



2022 MIDTERM ELECTION VOTER GUIDE

KNOW YOUR CANDIDATES WHEN YOU VOTE



GET INFORMED BY FOLLOWING OUR NON-PARTISAN GUIDE
TAKE AS LITTLE AS 15 MINUTES AND AS MUCH AS 1-2 HOURS

FIND AND RESEARCH YOUR CANDIDATES

- **Know your candidate list. User friendly websites:**
 - ballotready.org: provides a candidate list according to the address entered; describes each position; includes links to social media and website pages; includes candidate endorsements; allows you to create a free account, choose your candidates, and print your selections to take with you when you vote.
 - ballotpedia.org: is a digital encyclopedia of American politics; provides a candidate list according to the address entered; provides details about candidates and voting record if available.
- **Know your candidate's voting record:**
 - justfacts.votesmart.org
- **Read through your candidate's website and social media pages:**
 - theskimm.com/2022-midterms

KEEP IN MIND WHEN PLANNING TO VOTE

- **Consider manually voting.** Instead of straight ticket voting (ie: choosing a party), manually voting gives you more choice and makes it easier to vote for the candidates you want.
- **Choose 1-3 elected offices to research and vote for** if you feel overwhelmed about searching all of the candidates. There is no rule that you have to research and vote for every single office.
- **Take your candidate list of who you plan to vote for to the ballot box.** This could be written down on a piece of paper or noted on your phone. Websites like ballotready.org allow you to create your list and print it off.

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HIGHLIGHTING A FEDERAL RACE

United States Senate

Role description: The U.S. Senate is one of two chambers of the federal legislature. Senators are responsible for writing and passing legislation, approving presidential appointments, and ratifying treaties with foreign countries.

Incumbent: This is the person who currently holds an office.

Endorsement: An individual or group/organization giving public approval or support of a candidate.

PAC: Political Action Committee, In the US) an organization that raises money privately to influence elections or legislation, especially at the federal level.

Note: Names placed in alphabetical order and information obtained by Ballot Ready.

- **Thomas McDermott Jr. (D)**
 - <https://www.gomcdermott.com/issues>
 - *Endorsed by Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, National Organization of Women, American Federation of Teachers Indiana.
- **James Sceniak (L)**
 - <https://www.sceniakforsenate.com/priorities/>
 - *Committed to stop more gun restrictions. Healthcare should not be regulated by the government. Will not support deficit spending. Will work to de-criminalize drugs. Will work to end no-knock warrants.
- **Todd Young (R-Incumbent since 2017)**
 - <https://toddyoung.org/issues/>
 - *Endorsed by National Right to Life, Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America, Guardian Fund PAC.

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HIGHLIGHTING A FEDERAL RACE

United States House of Representatives- Indiana 5th District

Role description: The U.S. House of Representatives is one of two chambers for the federal legislature. Representatives begin the legislation process, offer amendments, and serve on committees.

Incumbent: This is the person who currently holds an office.

Endorsement: An individual or group/organization giving public approval or support of a candidate.

PAC: Political Action Committee, In the US) an organization that raises money privately to influence elections or legislation, especially at the federal level.

Note: Names placed in alphabetical order and information obtained by Ballot Ready.

- **Jeanine Lee Lake (D)**
 - <https://jeanineleelakeforcongress.com/issues>
 - *Endorsed by National Women's Political Caucus, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, American Federation of Teachers Indiana.
- **Victoria Spartz (R-Incumbent since 2017)**
 - <https://www.spartzforcongress.com/issues/>
 - *Endorsed by National Right to Life, Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America, Guardian Fund PAC, Maggie's List, National Rifle Association.

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HIGHLIGHTING AN INDIANA STATE RACE

Indiana Secretary of State

Role description: Chief clerk of the state responsible for maintaining state records and election records.

Incumbent: This is the person who currently holds an office.

Endorsement: An individual or group/organization giving public approval or support of a candidate.

Note: Names placed in alphabetical order and information obtained by Ballot Ready.

- **Jeffrey Maurer (L)**
 - <https://www.maurerforindiana.com/priorities/>
 - *Committed to implement ballot tracking, training for election workers and independent audits for all of Indiana's 92 counties.
- **Diego Morales (R-Incumbent)**
 - <https://diego4indiana.com/>
 - *Committed to protect election integrity. Will work to expand economic opportunities for Hoosiers.
- **Destiny Wells (D)**
 - <https://www.wellsforindiana.com/positions>
 - *Endorsed by Recenter Indiana, Planned Parenthood of Indiana, American Federation of Teachers Indiana, IUOE Local 150, United Steel Workers, Indiana State AFL-CIO (American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations), Moms Demand Gun Sense in America.

