

COMMUNITY EDUCATION FORUM

Know Your Local Government

Northfield Township

Hosted by the **League of Women Voters** of Glenview–Glencoe

An open forum for residents to learn how their government works



Why are we here today?



Northfield Township has been serving every corner of our community since 1850.

Northfield Township's mission is to ensure consistent, quality, efficient services.

How it all started



- Township government is the oldest continuous form of government in the United States, brought here in the 17th century.
- Northfield Township was founded on April 2, 1850.
- The Township was established by the people to meet the common needs of residents.

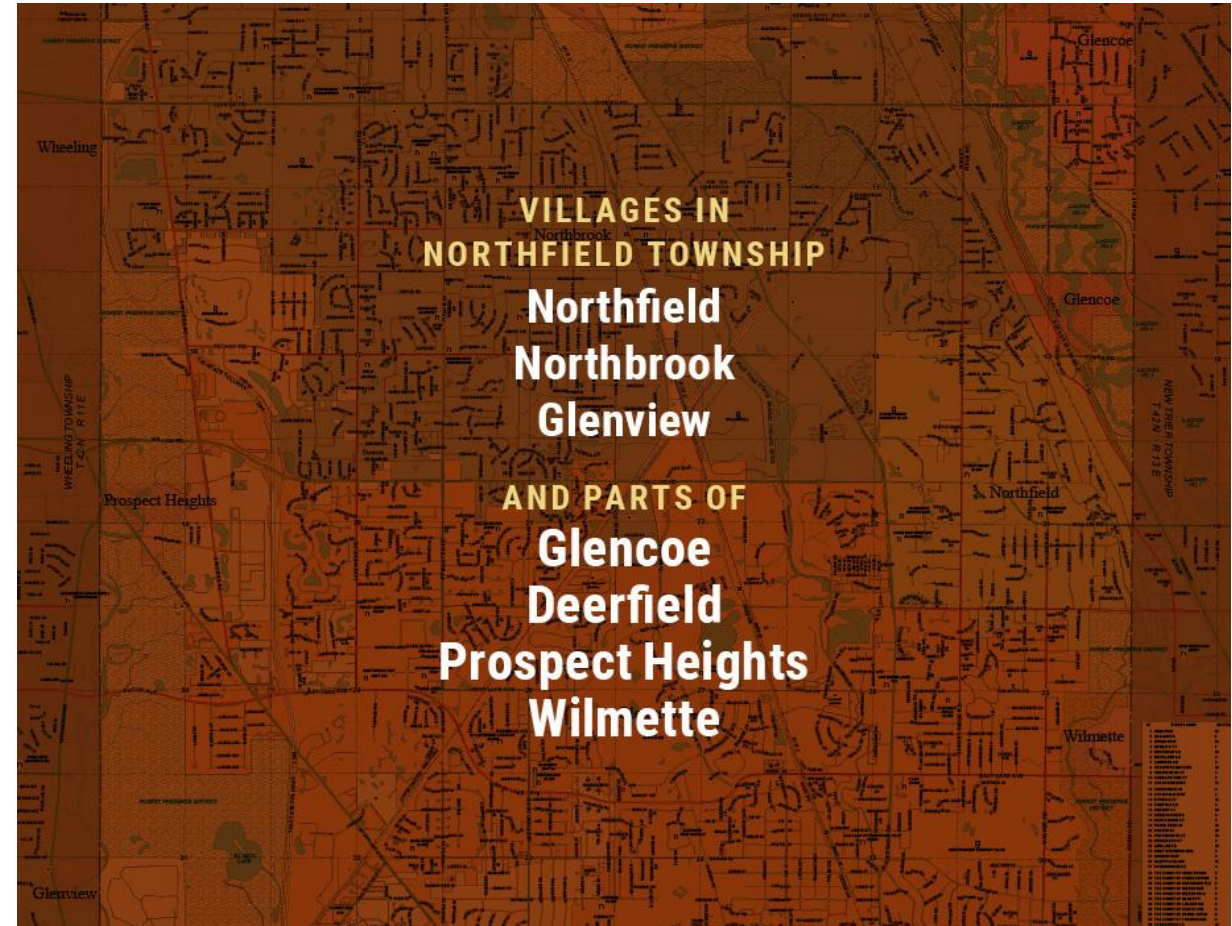
Today, Northfield Township primarily acts as a social safety net and provides vital services and taxpayer assistance to residents in need.



