Heart of Indiana UNITED WAY

COMMUNITY LENS OF ANDERSON

2026 GENERAL ELECTION VOTER GUIDE

A non-partisan guide to knowing your candidates before you vote

Designed for Voters in **Madison County, IN**
General Election: Tuesday, November 3, 2026

2026 GENERAL ELECTION VOTER GUIDE

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Non-partisan Voter Guide developed in collaboration with:

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2026 GENERAL ELECTION VOTER GUIDE

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Note:

- This guide lists all offices and candidates for Madison County voters.
- Only selected candidate roles were chosen for Q and A. Within those roles, Q and A were only given to people running opposed.
- Community Lens of Anderson (CLA) alternates which party for candidates is listed first. In 2024 we listed Democrats before Republicans and this year we will list Republicans before Democrats.
- Names placed in alphabetical order, by party. Information obtained through candidate campaign materials, social media, candidate websites, and directly from candidates.

Non-partisan Voter Guide developed in collaboration with:

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COMMUNITY LENS

WHERE TO VOTE

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EARLY VOTING AT THE COURTHOUSE

- 16 E 9th Street, Room 211, Anderson, IN
- October 6th – October 30th
- Weekdays 8am - 4pm
- 2 Saturdays (October 24th & October 31st) 9am - 4pm
- Monday, November 2nd 8am- noon

EARLY VOTING AT THE SATELLITE LOCATIONS

- October 26th – October 30th
- Weekdays, Monday-Friday, 10am - 6pm
- 1 Saturday (October 31st) 9am - 4pm
- Locations:
  - Emery Lee Building, 503 S Park Avenue, Alexandria, IN 46001
  - Anderson Zion Baptist Church, 2008 Rev J.T. Menifee Street, Anderson, IN 46016
  - Cross Roads Global Methodist Church, 2000 N Scatterfield Road, Anderson, IN 46012
  - UAW Local 1963, 2840 Madison Avenue, Anderson, IN 46016
  - Elwood City Hall, 1505 S. B Street, Elwood, IN 46036
  - North Christian Church. 32 State Street, Markleville, IN 46056
  - Pendleton Library, 595 E Water Street, Pendleton, IN 46064

ELECTION DAY VOTE CENTER LOCATIONS*

Open November 3rd, 2026 from 6am - 6pm

Anderson Locations:

- ACS Administration Building, 1600 Hillcrest Avenue, Anderson, IN 46011
- Aletheia Fellowship Church, 2505 Faith Drive, Anderson, IN 46013
- Anderson Zion Baptist Church, 2008 Rev J.T. Menifee Street, Anderson, IN 46016
- Cross Roads Global Methodist Church, 2000 N Scatterfield Road, Anderson, IN 46012
- Edgewood Baptist Church, 3743 Nichol Avenue, Anderson, IN 46011
- Florida Station Church of God, 1045 W 375 N, Anderson, IN 46011
- Lone Oak Wesleyan Church, 486 N 500 W, Anderson, IN 46011
- Highland Middle School, 2108 E 200 N, Anderson, IN 46012
- Main Street Church of God, 4211 Main street, Anderson, IN 46013
- National Guard Armory, 125 S Scatterfield Road, Anderson, IN 46012
- Anderson Impact Center, 630 Nichol Ave, Anderson, IN 46016
- Parkview Nazarene Church, 911 S Rangeline Road, Anderson, IN 46012
- UAW Local 1963, 2840 S Madison Avenue, Anderson, IN 46016
- Wesley Free Methodist Church, 3017 W 8th Street, Anderson, IN 46011
- Whetstone Christian Church, 5940 S Madison Avenue, Anderson IN 46013

Note: To view all Election Day voting center locations please click here

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PREPARE TO VOTE IN THE GENERAL ELECTION

Know your candidates when you vote

What you need to know about primary voting:

- **Early voting begins October 6, 2026.** For early voting polling places and hours visit indianavoters.in.gov
- **Satellite early-voting centers and primary day voting sites:** https://www.madisoncounty.in.gov/polling-locations
- **Absentee info:** in.gov/sos/elections/voter-information/ways-to-vote/absentee-voting/

Helpful Resources

- Election Office: 765-641-9459
- Voter Registration Office: 765-641-9657
- Commissioner's Office: 765-641-9474
- Madison County General Site: www.madisoncounty.in.gov/
- Madison County Election Office: www.madisoncounty.in.gov/departments/election-office
- Check your Voter Registration status and your ballot: indianavoters.in.gov/
- Learn about Indiana government: www.inbarfoundation.org/indianagovernmentbook/

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NATIONAL CANDIDATES

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Q&A UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 5 CANDIDATES

All United States Representative District 5 candidates were asked the same questions by the creators of this guide. The answers that follow are in their own words.

Questions asked:

1. What strengths and experiences do you bring to this office?

2. What are the three key messages of your campaign?

3. Many residents believe their vote doesn't count; what roots do you already have in your community, and how will you ensure their voices are heard?

We gave a character count limit for each response from candidates to keep them within similar lengths. However, there is variation. To ensure we fully honor their responses, we are sharing each answer as it was submitted.
You can find candidate contact information in the "Snapshot" sections.
Note: Names listed in alphabetical order and by party.