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HIGHLIGHTING AN INDIANA STATE RACE

Indiana Auditor

Role description: Chief accountant for the state. Auditors check the financial records of a state and make certain its accounts are being managed correctly.

Incumbent: This is the person who currently holds an office.

Note: Names placed in alphabetical order and information obtained by Ballot Ready.

- **ZeNai Brooks (D)**
 - <https://votezenai.com/zenais-platform/>
 - *Committed to implement checks and balances for the State Finance Committee and to ensure state dollars are re-invested in Hoosier communities.
- **Tera Klutz (R-Incumbent since 2017)**
 - <https://www.teraklutz.com/>
 - *Implemented Internal Controls Department to provide Hoosiers a look at Indiana's finances and assets.
- **John Schick (L)**
 - *NO INFORMATION FOUND.

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HIGHLIGHTING AN INDIANA STATE RACE

Indiana Treasurer

Role description: Chief financial officer of the state that tracks state budgets, manages investments, and receives and deposits money for the state.

Note: Names placed in alphabetical order and information obtained by Ballot Ready.

- **Daniel Elliott (R)**
 - <https://www.danielelliott.org/platform/#page-content>
- **Jessica McClellan (D)**
 - <https://www.jessicaforindiana.com/>

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HIGHLIGHTING AN INDIANA STATE RACE

Indiana State Senate- District 25

Role description: Members of the state's upper chamber, as part of the state's bicameral legislature. State senators are responsible for voting on: bills related to public policy matters, levels for state spending, raises or decreases in taxes, and whether to uphold or override gubernatorial vetoes.

Incumbent: This is the person who currently holds an office.

Endorsement: An individual or group/organization giving public approval or support of a candidate.

Note: Names placed in alphabetical order and information obtained by Ballot Ready.

- **Tamie Dixon-Tatum (D)**

- <https://tamietatum.com/index.php/policy/>
- *Endorsed by UAW Local 662 & 663 and the Indiana State CAP (Community Action Program) Council.

- **Mike Gaskill (R-Incumbent)**

- <https://electmikegaskill.com>
- *Endorsed by the National Rifle Association, Right to Life Indiana, Indiana Family Action, Indiana State Police Alliance, Americans for Prosperity.

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HIGHLIGHTING AN INDIANA STATE RACE

Indiana State House of Representatives- District 36

Role description: Members of the state's lower chamber, as part of the state's bicameral legislature. State representatives are responsible for voting on: bills related to public policy matters, levels for state spending, raises or decreases in taxes, and whether to uphold or override gubernatorial vetoes.

Incumbent: This is the person who currently holds an office.

Endorsement: an individual or group/organization giving public approval or support of a candidate.

Note: Names placed in alphabetical order and information obtained by Ballot Ready.

- **Terri Austin (D-Incumbent since 2002)**

- <https://www.facebook.com/StateRepresentativeTerriJAustin>
- *Endorsed by Indiana Fraternal Order of Police, Anderson Police, Indiana Chamber, Indiana Farm Bureau, Indiana AFL-CIO (American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations), American Federation of Teachers.

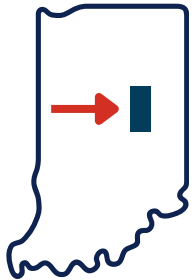
- **Kyle Pierce (R)**

- <https://www.facebook.com/PierceForIndiana/>
- *Committed to promote school choice, prevent government overreach and stop deficit spending.

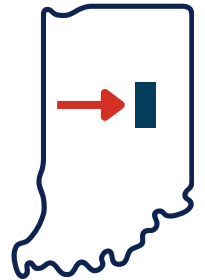
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HIGHLIGHTING TWO MADISON COUNTY RACES

Prosecuting Attorney for Madison County 50th Judicial Court

Incumbent: This is the person who currently holds an office.

Note: Names placed in alphabetical order and information obtained by Ballot Ready.

- **Rodney Cummings (R)- Running unopposed**
 - <https://www.in.gov/ipac/find-your-prosecutor/madison-county-prosecutor-rodney-j-cummings/>
 - *7th term since 1994. Running unopposed. He is the president-elect of the Indiana Association of Prosecuting Attorneys and the state's representative on the National District Attorneys Association Board of Directors.

