I question the reasoning for this being brought up by the board!

Why? What is the motivation for bringing this resolution to table? It works, the Library works! It's a beautiful safe space for people of all ages, races, religions, rich, poor... it works! Why would you waste time with this? Who would this benefit. I OPPOSE RES 2024-10593 and myself and many others will be loud to stop this nonsense.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Kelly Stokes

Comment: I am totally opposed to the possibility of having the library trustees be voted on rather than appointed.

As the Council is aware, the library has been the subject of attacks and even death threats. Many of those have come from outside the community. A referendum on this issue will attract significant interest from those same groups, who will pour their money, vitriol, and threats into the referendum. And if the non-binding referendum eventually leads to its goal of creating an elected library board, those same outside interest groups will likely attempt to influence our local elections to further ideologies that are out of touch with the vast majority of this community.

I believe in the principles of the democratic republic on which our nation and village are founded, but those principles are reflected already in the commission form of government under which we have operated for well over a century. The Council should give further consideration to whether it wants to put the residents of Downers Grove through a divisive election on this issue at this time.

The amount of time that the library is spending on a few wacky but vocal people is very draining on their resources and divisive for the community. The DGPL is one of the best institutions in Downers Grove. Why change it for a few cranks who are narrow-minded and determined to wreak havoc. Let's keep the DGPL governing structure the same. Please do not rush this vote and put it on ballot without many more months of consideration and community awareness.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: David Ungari

Comment: The country has just gone through a divisive election for which no one knows what it will do to the country. There is talk of changing the FBI, the DOJ, the Dept. of Education. Threatened firings of thousands of federal government workers. Mass deportations of millions of people.

I don't want a divisive election in Downers Grove. Why has this become a hot button?

The question that I need answered before a referendum is done is, will this make the library better or worse. Be specific. If it does not make the library better, then there is no need to do it.

If you want to ban books, then make that your referendum.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Alaina Morris

Comment: To the Council:

I am writing out of concern for the proposed library ballot measure.

- 1)The language in the current proposed ballot question is misleading and does not include information about how the change to an elected board will change the funding and structure of the current library and will ultimately affect our property taxes.
- 2) The timing of this measure is rushed and isn't allowing adequate time for a response from the board of trustees - why is this being pushed right now?
- 3) The library's current operating model is working well and the library is a beloved institution in this community - why change something that is working well as it is, for decades?

As a taxpayer in this community for the past decade, I ask that either this ballot measure be withdrawn or the timeline be extended to allow for adequate analysis by the board and the broader impacted community.

Thank you,
Alaina Morris

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Emily Teising

Comment: Dear members of the Village Board of Trustees,

I urge you to vote NO on RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library.

The village and library boards should engage together in a thorough examination of the implications of the proposed ballot question. Any change in the governing, funding structure or how the library board members are chosen deserves to be thoroughly researched and results made public BEFORE any ballot question is put to voters. Otherwise voters have no basis for making an informed decision. Furthermore, a joint, open process with greater transparency would allow those who know the library well to provide input on the best way to proceed.

Additionally, I urge you to involve stakeholders including but not limited to librarians and teachers in District 58 and 99 schools who rely expertise and resources from the library to educate our students.

Please vote NO on the above resolution. Grant the Library Board of Trustees and the entire Downers Grove community the courtesy of proceeding with any changes in a responsible, professional and civic-oriented manner.

Best,
Emily Teising, Ph.D.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Jennifer Floyd

Comment: I do not support changes to the library. I do not agree with the proposed referendum and believe it could force additional costs onto taxpayers. Please do not put this vital and WELL RUN public service at risk. Thank you for your time and attention.

Agenda Section & Item: Comments of a General Nature

Commenter: E. Kelly Beninati

Comment: I am against the library board moving to elected members. At minimum I ask that you delay voting on Council Resolution 2024-10593 until the Library Board has had sufficient time to gather information and can participate in the discussion.

We have an amazing library. We need to keep it that way!

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Jaime Symowicz

Comment: I am writing to voice my opposition to the Library Board Advisory Referendum (Council Resolution 2024-10593). I am in agreement with the letter sent by Library Board President Matt Topic on behalf of the Downers Grove Board of Library Trustees on November 26, 2024, so I will not restate its contents here.

I did want to share this to explain my opposition though. I have lived in Downers Grove for more than 8 years now and have visited the library at least once a month with my two children (now in 5th and 8th grade at district 58 schools). My family has always valued and has been very satisfied with the educational services and the inclusive and supportive environment the library provides for our community. It disappoints me that this nonbinding referendum is even being considered, especially with very limited time for voters to fully understand the possible ramifications if it were to go on the April 2025 ballot. If the library ultimately becomes an independent unit of government, it will result in significantly higher property taxes and reduced library services for Downers Grove residents, which makes zero sense to me.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Karen Snell

Comment: I am against the library becoming an independent unit, separated from the Village and board members should be elected.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Elaine Cook

Comment: I'm writing again to implore the Village Council to follow its own accepted process concerning this advisory referendum. It is unacceptable that certain commissioners are willing to truncate that process in service of a rushed referendum that the library board has not requested and is unlikely to accept. After hearing the mayor and council members preach for years about their commitment to good governance, I can't help but wonder why they are scrapping it to accomplish this

unwanted referendum. Is it to placate the disgruntled former trustee and the small group of residents who make clear their disrespect for the library and its staff at every board meeting? Is it an elaborate attempt to ultimately trim the Village budget by cutting loose our five-star library? Is it a means to clear your docket of other troublesome matters that might bring library supporters before the council? The least you could do is honestly explain your reasons for taking this action now. If Mr. Davenport's claims of wanting an elected library board that is answerable to the public are true, why was the library board caught flat-footed by your plan? And why are you rushing the referendum through while pretending it is business as usual? We recall that you postponed the video gaming advisory referendum for more than a year in order to get a better turnout for that "village issue." This referendum, no matter the outcome, will create further havoc and uncertainty for a beloved local institution. Tread carefully, commissioners.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Steven Novak

Comment: Dear Mayor and Village Council,

I'm writing to voice my opposition to the referendum about library becoming an independent government body.

Adding this as a ballot question is rushed. The proposer of this measure, Mr. Davenport even alluded to in the last meeting is that he doesn't know the answers to the most basic of questions nor understand the impact of what he's proposing.

I have 2 basic questions that the council was unable to answer during the last session.

1. What is the structure of other top performing village libraries and how does it compare to what we currently have vs what is proposed?
2. What is the cost (in terms of dollars, resources, and short term performance) of doing this transformation?

Until the most basic of questions can be answered, this issue should be tabled.

I've been going to the library several times a month for the past 8 years. The library is an incredible resource for the community and the community is overwhelmingly happy with the services that it provides.

Any changes should have a solid understanding of the impact of those changes. Currently there isn't a single member of the council that can articulate the impact of the proposed change.