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Q&A UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 5 CANDIDATES

Victoria Spartz (R)- incumbent*

- **This candidate was contacted with the questions multiple ways and did not respond.**

J.D. Ford (D)

- **Q1: What strengths and experiences do you bring to this office?**
  - My strength IS my experience. I'm the only candidate in this primary race that has:
    - Unseated a Republican
    - Won elections in a red district
    - Served as a legislator
    - Successfully stood up to the President's executive overreach at the Statehouse.
    - Worked on bipartisan legislation
    - Held energy companies accountable
    - Protected healthcare for Hoosiers
    - Supported public schools
    - Worked with high school students on mental health initiatives
    - Supported public safety measures
    - This race is more than just a pipe dream for me. I've spent the last 8 years in the State Senate listening to Hoosiers, addressing their issues and actually showing up for people. That's exactly what I'll do in Washington D.C.

*__Incumbent:__ This is the person who currently holds an office.

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Q&A UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 5 CANDIDATES

J.D Ford (Continued)

- **Q2: What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
  - Accountability: Washington is making unchecked decisions that affect us without any oversight. We need a strong Congressional oversight to hold leaders accountable to the American people. Affordability: Protecting your wallet from corporate overreach. As a watchdog who warned about the BlackRock/AES merger, I fought to end "corporate socialism," lower energy costs, and move back to a healthcare system centered on your health. YOU: I'll bring Hoosier voices back to the Capitol. I've been one of the most accessible legislators in Indiana, and that will continue in DC. In this campaign, I've heard about marijuana legalization, social security worries, ICE overreach, and much more.
- **Q3: Many residents believe their vote doesn't count; what roots do you already have in your community, and how will you ensure their voices are heard?**
  - For 8 years, I served this community as a legislator, and for a decade before that, I lived, worked, and played in Central Indiana... specifically Hamilton County. Together, we've experienced the rapid growth of our community while still maintaining our small-town vibe. We've shared the highs, like cheering on our local Olympic swimmers, and the lows of unspeakable tragedies that put us in the national spotlight. Because we've lived these moments together, I'm not a face on a TV screen. I'm a neighbor you see at the grocery store. I don't just want your vote; I want your partnership in Washington.

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FEDERAL RACE SNAPSHOT

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE **DISTRICT 5** CANDIDATES

Victoria Spartz (R)- incumbent*

- **Website:** https://spartz.house.gov/
- **Facebook:** Representative Victoria Spartz

J.D. Ford (D)

- **Website:** https://www.electjdford.com/
- **Facebook:** J.D. Ford for Congress
- **Instagram:** jdfordforcongress

US Representative's Role: The US House of Representatives, often referred to as the "House", is one of the two chambers of the United States Congress and part of the legislative branch of federal government where bills are written and laws pass or fail. "Each state receives representation in the House in proportion to the size of its population but is entitled to at least one representative. There are currently 435 representatives, a number fixed by law since 1911." Indiana has 9 representatives in the US House (Ballotpedia).

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

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INDIANA STATE CANDIDATES

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Q&A SECRETARY OF STATE

All Secretary of State candidates were asked the same questions by the creators of this guide. The answers that follow are in their own words.

Questions asked:

1. What strengths and experiences do you bring to this office?

2. What are the three key messages of your campaign?

3. While Indiana's voter turnout and registration numbers have improved in the last 3 years, we are still 33rd for voter registration and 41st for voter turnout. What would you do as Secretary of State to improve elections for Hoosiers?

We gave a character count limit for each response from candidates to keep them within similar lengths. However, there is variation. To ensure we fully honor their responses, we are sharing each answer as it was submitted.
You can find candidate contact information in the "Snapshot" sections.
Note: Names listed in alphabetical order and by party.

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Q&A SECRETARY OF STATE CANDIDATES

Max Engling (R)

- **Q1: What strengths and experiences could you bring to this office?**
  - I bring a unique combination of private-sector experience, public service, and firsthand knowledge of election administration. I've worked on election policy at the federal level, served Hoosiers through congressional offices, and built a career in Indiana's private sector. I also earned a master's degree in National Defense and Strategic Planning from the U.S. Naval War College, where I strengthened my ability to tackle complex challenges. As Secretary of State, I'll put that experience to work protecting election integrity, fighting business fraud, cutting red tape, and bringing greater transparency and accountability to the office.
- **Q2: What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
  - My campaign is focused on three priorities: election integrity, protecting Hoosiers from fraud, and accountable government. First, I'll work to ensure only eligible U.S. citizens vote in Indiana elections and strengthen confidence in our system. Second, I'll crack down on fraudulent business filings and shell companies that exploit Hoosiers. Third, I'll make the Secretary of State's office more transparent and efficient by cutting unnecessary red tape, improving services for businesses, and giving Hoosiers a direct way to report potential election concerns.

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Q&A SECRETARY OF STATE CANDIDATES

Max Engling (Continued)

- **Q3: While Indiana's voter turnout and registration numbers have improved in the last 3 years, we are still 33rd for voter registration and 41st for voter turnout. What would you do as Secretary of State to improve elections for Hoosiers?**
  - Improving turnout starts with making it easier for eligible Hoosiers to participate while maintaining confidence in our elections. As Secretary of State, I'll work with county officials, veterans organizations, and community partners to improve voter registration outreach, including assistance with registering veterans. I'll also strengthen safeguards for voter eligibility, improve transparency through a portal where Hoosiers can report election concerns, and provide clear, accessible information about when, where, and how to vote. We can increase participation without compromising election integrity.