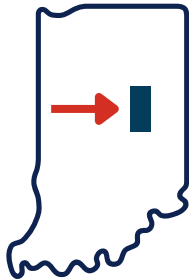
Madison County Assessor

- **Larry Davis (R-Incumbent since 2011)**
 - Running unopposed

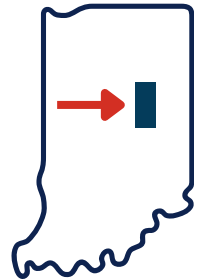
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HIGHLIGHTING A MADISON COUNTY RACE

Madison County Circuit Court Clerk

Role description: Responsible for maintaining court records, authenticating court orders and judgements, and administering oaths to witnesses and jurors. Also responsible for running the elections.

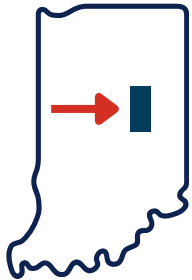
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- **Linda Smith (R)**
 - *Previously the Madison County Chief Deputy Recorder
- **Joe Spencer (D)**

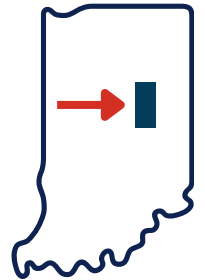
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HIGHLIGHTING A MADISON COUNTY RACE

Madison County Sheriff

Role description: Chief law enforcement official of the county and is responsible for ensuring that all local, state, and federal laws are followed.

Note: Names placed in alphabetical order and information obtained by Ballot Ready.

- **John Beeman (R)**

- <https://www.beemanforsheriff.com/>
- *Retired US Marshall for more than 30 years. Led the Great Lakes Regional Fugitive Task Force. 4-H Volunteer. Head Coach of Lapel's clay target team.

- **Joey Cole (D)**

- <https://joeycoleforsheriff.com>
- *Appointed Chief Deputy Sheriff in 2015 and still serving in that role. Serving on the Indiana Sheriff's Association Board of Directors in 2020.
- A member of the Board of Directors for Grace Horizon (formerly Stripped Love), board member for the Madison County Mental Health and Addictions Coalition, board member for Intersect (Local Implementation Team) assisting Family Resource Center, and Breathe Easy for a smoke free Madison County, board member for Rangeline Senior Citizens Community.

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MADISON COUNTY SHERIFF

Both candidates were asked the same five questions by the creators of this guide. Here are their answers in their own words.

We recognize the candidate answer lengths vary. We want to provide their full answers so that we do not take away from anything they responded with.

Note: Names listed in alphabetical order.

Questions asked:

1. What problem in our community do you have the most concern for and how could you address that?
2. What are some programs or initiatives that could make our community safer for everyone?
3. What are the strengths you see in our courts and jail system?
4. How would you engage other groups and community members in methods of law enforcement/crisis response, especially when managing domestic issues, mental health issues, drug abuse, homelessness and juvenile programs?
5. How do you envision a new jail-both in building design and programming?

• John Beeman

- **Q1:** Concerns- As a citizen and business owner here in Madison County it is high wage job growth and development. As a candidate for sheriff it is the new jail construction and the issue of rampant drug trade and the toll it takes on the resources of the county. The drug issue is a more complex and widespread problem. Efforts will take cooperation and collaboration from all of the components of the law enforcement, judiciary, clergy, community leaders, business leaders of the county to combat this issue. As sheriff I could chair a group from these entities to initiate a plan put together with input from all.
- **Q2:** Any program/initiative that involves kids I would champion. I am involved in 4H and coach at the Lapel High School clay target team. I see the benefits of having kids involved in a productive activity. Those are two of the programs I am involved in. There are multiple youth oriented programs in the city and county and I would encourage and advocate for them. I believe that these programs/initiatives all suffer from a lack of public relations. Parents and kids don't know what is available to them. The Madison County business community, fraternal organizations and governmental grants can provide funds to make the youth programs as close to free as you can get them. A family or a determined youth should not have an economic roadblock to getting involved in a youth program. A look at the crime statistics tells you crime is driven by juveniles and young adults. If we can intervene in a kid's life early enough it may change their trajectory in life.
- **Q3:** I believe that Madison County's courts greatest strength is the Problem Solving Courts. This program allows for a more individualized solution to a person's

Answers continued on the next page.