Steve Novak

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Jessica McNamara

Comment: I love the DG library, and am so pleased that this award-winning resource is available to me and my children. Because trustee election would require the legal structure of the library to change, the referendum question as written is confusing and incomplete. The library should be preserved as-is, and without the risk of residents incurring additional taxes to pay for it. The village has other priorities to focus on, and this referendum question should not be one of them. Thank you.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Dominik Lameter

Comment: The decision on having an elected or appointed official for the Downers Grove library, or the decision on separating the Downers Grove library from the village should not be rushed and should follow due process. I personally disagree with the notion and see it as a gross waste of resources to separate the library from the village, which would create greater overhead in terms of resources in a government that's seeking efficiency, but regardless believe the established process for these things must be followed. If a question regarding the library is to be brought up, the library's board should have ample time to review and respond to said questions before they are brought to a vote.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Ashley Anderson

Comment: The DGPL should absolutely NOT become an independent entity or have their trustees elected. This is all a disgusting attempt by right wing community members to defund our libraries and strip marginalized people of safe spaces and access to information. DO NOT LET THIS PASS.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Jeremy Joslin

Comment: I can't see a reason why any village official would recommend making a public library a separate independent unit of government, especially a library as fantastic as the one we are fortunate to have in Downers Grove. Is the point of public service to make services less available to the public? It must be, given the underhanded way this initiative was shared with the library board and the public. I've enjoyed my move to the suburbs, and even extolled the virtues of Downers Grove to others. Hearing about this made me embarrassed to have chosen to live here, and I'm concerned that feeling will only worsen if the behavior of our officials doesn't improve. Be better.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Kylie Brewton

Comment: I grew up in and around the Downers Grove Public Library. It has always been a safe place to learn about myself and the world around me. I very much feel as though that safety is threatened by this resolution.

I think we all need to carefully examine the power that is held by those who put forward this resolution. Taking such drastic measures against a pillar of the community like the Downers Grove Public Library, during this political climate, is incredibly irresponsible, and within the time frame proposed it is downright hostile to those whom the library supports. Everyone who currently enjoys the state of the library should think critically about this decision, and should also think critically about why this decision is being thrust into their hands now with no research or selling points to back it up.

The primary reason this resolution scares me is that it will allow outside influence to affect the functioning of the library. As Matt Topic stated in his letter to the mayor and village council, "As the Council is aware, the library has been the subject of attacks and even death threats. Many of those have come from outside the community. A

referendum on this issue will attract significant interest from those same groups, who will pour their money, vitriol, and threats into the referendum."

I strongly advise voting 'no' on this resolution.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Erika Robeck

Comment: I am extremely disappointed in the way this proposed resolution has been introduced to the council and the Library Board of Trustees. The extremely quick turnaround time has made it impossible for affected parties to research the proposal properly and its ramifications on the library and the residents of Downers Grove and falls well outside of standard procedure. The wording is vague and misleading, and the purpose of such a non-binding resolution is nonsensical. In addition, the burden of having the library solely responsible for educating the public on the implications and results if such a change was implemented in the four months before the election is a huge burden and not an appropriate use of resources. I do not support this proposed resolution, the process by which it has emerged, or the way it has been handled, and I strongly urge you to vote against it. Thank you.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Vivian Navarrete

Comment: As a DG resident, I am against this proposal. It was introduced WITHOUT proper protocol and procedures. Those who pushed it through are trying to undermine the current system to push their own private agenda. They forget they are PUBLIC servants. As far as the actual question, this change would severely INCREASE taxes to residents while also limiting the library resources. How is this a good idea for the community???

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Mary Ouska

Comment: Why does the Council want to make changes to a library that is working quite well for its patrons? There really hasn't been a clear purpose stated for this referendum.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Emily Slayton

Comment: There is absolutely no valid reason why the proposed referendum is being rushed through without providing enough time for due consideration and ample discussion regarding its financial and social implications. As a Downers Grove resident and DGPL patron of 12 years, I firmly believe this referendum is, at best, hasty and regressive, and at worst, irrevocably destructive to a beloved, incredibly important community resource. And its likely to be incredibly costly to taxpayers, regardless. All for what? Please grant at least as much time to assessing its impact as was spent determining the impact of video gaming in DG. This is not a decision to be made so flippantly.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Liz osborn

Comment: I oppose doing anything with the library but they at least need the time to prepare as they've asked. Seems like they are being bullied. They should stay as is which works perfect.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Patrick Ninneman

Comment: Dear Council,

I am completely opposed to this resolution. The library is a treasure of this village. It has been under constant attack by non village residents for the last 3-4 years. The appointment of Bill Nienburg was a huge mistake and caused nothing but trouble. I thought the council had learned from this mistake but the fact that this resolution is even being considered has me questioning this.

Mayor Barnett, we are general acquaintances. Both of our kids went to Whittier. We have many friends in common. We are collectively getting tired of this constant meddling in the library's business. I have voted for you and supported you amongst friends. But my support dwindles every time I see nonsense like this.

A strong library requires a strong independent board. Other communities have moved to elected boards. An appointed board brings stability to the institution with the oversight of our elected village council. An elected board brings disorder and electoral pressures that favor the 'flavor of the day' political whims of any particular moment and anti-library agendas.

Do your jobs! Appoint well qualified board members and let them do their jobs. That is what YOU are elected to do. Stop passing the buck. Do what is right for the Village.

Sincerely

Patrick Ninneman

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Aaron Ormond

Comment: Mayor Barnett,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed referendum that would make library trustees elected rather than appointed. This change poses significant risks to the mission, stability, and effectiveness of one of Downers Grove's most cherished institutions.

Our library is an essential pillar of the community, offering free access to resources, programs, and services that benefit all residents—especially children, seniors, and underserved groups. The success of our library depends on a governance structure that prioritizes long-term strategy and equity over political agendas or campaign dynamics. The current appointment process ensures trustees are selected based on expertise, merit, and commitment to the library's mission.

Transitioning to elected trustees, however, would undermine this careful system. Elections introduce unnecessary risks, including:

- Politicization: Campaigns often prioritize popularity or controversial issues over the specific knowledge and skills needed for effective library governance.
- Inequitable Representation: Many of the library's key beneficiaries—children, teens, and other marginalized groups—cannot vote, leaving their interests at risk of being overlooked.
- Instability: Frequent elections and turnover could disrupt long-term planning and weaken the library's ability to adapt to evolving community needs.

Additionally, holding elections for trustees would impose logistical and financial burdens on the village, diverting resources away from library operations and community services. For such a critical institution, the risks of an election far outweigh any perceived benefits.

Our library's current governance system has served Downers Grove exceptionally well. Appointed trustees are chosen thoughtfully, ensuring they bring the diverse perspectives, expertise, and leadership required to guide the library. This process has allowed our library to remain a trusted, neutral space for education, growth, and connection.