Beau Bayh (D)

- **Q1: What strengths and experiences could you bring to this office?**
  - I served as a captain in the Marine Corps where I was in charge of a couple hundred marines. We came from a variety of backgrounds, and did not all vote the same. But we came together to achieve a common mission. After serving in the Marine Corps, I became an attorney. I clerked in our federal court system for a year and then began practicing corporate law in Indianapolis. I gained hands-on experience working with election law cases, securities fraud investigations, and complex corporate formations – all aspects of the Secretary of State's office.

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Q&A SECRETARY OF STATE CANDIDATES

Beau Bayh (D) continued

- **Q2: What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
  - Cleaning up the corruption in the Secretary of State's office by conducting an Independent audit on day one. Our tax dollars have been wasted on luxury SUVs and hiring relatives for too long. We have to clean it up.
  - Increasing voter participation and keeping our elections secure. Our democracy functions best when more people are participating. We have to make sure there is no illegal voting, but at the same time we need to be looking for ways to expand our participation among eligible voters.
  - Be a good-faith partner to the thousands of small business owners in Indiana. When they file with the Secretary of State, business owners should know they have an honest partner in this office.
- **Q3: While Indiana's voter turnout and registration numbers have improved in the last 3 years, we are still 33rd for voter registration and 41st for voter turnout. What would you do as Secretary of State to improve elections for Hoosiers?**
  - There's a few things we need to do to help increase voter participation in Indiana. We need to protect early voting, so working people have an opportunity to get their polling location. We should institute citizen-led ballot initiatives, so we can put the big issues directly on our ballot to vote on. And, we should end straight-ticket voting. We've had too much tribalism in our politics and we should get back to voting for the person, not the party. These reforms will help increase competition in our politics which will in turn increase voter participation.

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Q&A SECRETARY OF STATE CANDIDATES

Lauri A. Shillings (L)

- **Q1: What strengths and experiences could you bring to this office?**
  - I am not from a political family and I worked for everything I have. I have a day job as the Creative Director at the University of Indianapolis, run my own small business, and hold a degree in Community and Nonprofit Leadership. I am a graduate and former board member of the Montgomery County Leadership Academy. I have spent more than 20+ years working in business and marketing. I've been on the receiving end of Indiana's government as a business professional. I know what it costs – in time, in money, in frustration – when it doesn't work the way it should. I am running for Secretary of State because people in this state deserve someone in that office who actually understands what their daily life looks like and wants it to be better.
- **Q2: What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
  - Here is what I will do differently and what I want to accomplish:
    - 1. I will fix the website. Broken links and outdated interfaces are not acceptable.
    - 2. I will protect your data. Your information belongs to you, and I will treat it that way.
    - 3. I will restore trust in the office by:
      - a. Auditing this office for budgetary efficiency and transparency
      - b. Releasing the results of the certification audits
      - c. Running this office the way it was designed to be run. As a neutral, professional public service. Not as a political lever or steppingstone
      - d. Expanding voter education and transparency. More informed voters make better choices, and more transparency increases their trust in the system.

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Q&A SECRETARY OF STATE CANDIDATES

Lauri Shillings (Continued)

- **Q3: While Indiana's voter turnout and registration numbers have improved in the last 3 years, we are still 33rd for voter registration and 41st for voter turnout. What would you do as Secretary of State to improve elections for Hoosiers?**
  - I will expand voter education. Hoosiers do not have clear, accessible information about how to register, where to vote, who is on their ballot, and what their options actually are. More informed voters make better choices. The website should make this information easier to find. Additionally, people should be able to see who's paying for their politicians. At best, that system is clunky and hard to navigate. We need to make that information very easy to get and easy to cross reference. Once that system is functional and running, I'd like to expand those offerings to the county levels so voters can see who's giving money to their sheriff, their county council, and their town council.

Greg Ballard (LP)

- **This candidate was contacted with the questions multiple ways and did not respond.**

STATE RACE SNAPSHOT

INDIANA **SECRETARY OF STATE**

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Max Engling (R)- incumbent*

- **Website:** maxforindiana.com
- **Facebook:** Max for Indiana
- **Instagram:** maxforindiana
- **Email:** press@maxforindiana.com

Beau Bayh (D)

- **Website:** beaubayh.com
- **Facebook:** Beau Bayh
- **Instagram:** beaubayh
- **Email:** beau@beaubayh.com

Lauri Shillings (L)

- **Website:** LauriForLiberty.com
- **Facebook:** Lauri for Liberty
- **Instagram:** lauri4liberty
- **Email:** Campaign@LauriForLiberty.com

Role Description on page 19
***Incumbent:** This is the person who currently holds an office.

STATE RACE SNAPSHOT

INDIANA **SECRETARY OF STATE**

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Greg Ballard (LP)

- **Website:** gregballard.com
- **Facebook:** Greg Ballard for Indiana Secretary of State
- **Instagram:** gregforindiana
- **Email:** info@gregballard.com

Secretary of State Role: The Indiana Secretary of State is one of the state's constitutional officers and acts as the chief election officer, maintaining state records and preserving the official State Seal. The office operates through four primary divisions to charter new businesses, regulate the state's securities industry, register notaries and trademarks, and license motor vehicle dealerships throughout Indiana.

