

# 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 for Center Cass 66

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

Nicoletta "Nikki" Giancola-Shanks

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

<https://bit.ly/Stronger66>

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

I began my career as a LA/Lit, Social Studies, and Reading Workshop middle school teacher and have my MA in Curriculum & Instruction. I then decided I wanted to make an impact on policies that affect children on a larger scale, so I shift my focus over to government & politics. As a result, I have worked on many campaigns, from local to Presidential. Two highlights of my political career include being Call Center & Volunteer Director at Obama 2012 HQ and GOTV Director for the Illinois Senate Democrats in 2018. In my government career, I have worked for Governor Quinn, State Treasurer Michael Frerichs, and currently in a state agency for Governor Pritzker. Within these offices, I have held roles such as Operations Manager, Civic Engagement Manager, and Director of Financial Education. I currently work for IDFP as Director of External Affairs & Student Loan Policy. In 2022, I learned, along with our community, the state of CCSD 66's finances, the many building repair needs, and the significant lack of resources for our students and teachers. I then co-chaired Save 66, and spent all of my free time organizing to ensure our referendum passed.

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

1. Hire and recruit much needed positions within our District. 2. Lay out an easy to understand blueprint for the community regarding the schedule of repairs the referendum dollars will go to. 3. Bridge that gap that currently exists between the District and the community at large through new engagement.

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

Public education is a passion of mine. I believe that by giving children a firm foundation, you set them up for success. This is why I became co-chair of Save 66, and organized our group to ensure the referendum passed in November. Now that it has, I want to ensure those dollars are allocated to the things we promised it would: updating learning resources & curriculum, making our schools safer (through building repairs & hiring much needed staff), and regaining financial stability.

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