I urge you and the council to reject this referendum and preserve the system that has allowed our library to thrive. Your leadership in prioritizing the community's long-term interests has always been a hallmark of Downers Grove's success, and I trust you will continue to protect one of our village's most valuable institutions.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out if I can provide further input.

Sincerely,

Aaron Ormond

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Anthony Engel

Comment: Dear Mayor Barnett and Members of the Downers Grove Village Council,

As a 20-year resident of Downers Grove, I am writing to urge you to vote against Council Resolution 2024-10593.

This proposal has been rushed through the Village Council without providing adequate time for input and feedback from the Library Board. Furthermore, the language of the proposed referendum has been significantly altered between its introduction at the prior Village Council meeting and the upcoming December 3 meeting. In its current form, the referendum language offers little context to help voters understand the implications of their decision.

Unlike the recent referendum on gaming in the Village, which followed a formal process and allowed sufficient lead time for all parties to provide input, this referendum has been expedited during a time of year when many residents are focused on other obligations, such as family and holiday commitments.

It is also worth noting that the Library Board is already accountable to voters through the Village Council. In recent years, the Council has exercised its oversight by removing two Library Board members for cause.

The lack of appropriate process in advancing this referendum is troubling, and I strongly urge the Council to vote against this resolution.

Sincerely,
Anthony Engel

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Kelly Parrish

Comment: Dear Mayor Barnett and Village Council,
I'm writing with regard to Council Resolution 2024-10593. I wholeheartedly ask that you vote no on this resolution.

The library has played a vital role in our community and, more personally, for my family. We've enjoyed countless visits, story times, and activities all of which will be at risk if this proceeds. With such short notice to prepare for a referendum, which in and of itself is unreasonable, resources will need to be reallocated and moved away from the strategic plans, ultimately negatively impacting our community.

Again, I strongly encourage you to vote against this resolution.

Kelly Parrish

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Ann Kimpton

Comment: As a 30+ year resident of Downers Grove and a regular library patron, I urge the Village Council to continue the current system of appointing library board members. I am very pleased with the way the board and professional staff run our library. Electing board members would only add to the growing divisions in our community; we trust the mayor to appoint board members who do not have a specific agenda, who will support the wide range of diversity in our community, and who will uphold the American Library Association guidelines. Sincerely, Ann Kimpton

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: KAL

Comment: This is not best work! And I am highly disappointed in the idea of trying to politicalize our amazing, award-winning library further.

The library is an informative space that needs to remain informative and unbiased.

This would raise our taxes significantly, no?

And how would accountability work if the board was elected? The council already appoints members. Why would electing members be (more) beneficial?

Is there a plan for how this plays out? In 1 year? 5? 10?

Why is this even being suggested?

How would this benefit the public?

Have the repercussions of this action been thoroughly considered? What is the end goal here? And please share.

Why would we be turning a library into a political entity? This seems dangerous and an overreach of local government.

The non-benefits SIGNIFICANTLY outweigh the benefits of this action.

I'd like to see and hear the reasoning behind this proposed action and the reasons this would be beneficial for the community and all of its people.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Carter James

Comment: Is Downers Grove's mayor trying to cut funding for the library?

This seems like the way to do that.

By making the library its own entity, the village would no longer provide funds?

I see that being how this plays out. Slowly. Over time. So no one really notices an abrupt change.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Mary Sustar

Comment: When we moved to the western suburbs in 1998 we chose Downers Grove for two main reasons: the public schools and the exceptional public library. The Downers Grove Public Library is a gem. Our out-of-town guests visit the library and are amazed by the services, collections, and staff. Paving a path that may separate the library from the village is certainly costly and potentially damaging. We need library trustees who support intellectual freedom and understand the immense value of libraries. The DGPL adds value to Downers Grove. Please recognize that value and vote no on Resolution 2024-10593.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: matthew elster

Comment: this idea is asinine. the library is one of the best elements of our community. it is well run. what benefit would disrupting its operations provide to residents? I suspect none.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Nancy Deaton

Comment: As a strong supporter and user of the Downers Grove Public Library, I urge you to vote against proposed Resolution 2024-10593. First of all, our library has provided outstanding and award winning services for Downers Grove residents successfully in the current governmental form with nominated Library Board Trustees. Another concern is that this proposal opens the Library Trustees up to the corrupting influence of political elections and money. Additionally, the proposed referendum question included the idea of turning the Downers Grove Public Library into an independent unit of government which would have negative cost implications for the residents. This Resolution does not seek to improve our library or help the Downers Grove residents. Instead, it will allow campaign funding to sway voters and possibly increase costs and taxes for Downers Grove residents. I ask that you represent the Downers Grove residents by voting against Resolution 2024-10593.

Thank you, Nancy Deaton

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Ainsley L.

Comment: Sneaky!

Seems a bit suspect that this was popped in last minute over a long holiday weekend known for being busy and family-oriented and huge for traveling.

With this being the second time it has been raised, yes?

Truly hope this gets wiped from the agenda and all future agendas. This is a terrible idea with a pricetag for residents and no benefits.

Libraries are already underfunded. This seems like a roundabout way to cut funding.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Palak Langenderfer

Comment: I recently learned about Council Resolution 2024-10593 and encourage our village commissioners to vote “no.”

The rushed process for putting this resolution onto your agenda without appropriate time for the DG Library Board of Trustees itself to review and discuss this matter in front of our community at one of its own meetings. This shows a clear lack of care on the part of the Council to allow for transparency, communication and public discourse among its residents.

As a member of the Downers Grove community, I value our library’s mission to serve all members of our community through its media collections and programming. The current process by which trustees are appointed and reviewed by the library board provides the most robust system of checks and balances to ensure our trustees are qualified for their roles.

I do not support bringing to ballot the option to elect trustees rather than appoint them, and I do not support the village taking the next implied step of separating the library from the village to become its own independent unit of government. I have clearly seen in other communities that this move is an inefficient one, both increasing the tax burden on residents and reducing resources and programming for the library and its patrons. I appreciate the current arrangement and the financial efficiencies it provides to taxpayers and library patrons, allowing our library to shine as one of the best in the area. Our peer communities with similarly award-winning libraries are not seeking this arrangement for a reason: It’s a lose-lose for the community.

I encourage the Village Board to vote “NO” to Council Resolution 2024-10593.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: James Lange

Comment: I oppose Resolution 2024-10593. Right, wrong, indifferent - the two-week notice feels like an apparent attempt at jamming in the referendum for April over the holidays and the library's too good an institution for that to happen silently.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Christy Fetzer

Comment: I recently learned about Council Resolution 2024-10593 and encourage our village commissioners to vote "no."

