



Harmon for District 69

My name is Chad Harmon, and I am running for House District 69. I am running because I believe that everyone deserves to be represented fairly in a democratic society. During the height of the pandemic, my social media was inundated with friends dying from drug overdose, alcoholism, suicide, and COVID. I saw Hoosiers struggling to survive, both physically and mentally. What I didn't see, however, was any of our "representatives" actually concerned about the issues everyday Hoosiers are facing.

On a personal note, I have experienced the difficulties associated with combating substance abuse disorder, alcoholism, and working through PTSD from abuse I endured when I was young. I deeply understand the struggles that my constituents face and, if elected, I will work tirelessly to support them and pass legislation that is truly enacted in their best interests.

Our platform and priorities are as follows.

In regard to ***Increasing Access to Mental Health Resources and Substance Abuse Recovery Services***, I believe that everyone - regardless of where they live, what kind of insurance they have, their socio-economic status, their primary language, or any other possible factor - should be able to readily and easily access substance abuse and mental health resources.

In regard to ***Reproductive Rights***, I believe that all reproductive health decisions belong between individuals and the medically accurate advice of their physicians. I also believe in factual and comprehensive sex education in schools. Furthermore, I will do everything in my power to help amend or roll back Senate Bill 1 to better serve individuals in accessing necessary healthcare that all humans deserve.

In regard to ***Increased Funding for Public Education***, I believe Indiana needs to focus on recruiting new teachers and retaining the ones the state already has by increasing teacher pay, reimbursing teachers for any out-of-pocket expenses, including supplies and/or necessary certifications required to keep their licenses. Teachers' unions deserve to maintain their bargaining rights and I will do my best to help facilitate that, as well as increasing pay and resources for educators.

In regard to ***Lifting up Rural Communities and Small Businesses***, I believe that due to the financial hardships created by Covid-19, rural communities and small businesses are being left behind. Indiana can do more to support small businesses and inspire entrepreneurship in smaller communities, including no or low-interest loans to small business owners. We can come up with creative solutions to revive vacant buildings and properties to help facilitate small business growth. I will work tirelessly to author and sponsor legislation that would offer incentives to healthcare professionals choosing to practice in rural areas, such as student loan forgiveness if they agree to stay in the area.

This is an important job that I am seeking to fill. The votes and decisions that Indiana State Representatives make affect all Hoosiers in one way or another. I believe the role requires dignity, respect for the office, and respect for the constituents. I will bring dignity and respect back to District 69. Thank you.