STATE RACE SNAPSHOT

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INDIANA **STATE COMPTROLLER** (AUDITOR OF STATE)

Elise Nieshalla (R)- incumbent*

- **Website:** https://eliseforcomptroller.com/
- **Facebook:** Elise Nieshalla for State Comptroller
- **Instagram:** eliseforcomptroller

Jessica Bailey (D)

- **Website:** https://baileyforindiana.com/
- **Facebook:** Jessica Bailey for Indiana State Comptroller
- **Instagram:** bailey4indiana

John Schick (L)

- **None found**

State Comptroller (Auditor) of State Role: The Indiana State Comptroller serves as the chief financial officer for the State of Indiana, fulfilling the constitutional duties of the State Auditor. In this role, the Comptroller manages four primary duties: accounting for all state funds, disbursing tax distributions to local governments, paying state vendors, and issuing payroll for state employees. Additionally, the Comptroller oversees the Indiana Transparency Portal and acts as the administrator for Hoosier START, the state's deferred compensation retirement plan.

*__Incumbent__: This is the person who currently holds an office.

STATE RACE SNAPSHOT

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INDIANA **TREASURER OF STATE**

Daniel Elliott (R) - incumbent*

- **Website:** https://www.danielelliott.org/about-daniel/
- **Facebook:** Daniel Elliott for State Treasurer
- **Instagram:** tos_elliott

Coumba Kebe (D)

- **Website:** https://www.kebeforindiana.com/
- **Facebook:** Coumba for Indiana
- **Instagram:** kebeforindiana

Treasurer of State Role: The Treasurer of State serves as Indiana's chief investment officer and banker, responsible for safely managing, investing, and safeguarding public tax dollars. Elected to a four-year term as one of Indiana's constitutional officers, the Treasurer also oversees key state financial programs such as college savings plans, local government investment pools, and public safety funding boards. Additionally, the role includes chairing organizations like the Indiana Bond Bank to help local communities secure low-cost financing for public projects.

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

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Q&A INDIANA STATE SENATOR AND REPRESENTATIVES

All state senator and representative candidates were asked the same questions by the creators of this guide. The answers that follow are in their own words.

Questions asked:

1. What strengths and experiences do you bring to this office?

2. What are the three key messages of your campaign?

3. Many residents believe their vote doesn't count; what roots do you already have in your community, and how will you ensure their voices are heard?

We gave a character count limit for each response from candidates to keep them within similar lengths. However, there is variation. To ensure we fully honor their responses, we are sharing each answer as it was submitted.
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Q&A INDIANA STATE SENATOR

DISTRICT 25 CANDIDATES

Mike Gaskill (R)- incumbent*

- **This candidate was contacted with the questions multiple ways and did not respond.**

Tamie Dixon-Tatum (D)

- **Q1: What strengths and experiences do you bring to this office?**
  - Legal Oversight- I construct and monitor policies to ensure compliance with federal, state and local laws regarding employment, education, fair housing, disability; Conflict Resolution– I review investigated complaints, negotiate conciliation agreements and mediate disputes; Operational Compliance– I monitor contract compliance and institute procedures for fair competition in the bidding process; Education & Training– I organize training and developing communication programs to inform the public of their rights; Employee Relations– I implement strategies to enhance employee motivation, performance, and workplace dispute reduction. I possess a Master's in Government, a Master's in Legal Studies, a Bachelor's in Telecommunications.
- **Q2: What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
  - I am an Advocate for and Protector of Civil/Human Rights. I am a Listening Voice - meaning I'm going to listen and learn from all of my constituents, and then carry your voices to the General Assembly. I am Ready to Serve/Ready to Lead as we search for and create a win/win/win Socially, Economically and for the Environment.

*__Incumbent:__ This is the person who currently holds an office.

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Q&A INDIANA STATE SENATOR

DISTRICT 25 CANDIDATES

Tamie Dixon-Tatum (Continued)

- **Q3: Many residents believe their vote doesn't count; what roots do you already have in your community, and how will you ensure their voices are heard?**
  - Anderson/Madison County is my community and my roots as I was born, raised, and still live in my community. To ensure All voices are heard in White River Township/Northern Jackson Township in Hamilton County, and in Anderson/Madison County, I plan to make myself and my staff available for town halls, virtual town halls, simple phone calls and emails, plus finding other ways to be more accessible/responsive to my constituents. I will advocate for and protect Voting Rights in District #25 and abroad via civil education and by helping to remove barriers to voting and civic participation/active citizenship!

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Q&A INDIANA STATE REPRESENTATIVE

DISTRICT 31 CANDIDATES

Lori J. Gross-Reaves (R)- incumbent*

- **This candidate was contacted with the questions multiple ways and did not respond.**

Katie Robins (D)

- **Q1: What strengths and experiences do you bring to this office?**
  - As an ICU nurse, I've spent my career showing up for patients and families in their hardest moments and that is the same commitment I plan to bring to the statehouse. I've watched family members fight with insurance companies while their loved one is fighting for their life. And like many voters in HD 31, I have experienced how hard it is to simply exist in today's world with the rising cost of living and wages staying stagnant. I bring firsthand experience of the reality people are facing today, the Indiana healthcare system, a caregiver's work ethic and a fighters resolve to put working families over corporate interests.
- **Q2: What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
  - 1) Healthcare that won't bankrupt families. Nobody should go broke or lose their home getting the care they need.
  - 2) Fully fund our public schools. Our kids deserve the resources to thrive, not budget cuts.
  - 3) Community over corporation. Too many politicians vote for their donors and not the people of their district. Every vote I cast will be measured against one question: does this help Hoosiers and their families?

