

The VMA
Village Manager
Association of Oak Park
Established 1952

Oak Park, Illinois



P.O. Box 4046
Oak Park, IL 60303

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What is the VMA?

The VMA is a political party with a rich history of promoting responsible government and citizen engagement in Oak Park. Organized under Illinois State law, we are a diverse group of informed citizens committed to the following principles of governance:

- Accountable and responsive government
- Ongoing and inclusive diversity
- Balanced and sensitive economic growth

The VMA engages in public discourse on the guiding principles in a variety of venues. Our major focus is finding and selecting the best candidates who support these principles to run for elected office.

We sponsor a comprehensive and open process for interviews. The citizen peers select a slate of candidates, and the VMA creates and

runs a campaign to elect them. VMA candidates are not required to adhere to a specific platform or agenda but instead are permitted to govern based upon the broad guiding principles under which they were selected and elected.



The purposes of the VMA shall be to maintain Oak Park as an outstanding community with accountable and responsive government; to encourage and promote ongoing and inclusive diversity; and to support balanced and sensitive economic growth.

VMA Roots and Wings

Our History

In 1901 Oak Park successfully separated itself from Cicero Township. Between 1901 and 1952, the Village was divided into eight geographic areas similar to "wards" with Village government officials elected from each area.

By 1952, in response to well-publicized charges of corruption in Village government, a growing movement calling itself the Village Manager Association worked for passage of a referendum to adopt a Manager/Council form of government. The referendum passed resoundingly with a 91% turnout of voters.

Since that time, the Village Manager form of government has endured and thrived under VMA leadership. It has produced many of the progressive leaders, ordinances, organizations and programs that have made Oak Park an outstanding and diverse community in which to live.



Your Involvement: Why?

In order to meet the challenges of the future we must continually strive to engage our citizens in ways that will allow our community to flourish. Strains on our aging infrastructure in a land-locked urban village, an increasing property tax burden, unfunded mandates and property tax caps that threaten our schools and parks, and an unending desire to retain our cultural, racial, and economic diversity are but a few of the pressures on our community.

Your Involvement: How?

Exercise your right to participate in the process of determining the future of our community and its ongoing commitment to good government, inclusive diversity and balanced growth! Your membership will allow you to:

- Be a part of candidate selections
- Help develop the leaders of the future
- Provide your vision for the direction of the VMA
- Work on the political campaigns
- Attend membership meetings
- Organize and recruit volunteers
- Assist in organizing events

FAQs about the VMA

- Q.** Are my annual membership dues or contributions to the VMA tax deductible?
A. No, the VMA is not a charitable organization. Contributions equal to \$150.00 or more per 6 month reporting period must be reported along with the name of the contributor.
- Q.** How does the VMA decide on which issues it will take a public position?
A. Each member or officer of the Association may bring matters to the Board through an established procedure so that it may consider whether to adopt a formal position on the issue.
- Q.** Why does the VMA support a Manager/Council form of government?
A. It is our belief that electing a Village President, Trustees, and a Clerk *at large*, and permitting a professional manager to direct the affairs of Village Staff, diminishes the opportunity for special interests to control Village policies and makes our representatives directly accountable to *all* the residents of the Village.
- Q.** How frequently does the VMA meet with its membership?
A. The Board of Directors of the VMA meets monthly and sometimes more often. There is one annual general membership meeting and other periodic meetings.



VMA Membership Application

I am interested in:

- VMA Membership @ \$20.00 _____
 - Serving on a Committee _____
 - Assisting in the Selection process _____
 - Assisting with a Campaign _____
 - Making a Contribution _____
 - Other (contact me) _____
- Total _____

Name/Address _____

Preferred Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Method of Payment

- Check
- Bill Me
- Visa
- MasterCard
- American Express

Credit Card # _____

Exp. date _____

Signature _____

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