I find it concerning and irresponsible that the Village Council has rushed this resolution onto their agenda without appropriate time for the DG Library Board of Trustees itself to review and discuss this matter in front of our community at one of its own meetings. This shows a clear lack of care on the part of the Council to allow for transparency, communication and public discourse among its residents. As taxpayers, we are entitled to the opportunity to be well-informed about the matters discussed and voted on at our Village Council meetings. These types of ballot measures should be brought to residents early enough for discussion and consideration. The Village Council should be bringing these types of measures forward in partnership with our library and is clear that this has not been the case.

As a member of the Downers Grove community, I value our library's mission to serve all members of our community through its media collections and programming. The current process by which trustees are appointed and reviewed by the library board provides a system of checks and balances to ensure our trustees are qualified for their roles. I do not support bringing to ballot the option to elect trustees rather than appoint them, and I do not support the village taking the next implied step of separating the library from the village to become its own independent unit of government. I have clearly seen in other communities that this move is an inefficient one, both increasing the tax burden on residents and reducing resources and programming for the library and its patrons. I appreciate the current arrangement and the financial efficiencies it provides to taxpayers and library patrons, allowing our library to shine as one of the best in the area. Our peer communities with similarly award-winning libraries are not seeking this arrangement for a reason: It's a lose-lose for the community.

I encourage the Village Board to vote "NO" to Council Resolution 2024-10593.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Britt Calvert

Comment: I'm against Resolution 2024-10593. Scheduling a referendum during the holiday season with just two weeks' notice seems designed to limit public engagement on a matter affecting our library - an institution that deserves full and transparent community discussion.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Ryan O'Neill

Comment: Dear Mayor Barnett and the DG Village Council,

I am a proud Downers Grove resident. I grew up here and moved back to raise my family. I did this because of the community that Downers Grove fosters. This community cares for each other. I am proud of the Downers Grove Public Library as a pillar of this value. This is a place that was visited weekly when I was a child and now I bring my children there weekly as well. And it has been run in the same way then as now. In fact, it has been run the same way for over 100 years.

The resolution (RES 2024-10593) to change the way in which the library board is composed does not solve any problems. It is not clear to me what the Downers Grove community is gaining by making this change. Higher taxes in the short term, and perhaps because of those higher taxes then cuts to the library in the future? That doesn't make sense. Keep things the way they have been working for over a century. Keep the library as a foundation of the Downers Grove community and something to be proud of.

I also want to note that the questionable speed of this change does not go unnoticed by residents and it is not appreciated.

Thank you,
Ryan O'Neill

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Kasey Mitzit

Comment: I am a new downers grove resident and frequent visitor of the library and attend library events. The library was a key amenity we looked at when my husband and I chose to move here last year and I believe that this change will have a negative impact on the library and community as a whole. Maintaining the library as part of the village reduces costs and overhead while providing continued excellent services for our family.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Sara Bieda

Comment: Hello and thank you for taking the time to read my concerns for our residents in regards to the proposed change to our library's governance:

Please remember this:

We all see what we want to see, hear what we want to hear and believe what we want to believe. That's human nature.

Context is everything.

Councilman Davenport gave an excellent overview on why pushing a resolution to completely alter the governance of the Downers Grove Library makes sense. It was credible and authentic.

Unfortunately, it was an example of the manipulative TikTok reasoning that is prevalent today. People who are not invested in the preservation of our first amendment and understand the impact of the danger of book bans by the "seemingly well meaning" groups such as Moms for Liberty, Think Awake and others will easily support Councilman Davenport's one-sentence resolution question.

Councilman Davenport made it easy for the busy residents of Downers Grove, just like a TikTok video.

The reality is that making changes to our library should not be easy. Our library deserves critical thinking and best practices instead of TikTok reasoning under the guise of efficient leadership.

The obvious reasons were brought up by the councilpersons who were not ready to jump on the TikTok train and push this through. The Downers Grove residents deserve a deep dive into the impact of changing the structure of library. From where I sit, the

library was meeting or exceeding the expectations of our community until the recent ultra-conservative politicalization of free speech.

Please remember this:

Humans survived evolution by being suspicious or fearing those who look differently, sound differently or live differently than themselves. The first thought that crosses almost anyone's brain is rooted in fear or judgement or both.

Empathy and compassion are not primal urges, they are evolved states of being.

People who are stuck in fear of those who are different have not forged the pathways needed to overcome the pull of hate and cruelty to people who may look, pray or love differently than themselves.

Those of us who are paying attention see the link between the extreme right's Project 2025, groups like Moms for Liberty and Think Awake and what this council is trying to do to our library. We see that the Downers Grove Village Council wants to lay the path for more intolerance and cruelty without taking any of the responsibility. Book banning is a dangerous path. Period.

You may not want to see or hear or believe what I just said. It's human nature to avoid the pain of remorse. I ask you to dig deep and tap into your inner empathy and compassion that our town and our entire nation needs desperately. Treat the changes you want for the library with the same respect that you treated the changes to the recent video gambling measure. If you won't act for the people who will inevitably be hurt by the book bans that will come, then please do it because it is best practice for any measure coming through this council.

It's not too late to get off the TikTok train.

Side Note: It's a safe assumption that residents don't like increased taxes, in case my human-centered reasoning is not enough for you. Please do the work of an impact analysis and communicate the tax implications before slipping this through to the ballot.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Maddie Boylin

Comment: Hello

Downers Grove City Counsel

I am a member of the Downers Grove community and a consistent user of our fantastic public library. I am writing to you in regards to Council Resolution 2024-10593 to ask voters if the library board of trustees should be selected by voters. To be clear, having the library board of trustees selected by the public is a HORRIBLE idea and will only harm our great library.

The Downers Grove Public Library is a wonderful, inclusive, part of Downers Grove. As I see it, the Library is doing its job perfectly and even the data supports this. Our library is consistently meeting its strategic goals, and increasing the number of users year over year. To say simply, if it ain't broke don't fix it. I believe the motivation for this referendum is not to better the Library and further its goals, but to allow outside influence and far right actors from outside our community to control and shape our library as they see fit.

If the board of trustees was elected by the public, than organizations and people from all around the united states could affect our library through funding of campaigns. Not only that but people who know nothing about how to run a library, or serve the community could be elected. Allowing the public to elect someone does no create accountability, it creates the opportunity for dark money and far right interest groups to take over.

That is my fear, that our loving, inclusive, kind ,public library will be taken over by far right interests groups.

Finally I would like to point out having the board of trustees elected by the public would cost the community \$100,000s of dollars in legal, financial, and communication consultant fees. It would also require the creation of an entire new governmental body, something that is blatantly obscured by the text of the resolution and take the boards focus away from furthering the libraries goals.