MADISON COUNTY SHERIFF

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• John Beeman continued

- **Q3 continued:** situation that does not necessarily need to be determined in one of the Circuit Courts. The program areas, (Mental Health, Re-Entry, Drug Court and Veterans) can assist the judiciary in getting the individual onto a path towards breaking the cycle of social disruptions. This also helps the caseload of the courts to focus on the more serious criminal actions. Another unique program is the court's Continuum of Sanctions program that helps alleviate the bed space issues at the current jail.
- **Q4:** The issues you outlined in your question require input and participation from all of the stakeholders in the community. As I answered in question 1, I would be willing to engage with all of the impacted participants. As citizens we lose sight that the issues of crime, drug use, domestic violence, juveniles, homelessness are all the end results of no jobs, no investment in our youth, and larger socio-economic problems that just the sheriff is not going to solve. When law enforcement is called to a situation, it is usually beyond a quick fix at that point. The new jail will provide the space for more programs to be implemented for offenders. We also need to remember that it has taken several years of neglect to get where we are now as a society, it will take several years to move us back to a more balanced level.
- **Q5:** Jail design evolves as the criminal justice system morphs. I say that to mean old jail designs clearly were not concerned with the various treatments that take place in a current jail, mental, medical, separations. The safe movement within the facility of prisoners, the sheer numbers in a jail now. The new designs take in the current state of jail realities and provide for the safest environment for both the staff and the offenders. The larger facility allows for the space of treatment programs for mental health, addiction and life skills. The public does need to keep in mind that the average length time an individual stays in the Madison County jail is twenty-two days. That is not enough time to "fix" a problem, but the criminal justice system has not just locked someone in jail and not at least provided the opportunity to begin the process of getting back on track to being a contributing member of society.



MADISON COUNTY SHERIFF

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5. How do you envision a new jail—both in building design and programming?

• Joey Cole

- **Q1:** The first priority is definitely a drug issue, like every county in the country. Education is the biggest thing that can help solve that. We have a DARE program and I would like to have the city start a DARE program in the city. We need to make more drug arrests with the Drug Task Force. The other great big issue is our homeless problem which needs to be tackled as soon as possible. Tackling the homelessness issue could help with promoting new business growth in Anderson, stop jail overcrowding and ease up our overwhelmed court system. I have been in contact with other communities who have been successful in curbing their homeless population to see what might work here. There is no reason to reinvent the wheel when others are having success.
- **Q2:** The mental health problems and addictions in our community need to be addressed. We have ASPIRE already come in to help with some of our community members with addiction and mental health issues. In our facilities, we implemented new programming with educational and social television programs to help promote social and job skills instead of just having Maury Povich talk shows. We also have IPADs to help inmates start job searches following their incarcerations. They also have Bibles on the devices and hopefully if elected, I will be able to add GED classes to the IPADs as well.
- **Q3:** The strength we have in our jail system is our programming for our inmates to help them actually change their lives with job and social skills. The jail is not the place for people to get the social skills they need, they need to be able to learn new skills to be able to get out of the unhealthy cycles they are caught in.
- **Q4:** We need more diverse leadership in the jail. The high majority of the people in our facilities have mental health and addictions issues. We need to help them get housing. People don't want to admit they are experiencing brokenness and that they need help. It takes baby steps to train them new skills, get them housing and improve their health so they can be community members. With some of the places we have currently available to help with laundry and showers, they are

Answers continued on next page.



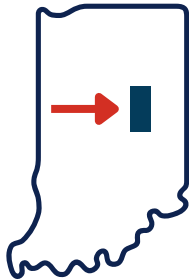
MADISON COUNTY SHERIFF

Questions asked:

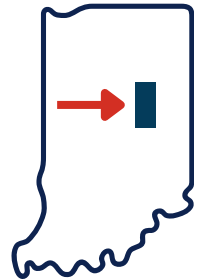
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• Joey Cole continued

- **Q4 continued:** coming to get help which shows it is a desire they have. It will take time to change our community, but working to dismantle some of the unhealthy systems in our community is the key..
- **Q5:** It is the county commissioner's building. It isn't completely up to the sheriff. More than anything, I insist that we need to continue with programming. It has been proven to help to have space to have recovering addicts together. I would definitely want more therapy available in our facilities. We just got a grant to help out with that from the Department of Corrections to help make sure they are getting the right medications and therapy. I have been with the department for 30 years and I have seen that programming is the only thing that will truly help rehabilitate people and get them out of the jail system. It is the key.



KNOW YOUR CANDIDATES WHEN YOU VOTE



HIGHLIGHTING TWO MADISON COUNTY RACES

Madison County Treasurer

Role description: Responsible for raising and keeping track of the county's revenue, which is often raised by property taxes and investments.

Note: Names placed in alphabetical order and information obtained by Ballot Ready.

