



CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name of Candidate: Scott Wehrli

Address: P.O Box 4618, Naperville, IL 60567-4618

Phone Number: 630-357-1163

Email Address: scott@scottwehrli.com

Campaign Website: www.scottwehrli.com

The Asian American community in Naperville is very diverse. In your current or past business or public roles, what involvement have you had with the Asian American community?

I own a local business that employs more than 200 people and is more than 70% diverse from executive management to the shop floor. I'm proud of the long-time relationships I've built with our Asian American employees who are in key positions within the company.

As a part time Park District police officer, I've received training specific to the large Asian American community within Naperville to better understand the cultural differences and how to prepare for encounters with police under different circumstances. My Asian American co-workers in law enforcement have been great friends and resources for our officers to understand our differences.

How do you define "diversity, equity and inclusion"? What specific steps would you take as mayor to include Asian Americans in Naperville's DEI activities in relation to city employment, contracts, and appointments?

In my businesses I have found that monolithic approaches to management or problem solving often result in poor outcomes. Value is derived from the interplay between people from a variety of backgrounds, race, and religion.

The Asian American community has a long, rich history in Naperville. For over a century, Asian Napervilleans have contributed to the rich culture and economic dynamism that has defined our community but, at times, their values have not been fully or appropriately represented.

While protecting diversity in city DEI activities and in the function of governing is important, it is too often that DEI initiatives are pushed by partisan politicians seeking division in the community to enhance their political prospects.

If elected as your next Mayor, I commit to operating as I have for decades in Naperville. Working with all members of our community to build solutions that are best for Naperville; listening and being open to dialogue, discussion and compromise; and ensuring our diversity of thought and background are well represented in city government.

What issues or concerns do you believe have a particular or distinct impact on Asian Americans? How do you plan to address them as Mayor of Naperville?

Throughout this campaign I have been fortunate to have leaders in the Asian American community host various events for me to meet Asian American residents. At these events, I often hear many residents feel taken for granted by Naperville civic leaders. And worse, there have

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been elements of “tokenism” produced by our city under the guise of cultural sensitivity and inclusion.

What is not happening now, and I commit to as Mayor, is very simple: Show up, listen and incorporate.

Many of the issues that currently exist is a result of top-down, compulsory DEI based on the preferences of those leading the initiative. Very little thought or conversation exists. Naperville’s next mayor has to represent all of its residents regardless. If elected, I pledge to listen first, respect always and bring all voices to the table so they are heard.

Mayor Chirico recently stated that a fourth marijuana dispensary may be a possibility in Naperville. What is your position on a fourth dispensary, and do you believe the existing dispensaries have served Naperville residents better, worse or as expected?

Citizens and groups have been in active efforts in Naperville on recreational marijuana for many years. In March of 2020, over 14,000 Naperville residents representing 53% of participating voters, voted in favor of a referendum expressing support to permit recreational marijuana dispensaries in Naperville. Later that year, the Naperville City Council reversed its initial ban from 2019, permitting three dispensaries in Naperville.

The residents and the city council have been clear: they support 3 marijuana dispensaries in Naperville. I have no plans to change that policy.

Over the last several years the serious issue of legal, synthetic marijuana has become more prevalent and pervasive. Children and students have access to legal cannabinoids that can be more potent and, at times, less expensive than what is available at dispensaries. The chemicals used in the creation of cannabinoids have led to seizures, hallucinations and death.

My 29 years of experience as a liquor commissioner regulating both liquor and tobacco licensees within our community will make regulation of synthetic marijuana within our community a priority.