

# Candidate's Form

Consolidated Election Office April 4, 2023. Candidates, please respond with short sentences (like bullet points/numbered lists). Your canvassers and community members need to describe your candidacy concisely. The information we are gathering may be present on the DGTD website.

**For what position are you running?** List the position and the district or municipality (examples: School Board District 99, Mayor Downers Grove). \*

School Board District 99

**How is your name listed on the ballot?** \*

Kara Casten

**What is the best way for voters to learn more about you (website, facebook or other platforms)?** \*

Website – d99slate.com; Email - d99slate@gmail.com; Facebook and Instagram - d99slate

**What experiences do you have to help you succeed in the position (e.g. employment, volunteer)?** \*

- 1) 20+ years in the corporate sector, currently in a leadership role at Kemper Insurance
- 2) Served on the D99 Planning Committee from 2021-2022. The 12-member committee of parents, teachers, and students developed guidance for the current D99 Strategic Plan.
- 3) Worked productively with teachers, staff, and administrators for the past 10+ years that my 2 daughters have attended D58 and D99 schools. 1 of 3 D99 School Board candidates the Downers Grove Educational Association, the union representing D99 teachers, voted to support in this election.

**What do you want to accomplish (list your top three)?** \*

- 1) Understand the root causes of declining test scores in the last 5 years and work collaboratively with D99 and the community to address the reasons
- 2) Support efforts to engage more D99 students in extracurricular activities, which are proven to contribute to post-secondary success
- 3) Work with the community and the D99 School Board to restore respect, trust, and support during discussions and meetings

**Why are you running (list three short reasons)?** \*

- 1) Fill the open seats on the D99 School Board with proven collaborators, not disruptors that tell members to resign when they disagree with their decisions
- 2) Ensure that ALL students feel welcome in D99 and that the voices of people of color and the LGBTQ+ community are represented in School Board discussions
- 3) Give back to the D99 community that continues to provide incredible support to our family since the passing of my daughter Gwen, a 2022 DGN graduate

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