Who resides in Northfield Township?

- Township residents: ~90,000
- ~13% in unincorporated Cook County
- 5-7% live below the poverty line
- Avg. Age: ~50
- ~71% identify as White, ~29% as Black, Asian, Native, Pacific Islander, Hispanic, 2+ races, or Other

**Unincorporated areas are NOT located within the corporate boundaries of a municipality.*



Demographic data: Census Reporter, U.S. Census (2024). Unincorporated data: Cook Central website, census population of unincorporated Cook County by township (2020).



What does township government do?

Responsibilities of the Northfield Township government, as defined by Illinois law. Illinois Township Code (60 ILCS 1).

By law, IL townships are charged with three functions:

- 1) General Assistance for qualifying residents
- 2) The assessment of real property for the basis of local taxation (in all counties except Cook County)
- 3) Maintenance of all roads and bridges outside federal, state and other local jurisdictions

DILLON'S RULE: Townships and other units of local government are regulated by provision of Article VII, Sec. 8 of the 1970 Illinois Constitution, which states in part, these governments "SHALL have only powers granted by law."

In plain language, this means that if no statute permits a township or road district (or official) to perform a function or service, the government or official may not carry out that function regardless of how much it is needed or wanted. If the statutes are silent (do not mention) regarding a particular power or function, it does not exist. If the power doesn't exist, the government (or official) may not perform the service.

From: Township Officials of Illinois Laws & Duties Handbook (2022)



What does township government do?

Responsibilities of the Northfield Township government, as defined by Illinois law.

Townships are also given a variety of statutory responsibilities that are somewhat lesser known but equally important.

Township services:

- General and emergency assistance
- Assessor's office
- Dial-A-Ride
- Passports and voter registration
- Human Services Funding
- Special Police District



What does township government do?

The Northfield Township Food Pantry was founded over 50 years ago to assist Township residents struggling with food insecurity.

Today, **1,042 households** are registered to use the Food Pantry services. Clients receive both perishable and non-perishable food items and grocery store gift cards as part of our food distribution programs.





How is township government funded and run?



Elected leadership



Primary funding source



Budget process



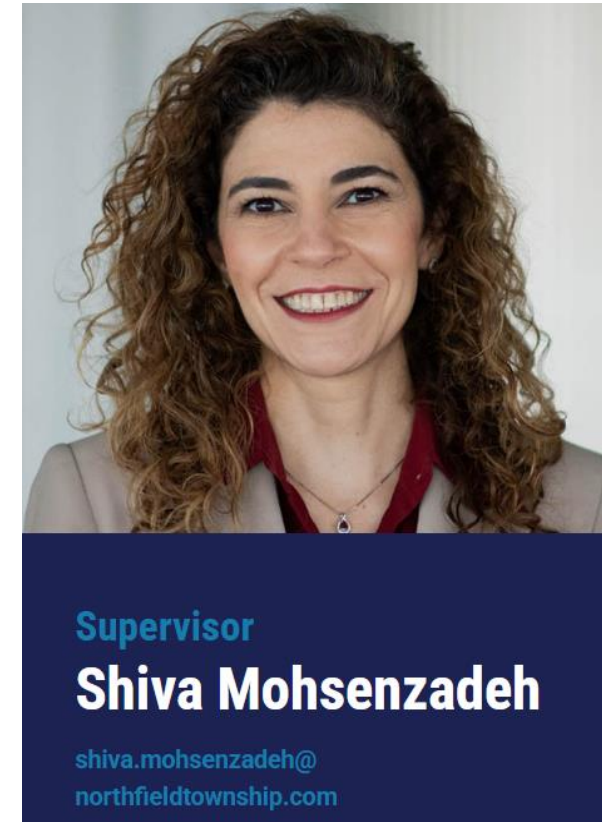


Elected Leadership: Supervisor

The Township Supervisor acts as chief executive officer. The Supervisor also serves as supervisor of General Assistance and Chairman of the township board.

