

# Rotering eyes run for mayor

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Highland Park City Council member Nancy Rotering announced Tuesday that she is planning to challenge Mayor Michael D. Belsky in April of next year for the city's top elected position.

"It is time for new leadership, with an eye towards accountability and transparency," said Rotering in a news release.

Rotering has begun forming an exploratory committee for the April 5, 2011, race, though she did not commit further this week.

In the April 7, 2009, City Council election, Rotering collected the highest total of votes in a four-person race against three incumbents vying for three seats. Incumbent council member and Mayor Pro Tem Michael C. Brenner lost re-election while council members Steven Mandel and James Kirsch won the remaining two seats.

Before officially joining the City Council in May of last year, Rotering was a member of the city's Plan and Environmental commissions.

Rotering currently serves as the council's liaison to the Design Review, Traffic and Historic Preservation commissions as well as ex officio board member of the Community Family Center. She received the 2006 Robert Barnard Character Counts Pillar Award from the Highland Park Human Relations Commission for leadership and service to the community.

In February, Mandel said he was hoping mayoral challengers step up, while adding that he is also considering a second run against Belsky.

"I'm very excited to hear that Nancy Rotering is (looking into) running," Mandel said Tuesday. "I think she brings great ideas, fresh ideas to the council.

"I am very encouraged by this news."

Belsky, who announced earlier this year his candidacy for a third term as mayor, defeated Mandel for the mayor's seat in 2003. Belsky brings a long list of local, county and state endorsements to the race, including the three board presidents from the Park District of Highland Park, North Shore School District 112 and High School District 113.

"Experienced leadership is going to be very important through these fiscal times," Belsky said in February when he announced his re-election campaign. "It's very important that we face head-on some of the challenges that we have in this new economic environment."

Rotering is a legislative aide to state Rep. Karen May, D-58th. She holds a bachelor's degree in economics from Stanford University, a master's degree in business administration from Northwestern University and a law degree from the University of Chicago.

She practiced law for eight years with McDermott Will and Emery.

Rotering grew up in Highland Park; she and her husband, Rob, have four children in Highland Park schools.

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