In conclusion, if it ain't broke don't fix it and keep far right outside influence out of our library. VOTE NO on Council Resolution 2024-10593

Agenda Section & Item: Manager's Report - REP 2024-10570 A. Guiding DG: Comprehensive Plan and Related Projects - Environmental Sustainability Plan Draft Vision, Goals and Recommendations

Commenter: David Rose

Comment: Comment on ESP overall vision statement — a science-based alternative

Through individual and collective effort of the community and its village government and associated governmental entities, the village of DG will become a suburb whose way of living is ecologically sustainable (ECOS), modeling for others both what this means and how it may be achieved.

An ECOS way of living means at a minimum a way of living that uses resources at a sustainable rate.

This principle in turn translates into at least three key objectives:

(i) using renewable resources at a rate no greater than the rate at which they renew,

(ii) shifting from using non-renewable resources, whose supplies are by definition limited and deplete with use, to renewable resources,

(iii) using resources at a rate that allows every individual and group the opportunity and the means to develop to their potential

a) as curious, capable, purposeful, and wise individuals and groups,

b) as productive, empathic, and valued members of the group(s) of which they are a part, and

c) as members of a species ever in awe of life and its ecological complexity, which is to say, treasuring the existences of both

c.1) our species, as individuals, groups, and as a whole, and the vast array of other species with which we share the planet, those that have passed, and those yet to come, and

c.2) the planet and its enfolding universe, whose existences in all their material complexity make life possible.

++++++

Axioms

Because we currently live in a world in which the way of living is NOT ECOS,

1. the jointly shared goal of the species (humanity) must be to reduce the global rate of resource consumption to a sustainable one, by lowering the rate of consumption of the rich — in other words, reducing the overall rate of consumption by reducing both more quickly and more substantially the rates of consumption of the more resource-rapacious social classes — in order to free up the resources needed to meet condition 3 above.

Because humans have learned to use material forms of energy to amplify their physical and mental capacity to do work, which make that amplification the foundation of our current ecologically UNSustainable way of living,

2. the task of achieving a sustainable rate of resource usage unavoidably entails reducing first and foremost the rate of usage of energy of all non-renewable forms.

[footnote: So-called 'renewable energy' is more aptly called "renewably sourced, non-renewably collected, stored, distributed, and used energy".]

2a. Humanity's heavy reliance on especially coal and oil for energy means a 'controlled' rate of reduction in usage (to minimize frivolous or ostentatious usage and avoid military conflict over shares of usage) unavoidably involves ascertaining remaining supplies and negotiating equitable sharing of those supplies.

2b. The magnitude of this abstinence task unavoidably requires the great proportion of humanity must accept that

i) their present way of living (embodied in both physical and social structures) is not sustainable,

ii) they must completely re-imagine what a sustainable way of living looks like,

iii) they must strive to optimize resource usage when undoing the present way of living, especially ...

iv) striving to optimize 1) the use and reuse of extant structures containing and using non-renewable resources and 2) the use of the remaining untapped reserves of non-renewable resources.

Absent equitable and optimal sharing of resources, ...

3. humans will likely be unable to achieve an ECOS way of living peacefully and willingly and will be subjected to history's usual 'nature-based' mechanisms for achieving sustainability: natural disaster, disease, famine, and war over resources.

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Our Predicament: the obstacle to actions presented by the interconnected economy

Because an ECOS way of living is by definition a global necessity for our species and because of the present worldwide interconnectedness of political economic life, with few people living solely or even principally on the resources in their immediate vicinity, meeting the goal at the global level necessitates cooperation at all levels of society.

At present, this seems like a political economic pipe dream. Which is to say: resource wars are already occurring, whether people recognize and leaders acknowledge this reality or not.

Interconnectedness means residents of a municipality (whatever its size) striving for 'sustainability' must recognize and acknowledge that almost all of its resource load is produced and maintained outside its boundaries, both the resources themselves ultimately consumed within the municipality and all the infrastructure (physical and political economic) required to transport the consumable resource (food, goods, services — including workers) in and the waste out.

Rather than trying to account for this complexity, individual municipalities seeking to be 'more sustainable' tend to focus solely on the consumption of certain resources within their municipal boundaries, adopting a voluntary, easy-to-shoot-for-target(s) approach rather than a systematic, coordinated, and systemic one.

Little attempt is made to actually reduce the total load of the municipality's way of living because no one has any idea what that load is or how to share reducing it across the networked entities to which the municipality is connected.

That is, municipalities have little knowledge of either the totality of the resources consumed to provide the resources consumed directly to maintain and/or enhance their way of living or the totality of resources directly consumed within the municipality itself.

Which then means: actions typically undertaken within a municipality amount to greenwashing when residents are encouraged to believe the municipality is becoming 'more sustainable' when neither residents nor organizations nor the municipality's government have data on which to base that assessment.

The underlying justification for adopting such an approach, however, is that ‘doing something is better than doing nothing.’

The claim is patently self-deluding in this context.

It’s analogous to making a few small changes while continuing unhealthy personal habits or living beyond one’s means.

Believing “doing something is better than doing nothing” in the current situation is analogous to paying the minimum balance on one’s credit card bill and expecting the creditor’s patience and line of credit will never run out.

Unfortunately, in the case of ECOS, notice of profligacy does not show up in the mail each month in a bank statement or credit card statement pointing out resource reserves are dwindling.

We now have decades of evidence showing that neither worsening global data nor worsening individual natural disasters have yielded an impact on the most profligate — the people living in rich nations such as the US and property-rich places such as DG — motivating them to change behavior sufficiently.

Thus, given the challenge of people undoing decades of political economic activity undertaken at every level of society, all of it done oblivious to the boundary imposed by the need to live ECOS, one is hard-pressed to believe humans living in rich nations are going to act dramatically enough unless and until things get much worse FOR THEM and they have no choice.

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Regarding the proposed ESP:

The effort to put together DG’s proposed ESP was for all practical purposes invisible to residents.

Although GuidingDG made a modest effort to solicit resident input on the notion of “environmental sustainability” (a phrase universally misused, including in DG), it yielded the expected stereotypic responses of desire for clean air, water, and the like. But it did not try to probe residents understanding in any in-depth fashion.

The community's low level of understanding is in turn reflected in the low level of understanding of the subject matter displayed by the members of both VC and the ECC.

As I have noted previously, members of the ECC characterize themselves as dabblers, so it is hardly surprising the proposed ESP takes the form and substance it does.

The ESP put forward by the ECC for VC's attention cannot even bring itself to state explicitly that DG's current way of living is not ECOS.

An informed reader can read between the lines and detect hints of that conclusion, but the uninformed reader is unlikely to do so, particularly when the goals the ESP proposes amount collectively to the timid recommendation 'everyone needs do something, because doing something is better than doing nothing.'

The ESP gives no indication how one gets from 'doing something' to 'doing enough;' in that it offers no indication what IS 'enough.'

Which means, as I suggested above, doing something is 'better' only if the ESP's prime objective is individual and community conscience-laundering.