Herald Bulletin article:

https://www.heraldbulletin.com/elections/treasurer-candidates-hope-to-invest-in-madison-county/article_44865a9c-4f19-11ed-a9f3-7320336dca3c.html

- **Dan Girt (R-Incumbent)**
- **Devin Scroggins (D)**

Madison County Recorder

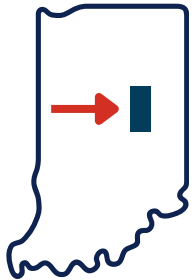
Role description: Responsible for keeping records of vital statistics, notarized deeds of trust, and other deeds affecting real property.

- **Angela "Angie" Abel (R)**
- **Barbara Joy (D)**

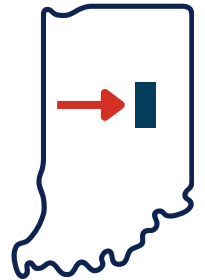
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HIGHLIGHTING TWO MADISON COUNTY RACES

Madison County Anderson Township Trustee

Note: Names placed in alphabetical order and information obtained by Ballot Ready.

Role description: Executive of the township, heads the township council, and often appoints the heads of other township offices.

- Asauhn Dixon-Tatum (D)
- Mike Shively (R)

Madison County Anderson Township Board (VOTE FOR 3)

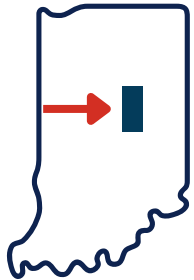
Role description: Board charged with general governance of the township and execution of legislative, executive, and administrative powers.

- Meredith “Coco” Armstrong (D)
- John Aukerman (R)
- Phil Herbig (R)
- Jannette Mansfield-Stith (D)
- Kevin Sulc (R)
- Leo Williams (D)

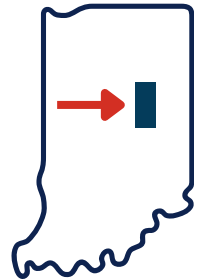
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HIGHLIGHTING A MADISON COUNTY RACE

Madison County Commissioner District 1

Note: Names placed in alphabetical order and information obtained by Ballot Ready.

Role description: The County Legislature or Executive Board is the governing body of the county and exercises broad policy-making authority. The Board is charged with implementing policy and overseeing the county budget process and allocation.

- **Olivia Pratt (R)**

- She worked to add more election centers in 2020 during the pandemic. Here's an article about that. There are also articles with her answering voting questions for people about changes/clarity on questions.
- https://www.heraldbulletin.com/news/local_news/pratt-moving-forward-with-vote-center-concept/article_8564e5c0-3f80-11ea-875a-5b4238e392c4.html

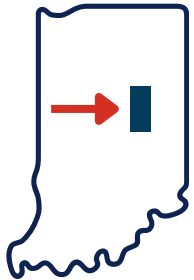
- **Stephen Gaiser (D)**

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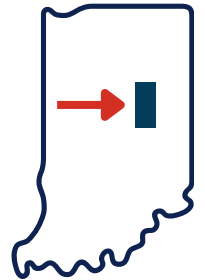
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HIGHLIGHTING TWO MADISON COUNTY RACES

Madison County Council

Role description: The County Legislative Fiscal Authority Board is responsible for evaluating the county government's expenditure and tax policy. Typically, the council does not have the ability to set policy, but rather provides advice to the government and public on the economic effects of government budgets and policy proposals.

Note: Names placed in alphabetical order and information obtained by Ballot Ready.

Madison County Council District 2

- Diana Likens (R)
- Timothy Perry (D)

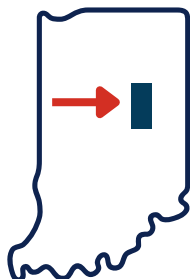
Madison County Council 3

- Jodi Norrick (R)
- Fred Reese (D)

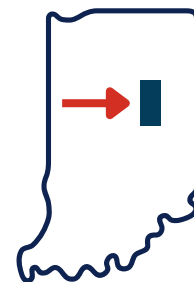
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HIGHLIGHTING A MADISON COUNTY RACE

Anderson Community Schools Corporation (ACSC) Board

Incumbent: This is the person who currently holds an office.

Note: Names placed in alphabetical order and information obtained by Ballot Ready. All residents vote for all board positions.