The Supervisor is a voting member of the board with numerous financial reporting responsibilities, including:

- Treasurer of township funds: Receives and pays out all monies raised in the township for defraying township charges except those raised for the support of highways and bridges and township library purposes
- Ex Officio Treasurer of the road and bridge funds



Illinois Township Code (60 ILCS 1).



Elected Leadership: Trustees

The Trustees are the legislative arm of the Township, setting policy and procedure for the Township Supervisor to administer and overseeing spending.

Responsibilities of the Township Trustee:

- Auditing Township and Road District bills and account before any bills are paid
- Attending to annual budgeting and levy responsibilities
- Spending township funds
- Compensating township officers
- Appointing fire protection district trustees

Illinois Township Code (60 ILCS 1).

Meet Our Trustees



Kate Spears, Trustee
kate.spears@northfieldtownship.com



Daniel Schack, Trustee
daniel.schack@northfieldtownship.com



Scott Ottenheimer, Trustee
scott.ottenheimer@northfieldtownship.com

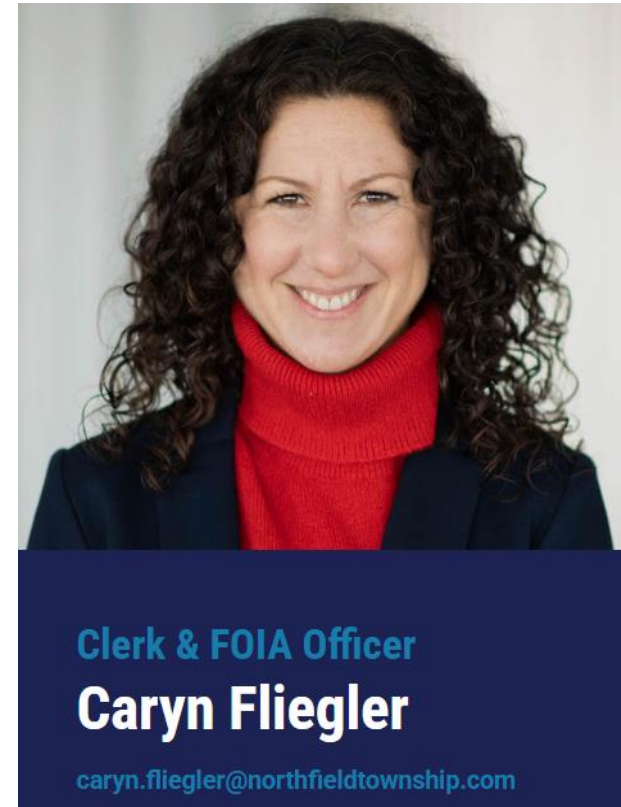


Vincent Pace, Trustee
vincent.pace@northfieldtownship.com

Elected Leadership: Clerk



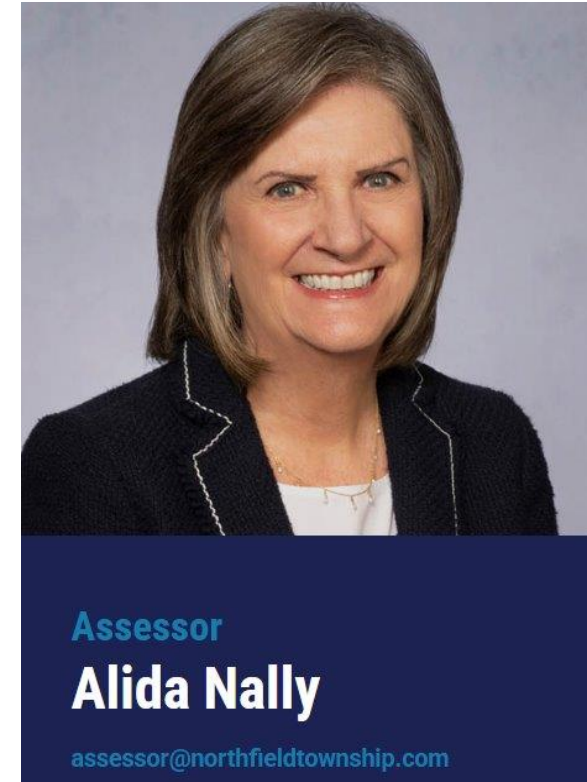
- Custodian of records and dedicated to transparency
- Maintains meeting minutes, ordinances, resolutions, by-laws, etc.
- Files key documents with the county clerk, and certifies the levy
- Serves as Northfield Township's FOIA Officer
- Serves as the Township's Local Election Official concerning local election duties
- May serve as deputy voter registration officer