In that regard, the proposed ESP is consistent with the sustainability plans municipalities typically put together, but that consistency undermines the ESP's claim the goal of the plan is to be a model.

Which also means it's woefully inadequate for dealing with a situation that is deadly serious and urgent.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Denise Ross

Comment: I would like the council to vote NO regarding this proposed resolution. The timeline of this is chaotic and unnecessarily rushed. Our library is thriving as it is and this proposed resolution was not done in partnership with the Library Board of Trustees.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Hilary Denk

Comment: To the Mayor, Manager, and Village Council: I am really concerned about the phrasing, timing and unintended negative impact the non-binding referendum about governance of our fantastic library will have on the municipal election and our library operations. As well as the lack of consensus from within the council and the Library board.

Wouldn't a series of surveys on both the village and library websites with information and q & a options be a better way to work in this issue. It's very likely well funded misinformation will flood into DG if this is on the ballot and no local group will be able to combat that. There are many potential options to consider and the advisory question doesn't get to any of the many options because it must be yes or no question and only asks about one option.

Asking the public for uninformed input doesn't inform a good decision process. Nor does placing this question on a ballot when only 15-20 % (typical turnout for April elections) of people vote. Again, there is very little time to educate voters. All of this could be determined by leaders exploring options, educating the public and possibly holding a vote in fall of 2026 when we'll have much higher turnout. What's the rush?

I hope you can all realize there are other ways to address the concerns of some members of the Council about governance of the library. It feels like this referendum is a solution looking for a problem that has already been resolved. The Council has greatly improved the appointment process and that seems to be working. Let's move on and let the library trustees and staff do their work. Thank you!

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Sara Schad

Comment: I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed referendum that would make library trustees elected rather than appointed. This change poses significant risks to the mission, stability, and effectiveness of one of Downers Grove's most cherished institutions. Our library is an essential pillar of the community, offering free access to resources, programs, and services that benefit all residents—especially children, seniors, and underserved groups. The success of our library depends on a

governance structure that prioritizes long-term strategy and equity over political agendas or campaign dynamics. The current appointment process ensures trustees are selected based on expertise, merit, and commitment to the library's mission. Transitioning to elected trustees, however, would undermine this careful system. Elections introduce unnecessary risks, including:

- **Politicization:** Campaigns often prioritize popularity or controversial issues over the specific knowledge and skills needed for effective library governance.
- **Inequitable Representation:** Many of the library's key beneficiaries—children, teens, and other marginalized groups—cannot vote, leaving their interests at risk of being overlooked.
- **Instability:** Frequent elections and turnover could disrupt long-term planning and weaken the library's ability to adapt to evolving community needs.

Additionally, holding elections for trustees would impose logistical and financial burdens on the village, diverting resources away from library operations and community services. For such a critical institution, the risks of an election far outweigh any perceived benefits. Our library's current governance system has served Downers Grove exceptionally well. Appointed trustees are chosen thoughtfully, ensuring they bring the diverse perspectives, expertise, and leadership required to guide the library. This process has allowed our library to remain a trusted, neutral space for education, growth, and connection. I urge you and the council to reject this referendum and preserve the system that has allowed our library to thrive. Your leadership in prioritizing the community's long-term interests has always been a hallmark of Downers Grove's success, and I trust you will continue to protect one of our village's most valuable institutions. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out if I can provide further input. Sincerely, Sara Schad, 443 Davis Street, Downers Grove, IL 60515

Agenda Section & Item: Comments of a General Nature

Commenter: Kathleen Schmitt

Comment: I'm asking you to vote NO to putting the library proposal onto the Spring ballot

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Eileen Stevenson

Comment: I urge Mayor Barnett and the Village Council to heed the letter sent by Library Board President Matt Topic dated November 26, 2024, and unequivocally reject this resolution. There are ample problems in the village that need fixing. The library is not one of them.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Lisa Arnett Swantek

Comment: I recently learned about Council Resolution 2024-10593 and encourage our village commissioners to vote “no.”

I find it both concerning and irresponsible that the Village Council has rushed this resolution onto their agenda without appropriate time for the DG Library Board of Trustees itself to review and discuss this matter in front of our community at one of its own meetings. This shows a clear lack of care on the part of the Council to allow for transparency, communication and public discourse among its residents. As taxpayers, we are entitled to the opportunity to be well-informed about the matters discussed and voted on at our Village Council meetings. I expect better from our commissioners; these types of ballot measures should be brought to residents early enough for robust discussion and consideration, not rushed in at the eleventh hour. I also expect that the Village Council should be bringing these types of measures forward in partnership with our library. It's very clear that this has not been the case.

As a member of the Downers Grove community, I value our library's mission to serve all members of our community through its media collections and programming. The current process by which trustees are appointed and reviewed by the library board provides the most robust system of checks and balances to ensure our trustees are qualified for their roles. I do not support bringing to ballot the option to elect trustees rather than appoint them, and I do not support the village taking the next implied step of separating the library from the village to become its own independent unit of government. I have clearly seen in other communities that this move is an inefficient one, both increasing the tax burden on residents and reducing resources and programming for the library and its patrons. I appreciate the current arrangement and the financial efficiencies it provides to taxpayers and library patrons, allowing our library to shine as one of the best in the area. Our peer communities with similarly award-winning libraries are not seeking this arrangement for a reason: It's a lose-lose for the community.

I encourage the Village Board to vote “no” to Council Resolution 2024-10593.

Agenda Section & Item: Comments of a General Nature

Commenter: Patricia Doll

Comment: Please delay voting on Council Resolution 2024-10593 until the library board has had sufficient time to gather information and can participate in the discussion.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Megan Johns

Comment: Dear Mayor Barnett and the Downers Grove Village Council,

I am a resident of Downers Grove who has utilized its services 2-3 times a week for the last 5 years. It is an essential service for our community, a cornerstone. The library serves so many people in countless ways. It is a vital place for resources and support for people. It shelters, it engages, it educates, and it continues to impact our entire community in positive ways.

To rush having this added to the April ballot without due process is careless. The library itself has not had any time to discuss this measure, and to exclude their input begs the question of who it actually benefits. The question may seem easy, but the greater implications are huge.

It is a waste of time and money meant to position people in order to promote their own agenda for a free and public institution.

The resolution does not serve the community needs or wants. The library has been supporting citizens for over 100 years. There is literally nothing to be gained from making it a separate institution. I want this public institution to be around as a beacon of knowledge and bright spot in our village for my children to enjoy for another century.

Thank you,
Megan E Johns

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Matthew Bebar

Comment: Dear Mayor Barnett and Village Council:

I write on behalf of the Downers Grove Board of Library Trustees with regard to Council Resolution 2024-10593, which seeks to place a nonbinding referendum on the ballot next April asking “Shall the trustees of the Downers Grove Public Library be elected, rather than appointed?” The resolution is scheduled for a vote on December 3, 2024, and was introduced at the Council’s November 19, 2024 meeting.