- **At-large (choose one)**

- Joanna Collette (former ACSC board member)
 - <https://www.facebook.com/joanna.collette>
- Kris Ockomon (former Anderson Mayor)
 - <https://www.facebook.com/kris.ockomon>

- **Central District (choose one)**

- Bucky (Robert) Bookhart (former ACSC board member)
 - <https://www.facebook.com/Robert-Buckie-Bookhart-for-ACS-School-Board-101321766027299>
- Peter Lyon
 - <https://www.facebook.com/peter.lyon.75>
- Denise Sanders
 - (317) 938-0422

- **East District (choose one)**

- Patrick Hill (current ACSC Board member and Board President)
 - <https://www.facebook.com/patrick.a.hill.7>
- Andrew Jones
 - <https://www.facebook.com/AJforACS>

- **South District (choose one)**

- Mandy Webb running unopposed
 - <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100086030075005>

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developed in
collaboration with:**



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ANDERSON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS CORPORATION (ACSC) BOARD

**All candidates were asked the same four questions by the creators of this guide.
Here are their answers in their own words.**

We recognize the candidate answer lengths vary. We want to provide their full answers so that we do not take away from anything they responded with.

Note: Names listed in alphabetical order.

Questions asked:

1. What are your main priorities when trying to improve ACSC?
2. How should the school board better engage the community?
3. How can we better retain teachers in our district?
4. What are the strengths you see in our schools?

At-large Candidates

• Joanna Collette

- **Q1:**
- **A. School Safety - Buildings and Bullying:** We need to thoroughly look at current policies regarding the safety of our buildings. Teachers and students deserve to come into our buildings knowing they are safe and protected from outside threats. Increase on-site trained law enforcement individuals to be present daily. Bullying, on line and in schools must be a priority and be stopped. Students lives and futures are severely impacted by any threats from other students. We must work with teachers and school personnel to address clear and enforceable policies that will prohibit this from happening.
- **B. Discipline - cohesive across schools:** The discipline policies must be enforced in every school and every classroom. Currently, students know how to get around them, and which classrooms have given up trying to enforce. We must support teachers by having their back with disruption, hold parents accountable for their student's actions and make the classroom a 100 percent learning environment for all students.
- **C. Gap learning:** Covid closure of schools has put many of our students behind in grade level learning. While there is NO solution that is a one-size-fits-all, we must work with each student to address deficiencies. We have the opportunity to engage our community partners in a strategic and coordinated way to address these learning enhancement opportunities school by school, neighborhood by neighborhood and as a corporation in its entirety. Schools are made up of families. Families comprise neighborhoods. Resources within those blocks and neighborhoods give us the ability to devise local strategies to help our students.
- **Budget evaluation:** The school budget is complicated to the average citizen. Funding mechanisms restrict where certain monies can go. A thorough evaluation of the current budget and funding streams must be analyzed to determine where dollars are being spent and where some funds can be diverted to address critical issues.



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- **Joanna Collette Q1 continued**

- E. Community Involvement: I am supportive of several ways to increase community awareness and involvement. One, is an Advisory Council, made up of individuals (non teachers) from each of the four districts of ACS. Also, the council should include teachers from elementary, middle school and high school. Since our clients are our students, I would advocate for two high school students to also be a part of the council. Two, I believe the school board meetings should always be open to public comment as long as it is constructive and relevant. In addition, I believe the meetings should always be live streamed with comments addressed for those who cannot attend - as many cannot due to time, mobility, family issues, etc. Third, I would like to see a weekly column in the Herald Bulletin and other publications talking about what is going on in the schools and how the community can become appropriately involved. Right now, the schools are a bit of a mystery, and difficult to truly understand the real issues and how to support or help.
- F. Diversity of staff and administration: Our current student population is approaching 50 percent non-white - Black/Hispanic/Mixed. Our faculty and administration does not reflect this population which can lead to an inability to fully understand diverse issues. Add to this, the population of the School Board is all white. I would be fully vested in not only working to engage and recruit diverse staff, but also, and as important, have them have a VOICE without repercussion or fear of losing their jobs
- **Q2:** I believe I answered that in the last question as a priority. I would also like to see some of our school buildings open after school for parents and the community to visit and engage in important community service activities.
- **Q3:** In order to retain both teachers AND students, ACS MUST become an exemplary school corporation in our region and state. This means that we excel at every level, our students are achieving and exceeding academic requirements, our schools are safe, teachers feel supported and respected - and know the administration and Board has their back, our vocational school must become the best training center in the state, and the Board holds administration and themselves accountable for the success. This will require a rigorous strategic plan that is measurable and attainable. It will require community partnerships, and appropriate volunteers in the community. When we achieve success in this area, addressing all of the critical issues holding us back from exemplary, businesses and families will WANT to move in, and teachers will want to be a part of the best school district in the State.
- **Q4:** ACS has many strengths. One, is our teachers. They are dedicated professionals who work every day - long days- to do the best for each of their students. Two, we have many classes, particularly at the high school level, that allow students to explore and achieve high-level academic success in science, math, robotics, history and other subjects to prepare for college admission/Advanced placement. Three, our buildings have been upgraded recently to allow for technology, safety and sports opportunities. Four, I truly believe we have a community that deeply cares - but does not know how to engage. I refuse to believe that our city will not rise to the occasion if given the opportunity to have meaningful impact on our children's future and our local economic development. Our schools are one of the first things families and businesses look at when deciding where to locate. NOW is the time to make this corporation exemplary, attractive and competitive with our neighboring counties!



