

2024 FOREST PRESERVE EMPLOYEE CANDIDATE STATEMENT

FOR THE TRUSTEE ELECTION TO BE HELD OCTOBER 30, 2024

- **Candidate Name:** Delio Calzolari
- **Position Sought:** Forest Preserve Employee Trustee
- **Current Job Title:** Director of Legislative and Governmental Affairs, Forest Preserve District of Cook County
- **Total Years of Service:** 7 Years



Biographical Information: I started with the Forest Preserves of Cook County in July 2017 as the Director of Legislative and Governmental Affairs. I provide counsel to and support the President, General Superintendent, and others on decisions regarding Forest Preserves matters involving other units of government and elected and appointed officials, including developing and advocating for state and local legislation favorable to the Forest Preserves and fighting detrimental legislation.

Additionally, I educate officials about the benefits and needs of the Forest Preserves, pursue resources, and resolve issues from residents presented by Commissioners and other officials. I work with the President's office, the General Superintendent, the Commissioners and their offices, the Secretary, the Chief Attorney and the Chief Financial Officer on Board meeting scheduling, preparation, and execution.

I am knowledgeable in finance and law. I am a licensed attorney and have a bachelor's degree in finance. I am regularly involved with the passage of the Forest Preserves budget each year and work closely with Commissioners to gather the support required to craft a budget that supports the Forest Preserves' operations.

Through my work in Springfield, I've successfully championed legislation which changed the Forest Preserves pension law to remove the employer contribution cap that was causing our pension fund to be underfunded by nearly \$10 million per year. Before this change, the pension fund was on track to become insolvent in less than 20 years. Now, our pension fund will be fully funded within 30 years. I also regularly work to protect our employees from harmful legislation, for example, I successfully stopped legislation that would have eliminated our entire Police Department.