Elected Leadership: Assessor



- Acts as a property tax advocate for township residents
- Serves as a liaison to the Cook County Assessor and other Cook County departments involved in property taxes
- Provides assistance with property tax exemptions, appeals, and general real estate taxation questions





Primary funding source: levy

A levy is the amount of revenue (in dollars) that a township expects to receive.

Northfield Township's 2025 Levy Report:

- Road and Bridge: \$4,071,495.34
- Town and General Assistance: \$2,780,478.51
- Special Police District: \$45,038.17



What does this mean to you and your tax bill?

The median 2025 home value in Northfield Township is \$784,000. Total taxes for this home are estimated at \$17,800.

This includes:

- Road and Bridge: \$127
- Town: \$60
- General Assistance: \$22

2024 Second Installment Property Tax Bill			
TOTAL PAYMENT DUE \$ 3,664.05 By 08/01/2024 (on time)	Property Index Number (PIN) 19-06-208-062-0000	Volume 188	Code 36013
	Tax Year (Payable to) 2023 2024	Township STICKNEY	Classification 2-03
IF PAYING LATE, PLEASE PAY 08/02/24-09/01/24 OR 09/02/24-10/01/24 OR 10/02/24-11/01/24 LATE INTEREST IS 0.75% PER MONTH, BY STATE LAW			
YOUR TAXING DISTRICTS			
WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES			
Total 2023 Tax Bill \$7,880.90 \$1,848.76 MORE than 2022			
Taxing District	2023 Tax	2022 Tax	Difference
Lynn School District 103	\$2,933.97	\$2,037.48	\$896.49 More
Village of Stickney	\$1,727.38	\$1,404.37	\$323.01 More
J. Sterling Morton HS 201 Berwyn/Cicero	\$1,675.22	\$1,371.63	\$303.59 More
Morton Community College Dist 527 Cicero	\$960.34	\$250.10	\$710.24 More
Stickney Forest View Pub Library Dist	\$273.74	\$253.46	\$20.28 More
Metro Water Reclamation Dist of Chicago	\$223.69	\$181.86	\$41.83 More
Stickney Public Health District	\$183.63	\$149.29	\$34.34 More
Town of Stickney	\$159.57	\$129.73	\$29.84 More
County of Cook	\$142.90	\$116.18	\$26.72 More
Cook County Public Safety	\$68.43	\$55.63	\$12.80 More
Road & Bridge Stickney	\$48.99	\$39.83	\$9.16 More
Cook County Forest Preserve District	\$45.76	\$24.08	\$21.68 More
Cook County Health Facilities	\$45.17	\$36.72	\$8.45 More
General Assistance Stickney	\$23.31	\$1.88	\$21.43 More
Consolidated Elections	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
DO NOT PAY THESE TOTALS	\$7,880.90	\$6,032.26	\$1,848.76 More
The above breakdown displays how much you pay in property taxes to each taxing district. Please see reverse side for a detailed breakdown by Taxing District.			

Budget process



The budget and appropriations ordinance establishes how the Township proposes to spend public money, but it also serves as a controlling device for expenditures and as a collection measuring device for revenues.



Northfield Township Government & Northfield Township Road District: Independent Units with Overlap



Separate levies & budgets

Each unit certifies its own tax levy and adopts its own budget through a public hearing process.



Shared territory

Township and Road District cover the same geographic area, but the Road District's authority is limited to roads outside village limits.



Elected offices

Township Board and Highway Commissioner are elected positions and are each accountable to residents.