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At-large Candidates

• Kris Ockomon

- **Q1:** One of my main priorities for our schools is to encourage better enforcement of the policies and disciplines in place for students. Many teachers and students can lose a lot of learning time because they aren't getting support from the administration on enforcing policies already in place. I also want better security systems in the schools. I find it unacceptable that not all of our buildings are locked down. Finally, I want our trade school programs to be an available option for all students so that not just our college-bound students have a route to success.
- **Q2:** The school board needs to be accessible to community members to engage. The board meetings are structured in such a way that there isn't easy communication back and forth between the board and the public. The three-minute speaking rule hinders some from being able to share what they need to share. There should be time allowed for the board to answer questions in more of a conversational way than it is currently structured. If it were structured differently, I believe there would be better rapport between the board and the public where solutions could be found.
- **Q3:** While there are teachers that are getting paid more in other districts and that certainly is a draw to keep some teachers here, supporting our teachers by enforcing discipline measures would go a long way. My wife has been a teacher for a long time and it is frustrating for teachers to not feel as if they can just devote their time to instruction when they have to constantly address behavior issues. I also think a more open-minded administration to hear teacher concerns and solutions would help quite a bit. I also do not think that transformation zones are a good idea, as they take away public funding and I am concerned about where the money is actually going.
- **Q4:** The strength in our schools is our mutual desire to help the students. It has been hard these last few years for people to be positive and respectful to one another. We need to get back to some of our basics and communicate better as a whole community to find common ground solutions. Everyone here is just trying to make learning better for all the students in Anderson.



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Central District

- **Robert "Buckie" Bookhart**

- **Q1:** I have five (5) main priorities: Bring Structure and Discipline Front and Center. 2) Implement the "New 3 R's of Education" Respect, Responsibility & Resourcefulness. 3) Empower ALL Staff through professional Support. 4) "Top-down" Accountability with Transparency. 5) Find ways to "retain and reclaim" our students and staff.
- **Q2:** By simply "engaging" with the community. Then encouraging the community to engage with the board (instead of discouraging) input. We also need to adopt a "servant" attitude towards the public wherein they feel they have a voice... and the Board is all ears.
- **Q3:** This question should have also included to "retain Teachers, Students and Building Admins!" I think the best way to achieve this goal, is to simply Support Your Teachers & Staff.
- **Q4:** The strengths I see in our school is our faculty/staff, great curriculum, great vocational options, and 93% great kids!

- **Peter Lyon**

- **Q1:** My main priorities as a board member would be to improve communication, increase transparency, and change the narrative of the system within the community.
- **Q2:** The school board has to meet the community where they are. That means getting out into the community and listening to all stakeholders and making those community members feel heard and understood. Not everyone can attend board meetings (or other special meetings), so board members have to be flexible and available.
- **Q3:** Teachers need to be heard! Compensation is of course a big part of teacher retention, but creating an environment where teachers feel listened to and part of a team is integral to keeping teachers at ACS. Creating pathways within the administration for teacher concerns, ideas, and suggestions to be taken seriously is vital.
- **Q4:** ACS can offer students more opportunities than other surrounding school districts. I think students can get an excellent education within our school system and I send my kids to ACS because I believe in it.

- **Denise Sanders**

- Could not be reached for comment.



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East District

- **Patrick Hill**

- Declined to Answer.