*__Incumbent:__ This is the person who currently holds an office.

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Q&A INDIANA STATE REPRESENTATIVE

DISTRICT 31 CANDIDATES

Katie Robins (Continued)

- **Q3: Many residents believe their vote doesn't count; what roots do you already have in your community, and how will you ensure their voices are heard?**
  - I understand why residents feel forgotten- it's easy to feel like your voice doesn't reach the statehouse. As a working single mom raising a child in school and year-round sports, I know what it means to be stretched thin, which is exactly why I make it a priority to be present in my community whenever I can. If elected, I plan to open an office where constituents can bring their concerns directly to me. I also want that office to double as a big mutual aid hub where neighbors can get support they may need any day of the week.
  - I also am completely accessible on all social media platforms!

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Q&A INDIANA STATE REPRESENTATIVE

DISTRICT 35 CANDIDATES

Elizabeth Rowray (R)- incumbent*

- **This candidate was contacted with the questions multiple ways and did not respond.**

Phil Gift (D)

- **Q1: What strengths and experiences do you bring to this office?**
  - My greatest strength is a lifelong commitment to service. As a registered nurse and 17-year veteran of the Department of Veterans Affairs, I understand firsthand the importance of listening to people, solving problems, and treating everyone with dignity and respect. My experience as a triage nurse and Patient Care Manager taught me how to lead under pressure, make thoughtful decisions, and advocate for those who need a voice. Growing up in Fairmount and earning degrees in journalism, administrative management, and nursing have given me a broad perspective and strong communication skills. I bring compassion, practical experience, and a commitment to protecting the rights, freedom, safety, and well-being of every Hoosier.

*__Incumbent:__ This is the person who currently holds an office.

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Q&A INDIANA STATE REPRESENTATIVE

DISTRICT 35 CANDIDATES

Phil Gift (Continued)

- **Q2: What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
  - I will stand up for rural communities by protecting farmland, water resources, and local communities from unchecked data center development and unfair tax incentives. I will fight to strengthen public education so our schools can focus on educating students rather than constantly fighting for funding, while protecting the quality of rural schools. And I will defend rural healthcare by working to keep rural hospitals open, expand access to affordable health insurance, and ensure every Hoosier has access to quality healthcare close to home.
- **Q3: Many residents believe their vote doesn't count; what roots do you already have in your community, and how will you ensure their voices are heard?**
  - I was born and raised in Fairmount and have spent my career serving Hoosiers, including 17 years with the Department of Veterans Affairs. I also spend much of my time in the community supporting my neighbors and attending local council meetings, because I believe being involved means showing up and listening. As your representative, I will bring that same commitment to the Statehouse. I will remain accessible, listen to residents, seek their input, and make sure their concerns are heard. Your vote matters, and I will work every day to earn your trust and ensure your voice is represented.

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Q&A INDIANA STATE REPRESENTATIVE

DISTRICT 36 CANDIDATES

Kyle Pierce (R)- incumbent*

- **Q1: What strengths and experiences do you bring to this office?**
  - During my two terms as state representative; I've been presented with a STAR award by the Indiana Parkinson's Disease community for promoting awareness of the disease; named a "20 under 40" Awardee by the Madison County Chamber of Commerce and awarded the "Outstanding Hoosier Legislator" award by the Indiana Credit Union League. I have passed five bipartisan pieces of legislation; from genetic testing protections to investment protections for Hoosier workers and retirees. Outside of office, my experience includes serving as finance director for a child welfare association, formerly Director of Development for the Ball State University College of Health, and Deputy Executive Director at the Indiana Medical Device Manufacturers Council
- **Q2: What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
  - I have and will continue to: Fight to protect Hoosier taxpayers. I've helped deliver more than $1.2 billion in taxpayer savings for Hoosiers in the last four years. Promote policies that make it easier to live, work and raise a family in Indiana. From targeting social media companies targeting our kids to demanding transparency in healthcare. Streamline state government to make it more efficient in serving you. In 2023, I co-authored HEA 1623 to find ways to streamline outdated regulations. In 2026; I co-authored HEA 1003, that merged state boards and commissions to ensure more efficient services for Hoosiers

*__Incumbent:__ This is the person who currently holds an office.

Q&A INDIANA STATE REPRESENTATIVE

DISTRICT 36 CANDIDATES

Kyle Pierce (Continued)

- **Q3: Many residents believe their vote doesn't count; what roots do you already have in your community, and how will you ensure their voices are heard?**
  - First; in 2022 & 2023; we had primary elections decided by less than three votes in our county. Your vote matters. Beyond that, your voice matters more. That's why I've taken part in more than 15 town halls in my two terms as well as gone on local radio 60+ times (4 times per month while in session on WHBU) answering questions & discussing policies. I've answered 1,000+ constituent emails and talked with countless folks over the phone. Lastly, I always want to hear your thoughts or questions, just call or text my cell phone at 317-443-1791. If I can ever be helpful working out a problem you're having with a state agency, just call/text as well. If I do not answer, please leave a voicemail.