We respond in detail below, but in short, based on the initial assessment that the unreasonably short timing of the Council’s scheduled vote has allowed us to conduct, we believe:

the language of the referendum is nonsensical because we are aware of no legal mechanism to allow for the election of trustees under the existing library structure; the extensive legal and structural changes that would be required to implement an elected library board, such as becoming an independent taxing body separate from the Village, will have costs that will likely result in higher taxes for Downers Grove residents.

Regardless of the merits of the proposal itself, however, proceeding with the referendum on such a chaotic timeline is contrary to the best interests of our residents, and unprofessional to ask of a fellow unit of government—one that has existed in its current form for over 130 years. For that reason, we previously asked that the Council grant us the courtesy of delaying its vote by at least one month to allow us to prepare a proper report on the impact of proceeding with the proposed referendum, but to date, that request has not been granted.

We unequivocally ask that you vote no on this resolution.

Agenda Section & Item: Comments of a General Nature

Commenter: Laura Taglia

Comment: I recently learned about Council Resolution 2024-10593 and encourage our village commissioners to vote “no.”

I find it both concerning and irresponsible that the Village Council has rushed this resolution onto their agenda without appropriate time for the DG Library Board of Trustees itself to review and discuss this matter in front of our community at one of its own meetings. This shows a clear lack of care on the part of the Council to allow for transparency, communication and public discourse among its residents. As taxpayers, we are entitled to the opportunity to be well-informed about the matters discussed and voted on at our Village Council meetings. I expect better from our commissioners; these types of ballot measures should be brought to residents early enough for robust discussion and consideration, not rushed in at the eleventh hour. I also expect that the

Village Council should be bringing these types of measures forward in partnership with our library. It's very clear that this has not been the case.

As a member of the Downers Grove community, I value our library's mission to serve all members of our community through its media collections and programming. The current process by which trustees are appointed and reviewed by the library board provides the most robust system of checks and balances to ensure our trustees are qualified for their roles. I do not support bringing to ballot the option to elect trustees rather than appoint them, and I do not support the village taking the next implied step of separating the library from the village to become its own independent unit of government. I have clearly seen in other communities that this move is an inefficient one, both increasing the tax burden on residents and reducing resources and programming for the library and its patrons. I appreciate the current arrangement and the financial efficiencies it provides to taxpayers and library patrons, allowing our library to shine as one of the best in the area. Our peer communities with similarly award-winning libraries are not seeking this arrangement for a reason: It's a lose-lose for the community.

I encourage the Village Board to vote "NO" to Council Resolution 2024-10593.

Agenda Section & Item: Comments of a General Nature

Commenter: Joseph Doll

Comment: Please delay voting on Council Resolution 2024-10593 until the library board has had sufficient time to gather information and can participate in the discussion.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Cheryl Hawker

Comment: Please leave our wonderful library alone. They are doing a great job.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Katie Richert

Comment: I have been a Public Librarian for over 16 years. And while I see both sides to electing board officials- I disagree with the way the council brought this about without any talk or discussion with the library. The wording of the resolution (which will be non

binding so what is the point?) does not address the financial implications---which need to be addressed in the wording and first between the library and council. Libraries are in danger already with book bannings and other outside organizations coming after programming. Let's not have our own council go after the library without laying out all the facts to the village first. Thank you for your time.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Kehla West

Comment: As a new resident of Downers Grove (and as of last Friday, a holder of a new DGPL card), I urge the council to decline this resolution. Having library board members appointed allows for the village and library to work together to select knowledgeable and dedicated citizens to serve on the board, and given the excellence of the DGPL, it seems obvious that the current system works well.

Working to push this initiative to be on the ballot in April is a rush job, although it's clear there's no critical matter that needs to be addressed urgently. As I understand it, moving board seats to elected positions would potentially increase taxes for DG citizens as well as potentially result in less actual money available for the library to provide services.

There seems to be no upside, and again, as a new resident of DG, I'd be disheartened to see the council push this forward.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Carol McMahan

Comment: I oppose this referendum in its current form and without further time for review.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Andrew Graves

Comment: The council resolution regarding the library is a non-sensical waste of time with no apparent teeth or point. I call shenanigans on this effort.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Jennifer Sitton

Comment: I have been alerted to the rushed vote for the DG public library to consider electing its library trustees instead of appointing them. I encourage our village commissioners to vote "NO." I value our public library serving the ENTIRE community regardless of background, financial status, sexual orientation, disabilities, etc., and providing a place for everyone to discover, grow, play, and learn. The current model of DGPL as part of the Village as a result of government consolidation has been successful for many years. Our library is award-winning, and I do not wish to change it. The proposed advisory referendum was not done in partnership with the Library Board of Trustees and would require extensive changes, including creating an independent taxing body that would force additional costs onto taxpayers. A decision like this should be given the proper consideration and not rushed without time for the community to consider and respond. I encourage the Village Board to vote "NO" to Council Resolution 2024-10593.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Mark Hartzler

Comment: I'm a Westmont resident but enjoy using the Downers Grove Main library on occasion. You folks have a treasure in your library. It serves your community (and surrounding communities) very well. The suggested referendum is offensive and unnecessary. You will be wasting money on a non-issue. Knock it off.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Deborah Mucciolo

Comment: I vehemently oppose the proposal to make the Downers Grove Public Library an independent unit of government, with its own levy and a separately elected library board of trustees chosen by and directly accountable to residents of the community.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Alicia Higgins-Kinane

Comment: Downers Grove Public Library is an asset to our community and to alter the funding and board structure does not make sense. Please vote no to this resolution. Life long Downers Grove resident and frequent user of the library. Alicia Higgins-Kinane

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Megan Barron

Comment: No changes to the library business structure are needed. Proposed changes would hurt the general public and represent attempts by special interest groups to impoverish the minds of our citizens and cripple local ability to create community programs. Further, the method used to initiate changes was unlawful and undemocratic in nature. Any restructuring suggested should be thoroughly considered by library staff, board members and the community at large.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Sara Banek

Comment: Hello,

As a resident of Downers Grove, I would like to make it known that I request the council to vote no on the Library Resolution and that there is no question that will be asked on the upcoming April 1st ballot in regards to the Library appointments.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Brian Pabst

Comment: Dear Members of the Downers Grove Village Board,

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed referendum regarding the Downers Grove Public Library and its governance structure. As a resident who values

our library as a cornerstone of community engagement, education, and democracy, I urge the Board to carefully consider the following points:

1. Procedural Concerns:

The current process appears to circumvent established procedures for bringing library-related measures to the Village Council. Historically, such proposals originate from either a petition signed by residents or the Library Board of Trustees. Skipping these steps undermines public trust and transparency.

