

Vote ORTH For NORTHFIELD

Early Voting Opens March 17th | Election Day is April 1st

Dear Neighbors,

My campaign for village board President has revolved around talking to Northfield residents about the positive efforts I've been a part of in our community, and my continued commitment to Northfield's strength and future success. My campaign will continue to be focused on positive messaging, and that is because in a small community like ours, while we may not always agree, I feel that we should always treat our neighbors with a baseline level of respect.

In recent days, you may have seen a flyer and an anonymous letter circulating regarding my position on video gaming in Northfield. Seeing those made me feel like this election has started to look more like a big-city political brawl than a local village board race. One thing I truly believe we all agree on is that the contentious tone that residents have witnessed over the past few years in our local governance has run its course. But this most recent flyer and anonymous letter strike me as *more of the same*.

In regards to the issue of video gaming machines, the letter quotes me as saying that I "felt it was important to do anything to help the businesses." That's not controversial - it's true. I do feel strongly about doing everything we can to champion our small businesses. And in 2023 I did vote in support of the effort from Stormy's to seek approval to install two video gaming machines in their establishment.

However, **I do not support the widespread deployment of these gaming machines in Northfield.** My willingness to discuss and consider the topic is part of what I believe is responsible governance. We should listen to and evaluate options - not dismiss them outright. Coming out of COVID it felt very important as a Trustee to hear out members of our local business community, and support opportunities to help them recover from what had been a very trying couple of years. **Pushing for gaming machines in Northfield has not been part of my campaign, and it never will be.** The community has spoken, and so the issue is settled.

The content of the recent flyer also seems to indicate that I'm opposed to residents engaging with the board, and that I support the board working 'behind the scenes' to avoid being transparent with the community. Nothing can be further from the truth, and my actions have always shown that I'm committed to engagement and transparency. In this case, the selected quotes presented on the flyer are ones that I'm not legally allowed to provide additional context on. I'm unable to truly defend myself by discussing what motivated those remarks, and so my only response can be that if you know me, you know that I prioritize engagement with my fellow Northfield residents, and believe transparency is absolutely crucial to the work of the village board.

Northfield deserves leadership that prioritizes practical solutions. I remain committed to serving Northfield with integrity, transparency, and a focus on what truly benefits our residents. If you ever have concerns or questions, I welcome the opportunity to speak with you directly.

Sincerely,



Charles Orth
Trustee, Village of Northfield