Kim Townsend (D)

- **Q1: What strengths and experiences do you bring to this office?**
  - I bring decades of public service, executive leadership and a proven record of turning challenges into results. As CEO of the Anderson Housing Authority, I helped rebuild a troubled agency, secured millions in housing and community development investments and expanded opportunities for families. My experience includes managing budgets, leading teams, working across government, business, labor and nonprofit sectors and navigating complex state and federal policies. Most importantly, I understand the people of Madison County because I have spent my life here, serving, listening, solving problems and investing in this community. I bring practical experience, strong relationships and a commitment to putting people before politics.

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Q&A INDIANA STATE REPRESENTATIVE

DISTRICT 36 CANDIDATES

Kim Townsend (Continued)

- **Q2: What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
  - 1. Proven Leadership That Gets Results – I am an experienced leader focused on solving problems, strengthening communities and delivering measurable results.
  - 2. People Before Partisanship – I have always put the needs of residents and clients before institutions, systems and party loyalty. District 36 will need me to work across the aisle and not be rubber stamp for decisions that will directly impact their lives and community.
  - 3. Opportunities for Every Family – Strong public schools, affordable housing, good-paying jobs, accessible childcare, and thriving neighborhoods are essential to building a stronger Madison County.
- **Q3: Many residents believe their vote doesn't count; what roots do you already have in your community, and how will you ensure their voices are heard?**
  - I am an Anderson native with deep roots throughout Madison County. Receiving 89% of the vote in the primary reinforced for me that people are ready to be heard and represented. I have spent years at tables where decisions are made, but I have never forgotten the importance of bringing community voices to those tables. As State Representative, I will be visible, accessible, and intentional about engaging residents, including those who feel overlooked or disconnected from government. My responsibility will be to carry their concerns to the Statehouse and make sure District 36 is heard.

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Q&A INDIANA STATE REPRESENTATIVE

DISTRICT 88 CANDIDATES

Chris Jeter (R)- incumbent*

- **This candidate was contacted with the questions multiple ways and did not respond.**

Stephanie Yocum (D)

- **Q1: What strengths and experiences do you bring to this office?**
  - For more than 20 years, I have led nonprofit organizations working in education, healthcare, public policy, and community engagement. As a nonprofit executive, I have managed multimillion-dollar budgets, led teams through growth and change, turned around struggling organizations, and built partnerships across political and geographic lines. I know how to move from conversation to action, bringing people together, navigating competing priorities, and solving problems. My career is grounded in a deep commitment to public service. I understand that elected office is not about power or a title, it is an opportunity to serve and a responsibility to show up and deliver for the people you represent.
- **Q2: What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
  - People. Pocketbooks. Public Schools.
    - People: Government should listen to the people it serves. I will show up, protect local control, and make sure communities have a meaningful voice in the decisions that affect them.
    - Pocketbooks: Hoosier families deserve some breathing room. I will fight rising costs, demand accountability for corporate tax breaks and incentives, and make sure economic growth benefits the people who live here.
    - Public Schools: Strong public schools build strong communities. I will fight for the resources our schools and teachers need to serve every child.

*__Incumbent:__ This is the person who currently holds an office.

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Q&A INDIANA STATE REPRESENTATIVE

DISTRICT 88 CANDIDATES

Stephanie Yocum (Continued)

- **Q3: Many residents believe their vote doesn't count; what roots do you already have in your community, and how will you ensure their voices are heard?**
  - I was born and raised in Indiana. My family and I have called this part of the state home for more than a decade. For nearly three years I have knocked on thousands of doors and built relationships across all four counties of this district. Too often, I hear, "My vote doesn't matter," "No one is listening," or "I never heard back." That is not how I work now, and it is not how I will serve at the Statehouse. I welcome feedback and hard conversations. I'm not just asking for your vote; I'm asking for your voice. Representation cannot end on Election Day. I will remain accessible, seek out voices too often missing from the conversation, and be accountable to the people I represent.

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STATE RACE SNAPSHOT

INDIANA STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 25 CANDIDATES

Mike Gaskill (R) - incumbent*

- **Website:** https://electmikegaskill.com/
- **Facebook:** Elect Mike Gaskill

Tamie Dixon-Tatum (D)

- **Website:** https://www.ctetamiedixontatum.com/
- **Facebook:** TDT for Indiana
- **Instagram:** tdt.forindiana

State Senator's Role: "The Indiana State Senate is the upper chamber of the Indiana General Assembly. Alongside the Indiana House of Representatives, it forms the legislative branch of the Indiana state government and works alongside the governor of Indiana to create laws and establish a state budget. Legislative authority and responsibilities of the Indiana State Senate include passing bills on public policy matters, setting levels for state spending, raising and lowering taxes, and voting to uphold or override gubernatorial vetoes." There are 50 State Senate seats (Ballotpedia).

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

STATE RACE SNAPSHOT

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INDIANA STATE REPRESENTATIVE **DISTRICT 31** CANDIDATES

Lori Gross-Reaves (R) - incumbent*

- **Facebook:** Lori Goss-Reaves for State Representative

Katie Robins (D)

- **Website:** https://www.katierobinsforindiana.com/
- **Facebook:** Katie Robins for Indiana

INDIANA STATE REPRESENTATIVE **DISTRICT 35** CANDIDATES

Elizabeth Rowray (R) - incumbent*

- **Website:** https://www.indianahouserepublicans.com/members/general/elizabeth-rowray/
- **Facebook:** Elizabeth Rowray

Phil Gift (D)

- **Website:** https://www.phil4house35.com/
- **Facebook:** Phil Gift for Indiana House District 35

Role Description on page 37
***Incumbent:** This is the person who currently holds an office.

