

Ellen Silver Bio

Originally from Bayside, Queens, I have called Mamaroneck home for 20 years, where my husband, Jonathan, and I raised our two children. I earned an MBA from NYU and spent over 20 years in corporate and private banking at Chase, Deutsche Bank and JPMorgan. Before becoming a Village Trustee, I was an active PTA parent and community volunteer, chairing the Committee for the Environment and leading the Village's Climate Smart Communities Task Force.

1) We're a Village with a long history of flooding. Please evaluate the progress the Village has made on flooding and what other flood-mitigation efforts you want to see.

The Village has made progress securing significant grant funding and working collaboratively with our County, State and Federal partners on multiple flood mitigation projects. I understand residents' frustration with the pace of progress, particularly given the devastating impact flooding has had on many families and businesses. While critical planning, engineering, regulatory and funding steps take time, we must keep projects moving forward. We have stepped up catch basin maintenance to improve drainage and recently began planning for restoration of the harbor seawall to address coastal flooding. Going forward, I want to see funded projects move from planning to construction, pursue additional grant opportunities, regularly maintain our rivers, and advance the Greenway concept for both flood mitigation and public open space. Flood resiliency must remain a top priority.

2) You have been involved in two budget cycles in your first term as trustee. What have you learned from the process and/or what would you like to accomplish in future budget cycles?

During my two budget cycles, I have gained a real appreciation for how detailed and comprehensive the process is, with a line-by-line review of revenues and expenditures and discussions with each department about operations, staffing and capital needs. While I have a strong foundation in corporate finance, I found that municipal budgeting has its own complexities and constraints. Much of the Village's spending is fixed or driven by contractual obligations, leaving limited room for discretionary spending and making it critical to scrutinize every line item. During the budget hearings, I asked questions and challenged certain assumptions and ultimately felt confident supporting the adopted budgets. Going forward, I want to continue seeking opportunities for savings and increased revenue and ensuring prudent capital spending.

3) Please describe one or two accomplishments during your time on the board that you advocated for that improved the lives of all residents.

When I ran for office, I said I would listen to residents and advocate for their concerns, and that has been a priority of my first term. I established the Beautification Committee in response to concerns about the appearance of our Village and my belief that we can do more to keep our

community clean and attractive. I took action to get a neglected “zombie” property cleaned up, advocated for residents impacted by the discontinuance of a long-standing mosquito abatement practice, and strongly supported continuing our longstanding, valued relationship with LMC Media. These are very different issues, but they reflect the same approach I bring to the Board: listen to residents, understand the problem, and work collaboratively toward practical solutions that strengthen our community.

4) What are three things you would like to accomplish in your next two-year term?

My priorities for the next two years are quality of life, flood resiliency and fiscal stewardship. I want to advance the Beautification Committee’s goals, including improvements to the MTA station, public gardens and Village signage, while implementing a trash containerization program on the Avenue to improve cleanliness and help address our rat problem. I want to keep our flood mitigation projects moving forward, get the Tompkins Avenue bridge reopened, preserve open space, and ensure that new development does not adversely impact our floodplain. Finally, with limited discretionary spending, we must remain vigilant about how we use Village resources. With our new purchasing manager and the fleet and organizational studies, I want to identify efficiencies, eliminate unnecessary spending and make thoughtful capital investments.