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For Immediate Release

NAPERVILLE CHAMBER POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE ENDORSES NEWCOMERS TO CITY COUNCIL,  
BACKS 19 CANDIDATES IN ALL FOR APRIL 7 ELECTIONS

(Naperville, IL) March 23, 2009-- The Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce Political Action Committee (NACPAC) has endorsed incumbent Naperville City Council members Kenn Miller and Jim Boyajian for reelection, but also endorsed newcomers Judy Brodhead, and Joe McElroy as candidates for the city council in the April 7, 2009 municipal elections.

In all the business group backed 19 candidates for City Council, both school district boards 203 and 204, and the Naperville Park District Board.

The NACPAC board noted the city is facing revenue shortfalls and other budget pressures because of the struggling economy. "It is critical that the city council deal with the budget challenges by first reducing costs so as not to demand unnecessary tax increases on local businesses and residents, tax hikes that might slow an economic recovery to our community," said Jeff Davis, NACPAC Chairman.

The endorsed candidates are:

**Naperville City Council, four year term. Four openings.**

**Kenn Miller.** Incumbent, serving since 2005. Management and sales consultant, former executive with Baxter International and American Hospital Supply Corp.

**Judy Brodhead.** Professor at North Central College.

**Joe McElroy.** Local entrepreneur.

**Naperville City Council, Two year term. One opening.**

**Jim Boyajian.** Incumbent, serving since 2003. Retired BP/Amoco executive.

In addition to the economic challenges the candidates will face, NACPAC endorsed candidates who had an action plan for dealing with the transition of Naperville from a growing to a "built-out" community.

"The City of Naperville is now more developed and the Council needs leaders who understand the need for economic investment in our community," said Dennis Culloton, vice-chairman of NACPAC. "Each of the endorsed candidates demonstrated that they had thought about these issues and had an action plan to address the concerns."

### **District #203 School Board.**

NACPAC endorsed incumbent District 203 Board of Education member Jackie Romberg for reelection, but also endorsed newcomers—Michael DelCiello, Jim Dennison, Steve Deutsch, and Dave Weeks as candidates for the city council in the April 7, 2009 municipal elections.

### **Naperville School District #203. Four year terms. Four openings.**

**Jackie Romberg.** Incumbent, serving since 2005.

**Michael DelCiello.** Investment bank executive.

**Jim Dennison.** Marketing executive.

**Steve Deutsch.** Executive with Morningstar.

**Dave Weeks.** Certified Financial Planner and former minister.

“With revenues and the consumer price index near flat, new employment contracts on the horizon and a new superintendent, we endorsed candidates who have strong accountability, budgeting , and management experience,” said NACPAC Chairman, Jeff Davis, who previously served on the District 204 Board of Education.

### **District 204**

NACPAC endorsed incumbent District 204 Board of Education member Cathy Piehl for reelection, but also endorsed newcomers Dawn DeSart, Jerry Huang, Susan Rasmus, and Mark Rising as candidates for the School District #204 board.

“District 204 needs strong and accountable leaders on their board right now. Our endorsed candidates all exhibited qualities that will bring accountability, reform, respect and unity to our community,” said NACPAC Chairman, Jeff Davis. “We need leaders who put the entire community first and will come to the Board willing to listen, compromise and be excellent stewards for our children. Our endorsed candidates demonstrated those qualities to NACPAC.”

### **Indian Prairie School District #204. Four year terms. Four openings.**

**Cathy Piehl.** Incumbent, serving since 2008. School Social Worker.

**Dawn DeSart.** Former NBC5 Traffic anchor.

**Jerry Huang.** Consultant and small business owner.

**Susan Rasmus.** PTA board member, volunteer and full-time Mom.

**Mark Rising.** Sales manager.

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NACPAC noted it had concerns about four candidates, Huang, Doug DiFusco, Eric Hepburn and Don Muscato running as a slate.

“The candidates on the slate are, individually, smart and involved people with some interesting ideas. But the notion of a slate is troubling in that it would provide a majority of the votes on the board to a group of people who were on the same talking points and platform” Culloton said. “District 204 has a lot of issues, people are still recovering from a divisive fight over the third high school and the slate members would have been better off making their cases individually.”

### **Park District Board**

For the Park District board, NACPAC endorsed Suzanne Hart and Gerry Heide for reelection, but also endorsed newcomers—Tim Belgio, Rich Janor and Mike Reilly as candidates for the park board.

### **Park District Board of Commissioners, Four four-year terms**

**Tim Belgio.** Catering business owner.

**Suzanne Hart.** Incumbent and event planner.

**Gerry Heide.** Incumbent and local entrepreneur.

**Rich Janor.** Entrepreneur, sporting goods and events.

**Mike Reilly.** Financial services agent.

### **Park District Two year term. One opening.**

NACPAC does not endorse Andrew Schaffner for reelection.

NACPAC made the endorsements after meeting with more than 44 of the 48 candidates for the local offices and studying their position papers. The goal of NACPAC is to provide guidance to the chamber’s business members and concerned area residents on the candidates who best stand for the pro-business development principles.

*Background: NACPAC is the separate, legally registered Political Action Committee of the Naperville Area Chamber and no Chamber financial resources are used to operate NACPAC. For more information on the distinction of NACPAC and our fundraising, visit [www.nacpac.net](http://www.nacpac.net).*

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