STATE RACE SNAPSHOT

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INDIANA STATE REPRESENTATIVE **DISTRICT 36** CANDIDATES

Kyle Pierce (R) - incumbent*

- **Website:** https://www.pierceforindiana.com/
- **Facebook:** Kyle Pierce, Indiana State Representative
- **Instagram:** pierceforindiana

Kim Townsend (D)

- **Website:** https://votefortownsend.com/
- **Facebook:** Kim Townsend for IN State Representative HD-36

INDIANA STATE REPRESENTATIVE **DISTRICT 53** CANDIDATE

Ethan J. Lawson (R) - incumbent*

- **Website:** https://www.lawsonforindiana.com/
- **Facebook:** Ethan Lawson for Indiana State Representative
- **Instagram:** lawsonforin

Role Description on page 37
*__Incumbent:__ This is the person who currently holds an office.

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STATE RACE SNAPSHOT

INDIANA STATE REPRESENTATIVE **DISTRICT 88** CANDIDATES

Chris Jeter (R) - incumbent*

- **Website:** https://chrisjeter.com/
- **Facebook:** Chris Jeter for Indiana

Stephanie Jo Yocum (D)

- **Website:** https://www.stephaniejoyocum.com/
- **Facebook:** Stephanie Jo Yocum for Indiana
- **Instagram:** yocumforindiana

State Representative's Role: "The Indiana House of Representatives is the lower chamber of the Indiana General Assembly. Alongside the Indiana State Senate, it forms the legislative branch of the Indiana state government and works alongside the governor of Indiana to create laws and establish a state budget. Legislative authority and responsibilities of the Indiana House of Representatives include passing bills on public policy matters, setting levels for state spending, raising and lowering taxes, and voting to uphold or override gubernatorial vetoes." There are 100 Statehouse representative seats. (Ballotpedia)

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

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MADISON COUNTY CANDIDATES

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Q&A MADISON COUNTY SHERIFF CANDIDATES

All county sheriff candidates were asked the same questions by the creators of this guide. The answers that follow are in their own words.

Questions asked:

1. What strengths and experiences could you bring to this office?

2. What are the three key messages of your campaign?

3. How would you describe the relationship between your community and law enforcement?

We gave a character count limit for each response from candidates to keep them within similar lengths. However, there is variation. To ensure we fully honor their responses, we are sharing each answer as it was submitted.
You can find candidate contact information in the “Snapshot” sections.
Note: Names listed in alphabetical order and by party.

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Q&A MADISON COUNTY SHERIFF CANDIDATES

John Beeman (R)- incumbent*

- **Q1: What strengths and experiences could you bring to this office?**
  - I bring the experience of being the sheriff for the last three years. Prior to being elected sheriff I was in command of all the US Marshals Fugitive Task Forces in the State of Indiana. My team and I have for the last three years have been immersed in the planning of the new jail here in Madison County. At the same time, we have increased the pay for the civilian jailers and advocated for a pay raise for the merit officers and improved the morale and workplace environment that has resulted in all available positions being filled. That was not the case at the beginning of my term. We have numerous initiatives to increase public safety.
- **Q2: What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
  - If the people grant me the privilege of re-electing me as their sheriff, we will have to complete the new jail and complete the transfer of the inmates and initiate the new programming at the jail such as mental health and addiction counseling. We hope this new approach will help curb the high recidivism rate we have in the county. I will continue to seek out new innovative technology and methods and fight to maintain our current staffing of merit deputies to patrol Madison County to keep our record levels of low crime and rapid response to citizens in need.

*__Incumbent:__ This is the person who currently holds an office.

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Q&A MADISON COUNTY SHERIFF CANDIDATES

John Beeman (Continued)

- **Q3: How would you describe the relationship between your community and law enforcement?**
  - I would describe the relationship between the county citizens and the sheriff's department as very good. I am responsive to citizens' concerns personally. I receive calls, emails, appointments and interactions out in the community and they are by and large positive. Clearly not everyone is completely satisfied but I always listen to their concerns and issues and provide an answer based upon the law, ordinance or policy of the department. I will still operate as I have my first term, open door, both for the staff and the public. I have a lifetime of service from my time in the military, the Marshals Service and as the Madison County Sheriff.

Norman Rayford (D)

- **Q1: What strengths and experiences could you bring to this office?**
  - I am an Indiana Law Enforcement Academy graduated and a 27 year veteran with the Anderson Police Department where I currently serve as Asst. Chief over Operations. I attended Calhoun Community College in Athens, AL where I majored in Criminal Justice. I've served as a Patrol Officer, Community Policing Officer, Court Security, Major Crimes Detective, Uniform Sergeant. I have received numerous Department and Community Awards including Madison County Officer of the Year (2017). I bring experience in policy development, Community affairs, Incident Command, Budgets, and staff management.