2. Financial Impact on Taxpayers:

Transitioning the library to an independent unit of government could lead to significant tax increases due to operational costs, staffing needs, and infrastructure changes. This raises questions about sustainability and equitable access to library services.

3. Community and Programming Consequences:

A tighter budget could disproportionately impact the library's ability to offer diverse programming, which has historically served as a unifying force in our community. Cutting these programs risks isolating segments of our population who rely on the library for vital resources and support.

4. Political Influence:

Changing the governance structure could invite political agendas into a traditionally neutral and inclusive institution. Libraries thrive when they are free to serve all members of the community without external pressures or biases.

I respectfully urge the Village Board to reconsider the timing and necessity of this referendum. Instead, I recommend engaging with the Library Board and community members to explore collaborative solutions that uphold the integrity and accessibility of our library.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Brian Pabst

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Rebecca Swanson

Comment: My family and I are all library users and residents of Downers Grove, and we are concerned with the resolution concerning the library's governance. This proposed resolution should be researched carefully, and the Council should seek input from the Library Board and DGPL Foundation, as well as community members through meetings and discussions. Community members need much more information, with

data and references, about various implications of this resolution, as well as pros and cons related to our taxes, library services, and the library's ability to meet their goals for the community and strategic plan. There are likely to be many implications on the library funding, and the library will not be able to offer the variety of services and programming, which is currently planned and executed by library professionals who have many years of experience and expertise. Please do more research (librarians can help with that!) and help provide more information to the community before moving forward with this resolution.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Annie Garvey Jagielski

Comment: One of the reasons my late husband Mike and I moved to Downers Grove over 35 years ago was because of the great schools and the wonderful library. From what I have read, the Village is trying to "divorce" its five-star library. This decision seems short-sighted and could lead to significant financial burdens for taxpayers. Does the Village truly prioritize the interests of its residents?

Agenda Section & Item: Comments of a General Nature

Commenter: Kimberly Nagy

Comment: I believe that making the Library Board elected positions will severely impact the survival of the library. Our Library is an extremely important resource in our village and should remain as is. At the very least, I ask that you delay voting on Council Resolution 2024-10593 until the Library Board has had sufficient time to gather information and can participate in the discussion.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Josh Siebert

Comment: I encourage the Village Board to vote "NO" to Council Resolution 2024-10593. This is backed by a clear hate group. This is complete nonsense and shouldn't have been able to come up this forum in the first place.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Anthony Mastrangeli

Comment: I am writing in concern to the proposed item of Shall the trustees of the Downers Grove Public Library be elected, rather than appointed?

This is a complete waste of the villages time and should not even be considered. The Downers Grove Library is one of the best in the state, and the fact that someone wants to change how they operate for the past 130 years is ludicrous. This feels like an end around to defund the library, which is not good for Downs Grove or its residents. Please drop this issues and let the library continue to function as it does.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Ann Kenning

Comment: I support the Downers Grove Public Library and do not think this referendum should go any further. DGPL is a place for all and has thrived and proven successful for more than 130 years with its existing partnership.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Jacqueline Gargiulo

Comment: I do not support a referendum to move to elect the Downers Grove Library Board of Trustees. Please vote NO.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Annette Ohlsen

Comment: I have some deep concerns about the timing and manner in which the DG Village Council is looking to place a measure regarding a possible governance change for the Downers Grove Public Library on the April 2025 ballot. Why the rush? A change like this would have profound effects on both the library and the people that use it. If you wanted the measure included on the April ballot so badly, why didn't you start the process sooner instead of waiting until November? Surely as members of the Council,

you know the deadline to include it then is Dec. 9th. And why are you not going through the proper channels? Your timing has effectively cut out the DGPL Board of Trustees, which is baffling and perhaps illegal. It's my understanding that the Library Trustees need to vote on a proposal to have it even considered by the Village Council to begin with. Beyond that, why would you not want to consult this business-altering proposal with the very people that represent the Library to get their input, or even give them adequate time to review and discuss the matter, as is protocol? And for your constituents - where are your notes and studies on why this should be a consideration? Where are the reports and education for the public to see how this would impact them fiscally, educationally, socially, and more? I understand this proposal is still an advisory referendum question at this point, but in addition to my comments above, the fact that the proposed referendum wording changed from one week to the next and the Recommendation is "Action at the discretion of Village Council", make this sketchy and concerning at the least.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Dan Spielman

Comment: 1. the language of the referendum is nonsensical because we are aware of no legal mechanism to allow for the election of trustees under the existing library structure;

2. the extensive legal and structural changes that would be required to implement an elected library board, such as becoming an independent taxing body separate from the Village, will have costs that will likely result in higher taxes for Downers Grove residents.

Agenda Section & Item: Comments of a General Nature

Commenter: Amy

Comment: I believe the ballot deadline is January 13. The vote on your proposition regarding the DGPL does not have to be voted on tomorrow allowing a cost analysis and impact study to be prepared and presented to council. Transparency is important!

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Chris Civino

Comment: I ask that you delay voting on Council Resolution 2024-10593 until the Library Board has had sufficient time to gather information and can participate in the discussion.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Susan Moore

Comment: I do not support this resolution. The library should have our continued support. Changes do not need to be made. The resolution is not necessary.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Amanda J Dies

Comment: I've read both the resolution as well as the Library's posted response and I have concerns that the library is being used as a political punching bag by those who disagree with some of its programming. My family and I are in the library at least once a week. We have found it to provide consistently excellent services. The diversity of materials and media are invaluable to our community and I appreciate the incredible work the library has done. The fact that certain individuals were offended by certain programs to the extent that library staff has been dealing with death threats is ridiculous and unconscionable. I wanted to express my support for our wonderful library and concern that this vague, open-ended, non-binding referendum will create confusion and place the library in the precarious position of being used as a political football.

Agenda Section & Item: Comments of a General Nature

Commenter: Nicole Moreno

Comment: I ask that you delay voting on Council Resolution 2024-10593 until the Library Board has had sufficient time to gather information and can participate in the discussion.

Agenda Section & Item: Comments of a General Nature

Commenter: Kim Bywater

Comment: Please delay voting on Council Resolution 2024-10593 until the Library Board has had sufficient time to gather information and can participate in the discussion.

Our library is a jewel of this community and what you are proposing is preposterous and shows the ignorance and spite of this government.

Agenda Section & Item: Comments of a General Nature

Commenter: Kim Schultz

Comment: I ask that you delay voting on Council Resolution 2024-10593 until the Library Board has had sufficient time to gather information and can participate in the discussion.

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10593 H. Resolution: Initiate the Submission of a Public Question to Solicit Resident Input Regarding the Downers Grove Public Library

Commenter: Brad Ketchmark

Comment: Do NOT move forward with this! The library is great as is! Waste of township and citizen time and money