Points of overlap

Supervisor, Trustees, and Clerk have limited roles in the Road District. Road District budgets, levies, and monthly payables are audited and approved in township board meetings.

The Supervisor's Role as Road District Treasurer



Ex Officio Treasurer of the road and bridge funds (i.e., Road District Treasurer):

- As treasurer of the Road District, the Supervisor is responsible for all money received and paid out for the maintenance of roads and the Road District's operational needs
- Makes payments **ONLY AFTER** the Township Board has examined and audited those claims and charges



The Board's role in relation to the Road District

Trustees' duties in relation to the Road District:

- Approval of Highway Commissioner budget at a public hearing
- The highway code requires that the Township board of trustees at the public hearing shall adopt the tentative budget and appropriation ordinance or any part as the board of trustees deem necessary (605 ILCS 5/6-501 (c))
- The township board may accept a highway commissioner's proposed budget, reject it, or accept parts of it while rejecting other parts pursuant to 605 ILCS 5/6-501 (c), they are not authorized to unilaterally make modifications to the proposed budget by adjusting individual line items
- Audits Road District bills and account before any bills are paid (60 ILCS 1/80-10)

Clerk's duties in relation to the Road District:

- The township clerk shall be ex-officio clerk for the highway commissioner



Referendum One:



“Should Northfield Township, Cook County, Illinois, explore the possibility of enabling the Northfield Township Food Pantry to offer pre-packaged meals to residents of Northfield Township who are in need?”

Fact #1

Currently, the Northfield Township Food Pantry operates as a "client-choice" pantry, where clients select food items based on household size and available inventory.

Fact #2

This advisory referendum asks whether the Township should explore the possibility of enabling the Northfield Township Food Pantry to offer pre-packaged meals to its food distribution programs.

Fact #3

This referendum is non-binding, meaning the results would provide community feedback but would not by themselves establish a pre-packaged meal program.

Fact #4

The Northfield Township Food Pantry currently serves approximately 1,050 households, and approximately 41% of pantry households are headed by a senior citizen.



Referendum Two:



“Shall Northfield Township, Cook County, Illinois, begin assessing efficiencies, potential cost savings, and processes for possibly providing an option for collection, disposal, composting, and recycling of garbage and refuse services for residents of the unincorporated areas of Northfield Township?”

Fact #1

Currently, unincorporated households negotiate and contract directly with a company or vendor to provide waste, refuse, and recycling services.

Fact #2

Households located in incorporated communities use waste, refuse, and recycling services negotiated by their respective municipalities.

Fact #3

This advisory referendum asks whether the Township should begin assessing the feasibility, costs, and processes involved in potentially offering waste, refuse, and recycling services in unincorporated areas.

Fact #4

Any future proposal related to garbage or recycling services would require additional review and potential action by the Township Board.



Referendum Three:



“Shall the Road District of the Township of Northfield be abolished with all the rights, powers, duties, assets, property, liabilities, obligations, and responsibilities being assumed by the Township of Northfield?”

Fact #1

The Northfield Township Road District is a separate unit of government with its own tax levy, budget, and elected Highway Commissioner.

Fact #2

The Road District works on approximately 23 miles of road in the unincorporated parts of the Township.

Fact #3

Northfield Township is made up of 8 municipalities and stretches over 34 square miles.

Fact #4

The municipalities, Cook County, or the State of Illinois take care of the roads within their jurisdictions.



Referendum Three (continued):



Fact #5

Other townships within Cook, Lake, and DuPage counties have voted to incorporate the responsibilities under a road department within township government (examples include Naperville Township, Bloomingdale Township, Elmhurst Township, Vernon Township, Hanover Township, Wheeling Township, and Worth Township).

Fact #6

If the Northfield Township Road District is abolished, the Township would assume responsibility for maintaining unincorporated roads through a centralized and transparent Township Road Department.

Fact #7

The voters of Northfield Township (not politicians) will decide to abolish the Road District and incorporate its functions into the Township, or to stay as a separate unit of government and taxing authority.

Fact #8

The upcoming November election gives voters the opportunity to express themselves to the Supervisor and Board of Trustees to keep the Township Road District or merge it with the Township.