- **Andrew Jones**

- **Q1:** The top priority for schools is that the students feel safe. Physically safe in the buildings. Emotionally safe in the school culture. Intellectually safe in the classroom. If kids do not feel safe, they cannot learn. Beyond that, on the academic front, I would really want to focus on foundational skills. Literacy and numeracy in the lower grades, to be sure. But, more importantly, a learning culture that facilitates exploration and discovery, and trains kids to try new ideas, without worrying about whether they're the right or wrong ideas. Experimentation is at the heart of learning.
- **Q2:** The school board should be engaged with the community on a regular basis, frequently at community and school events. Their protocols in meetings should encourage a dialogue with the community, rather than being built on the assumption that the community feedback is something to be avoided rather than welcomed.
- **Q3:** Being the son of two teachers, I know that teachers are never paid enough. But more than their pay, I think the thing that drives most teachers out of the field is the disrespect they receive, and the lack of support they perceive from administrators. Teachers who leave a school might sometimes do it for monetary reasons alone, but almost always the more significant factor is that they feel their contributions aren't being valued by the school. Creating a culture where every staff members knows that the administration and school board supports them would go the longest way toward retaining quality teachers in our schools.
- **Q4:** Our biggest strength is our students. That's the core strength of any school. We have an amazing generation of young people coming through Anderson Community Schools, and we have 12 years to help cultivate them into young adults who are emotionally, physically, and culturally healthy and also intellectually curious, with a foundation to become responsible citizens. Next to that it's the teachers, staff, and volunteers who have committed themselves to helping cultivate those students.



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South District

- **Mandy Webb**

- **Q1:** My main priorities: *Communication and transparency from the Administration and current Board Members are severely lacking. This needs to be looked at, discussed and effectively changed immediately. *Our teachers need to have and feel more support from the parties mentioned in my above answer. Our teachers are on the frontlines daily. This goes beyond the salary issue. When there is a classroom problem, whatever the issue may be they need to know that their voice is being heard and taken seriously. If our teachers aren't supported our students aren't supported. *There needs to be effective Diversity/Equity/Inclusion training, from the top down, in EVERY BUILDING. Our students of color need to be represented. I look forward to working with Dr. Treva Bostic and her team on this. *We need to be more strategic about getting the word out in regards to how amazing the D26 Career Center is and the programs that are offered.
- **Q2:** There are laws in place on what specifically can be discussed, however, the community needs to be kept aware of the processes and where things are currently. Yes things are on the website, but if for some reason that's not working more needs to be done. I also believe that the way current board meetings are set up for speakers has not been effective. The "beginning reading of rules" needs to be revised. I will say that great efforts are being made with the strategic plan process.
- **Q3:** Pay them more! With that said, we severely lack funding. So I will start by saying that we need to vote for state level politicians that are pro public education. Unfortunately I am not currently privy to any financial information until I'm sworn in, in January. Once I see the finances I could better answer possible plans to pay our teachers what they deserve. Better retention can also come in ways of support in the classroom.
- **Q4:** Currently we have the D26 Career Center, as mentioned above, which focuses on skilled trades and allows our 11th and 12th grade students to become certified in a trade. I urge everyone in our community to check it out at <https://careercenter.acsc.net/#> We also host many dual (college) credit courses. We have a partnership with Ivy Tech - Anderson. If not already implemented, it is in the works for students enrolled in those dual credit classes to receive an Associates degree AND their high school diploma at the same time, saving families approximately \$30k in college tuition. Many of our buildings host community food pantries for anyone in Madison County needing help with food assistance. And I would love to end with this: Every teacher I have met genuinely loves and cares for their students. They are desperately working to see that educational needs are met even through the stifling state laws, and we have the most AMAZING students! I look forward to being a part of their education.



USE YOUR VOICE AND VOTE



Thank you for taking the time to read through this guide. Our team hopes you have benefitted from this, learned a few things, researched more about your candidates, and feel more confident and ready to vote.

We are grateful for the excellent resource Ballot Ready, dictionary.com for our defining of terms, the Herald Bulletin, and the sheriff and ACSC board candidates that thoughtfully responded to our questions.

This is the first edition of this kind completed by this team for voters in Madison County, Anderson, Indiana. We want this to be helpful to our community. If you have any feedback, comments, concerns, or questions about this guide, our work, or civic engagement please contact one of our team members.

Maria Alexander: mariaegnatzalexander@gmail.com or Facebook, Maria Egnatz Alexander

Annie Wood Bell: alwoodbell@gmail.com or Facebook, Annie Wood Bell

Kellie Kelley: admin@communitylensanderson.org

Please follow:

- “Community Lens of Anderson” on Facebook for voting information and ways you can participate in civic engagement.
- “Heart of Indiana United Way” on Facebook to learn about how they fight for the health, education, and financial stability in Delaware, Fayette, Henry, Madison, and Randolph counties.

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