Q&A MADISON COUNTY SHERIFF CANDIDATES

Norman Rayford (Continued)

- **Q2: What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
  - I am focused on bringing the Madison County Sheriff's Office to the forefront of Community affairs in regards to being more vigilant in all Communities that we in Law Enforcement serve. I am focused on improving jail conditions for staff and inmates. I am also focused on continuing to modernize Policing through the jail and throughout the Department as far as equipment as a whole.
- **Q3: How would you describe the relationship between your community and law enforcement?**
  - I am a devoted man of Faith, I'm a father and grand father to children within the Madison County Community. I have coached wrestling on all levels within Madison County. I'm involved in leadership roles in several non-for profit organizations.

LOCAL RACE SNAPSHOT

COUNTY SHERIFF CANDIDATES

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John Beeman (R) - incumbent*

- **Website:** https://beemanforsheriff.com/
- **Facebook:** John Beeman for Madison County Sheriff
- **Email:** johnbeemanforsheriff@gmail.com

Norman Rayford, Jr (D)

- **Facebook:** Norman Rayford Jr
- **Email:** nrayford297@gmail.com

County Sheriff's Role: The County Sheriff enforces laws in their county, hires county police officers, preserves order in county courts, and manages the county jail and the prisoners within (Indiana Code).

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

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Q&A MADISON COUNTY COUNCIL CANDIDATES

All county council candidates were asked the same questions by the creators of this guide. The answers that follow are in their own words.

Questions asked:

1. What strengths and experiences could you bring to this office?

2. What are the three key messages of your campaign?

3. Many residents believe etheir vote doesn't count; what roots do you already have in your community, and how will you ensure their voices are heard?

We gave a character count limit for each response from candidates to keep them within similar lengths. However, there is variation. To ensure we fully honor their responses, we are sharing each answer as it was submitted.
You can find candidate contact information in the "Snapshot" sections.
Note: Names listed in alphabetical order and by party.

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Q&A MADISON COUNTY COUNCIL

DISTRICT 1 CANDIDATES

Cory Bohlander (R)

- **Q1: What strengths and experiences could you bring to this office?**
  - I have been a member of the Madison County Planning Commission since 2019 and was a member of the Board of Zoning appeals from 2019-2022. I am also a precinct committeeman in Pipe Creek 9. This involvement helped me better understand the workings of local government.
- **Q2: What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
  - I want to be transparent with tax payers. I want to bring a fiscally responsible mind set to the council. I want what is best for Madison County and its citizens.
- **Q3: Many residents believe their vote doens't count; what roots do you already have in your community and how will you ensure their voices are heard?**
  - I am a lifelong resident of Madison County. I am a farmer, I have been involved in many organizations in the county. On the BZA and Planning Commission, I have always listened to public comment on all sides of an issue and given that significant weight in any decision I made. On the County Council I will continue to do the same. I want to hear from voters. I want voters to be engaged in the process.

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Q&A MADISON COUNTY COUNCIL

DISTRICT 1 CANDIDATES

Helen Wean (D)

- **Q1: What strengths and experiences could you bring to this office?**
  - Client Advocacy & Negotiation: Drawing on a 37-year career, I excel at listening to needs, negotiating effectively, and always keeping clients' interests first.
  - Problem-Solving & Persistence: I am a solution-driven problem solver with the persistence needed to get the job done.
  - Property & Resource Expertise: My background in zoning, planning, and property rights gives me a deep commitment to protecting all of our community resources.
- **Q2: What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
  - Prioritize environmental protection and family well-being while investing in infrastructure - like paved roads, recreational spaces, and walkable communities - to attract sustainable growth.
  - Stand up against predatory industrial projects, such as data centers and battery storage facilities, that target small communities lacking the resources to fight back.
  - Develop a comprehensive Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) across county, city and town levels to safeguard our natural resources from abusive industrial use.
  - Ensure transparent government spending, strict oversight, and regular audits to guarantee public tax dollars are managed effectively and responsibly.

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Q&A MADISON COUNTY COUNCIL

DISTRICT 1 CANDIDATES

Helen Wean (Continued)

- **Q3: Many residents believe their vote doesn't count; what roots do you already have in your community and how will you ensure their voices are heard?**
  - It is completely understandable why many residents feel their votes do not count. While gerrymandering at the state and national levels heavily impacts voter confidence, we can - and must - fix how our county government operates right here at home.
  - To ensure every voice is heard, we need three immediate changes:
    - Set aside time for citizen concerns at every official meeting.
    - Move meetings to evening hours so working residents can actually attend.
    - Provide official, public video recordings of all meetings instead of relying solely on citizen livestreams. By opening the doors and listening to our community, we can restore genuine public trust in our local leadership.

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Q&A MADISON COUNTY COUNCIL

DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATES

Mikeal Vaughn (R)

- **This candidate was contacted with the questions multiple ways and did not respond.**

Caroline (Carrie) Bale (D)

- **Q1: What strengths and experiences do you bring to this office?**
  - I have a variety of strengths that will lend itself well to this office. I am a servant leader, who is passionate about serving our community, our families and our children. I am a visionary who is able to listen to people and articulate that into a future dream. I am an action orientated person who meets people where they are and works to ensure that collectively we are creating a brighter future for all. I am a believer in diversity in people and thoughts to help create a community to works for ALL, and accepts ALL. I have been an elected School Board member in the past. I am a teacher, a nonprofit director and I have my MBA. All of these qualities and experiences make me a good candidate for Madison County Council.
- **Q2: What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
  - My top priorities will be to continue to build relationships with the communities in which I serve, making sure I understand the landscape of the concerns and hopes for the constituents I represent. I will work to make sure that we are able to compensate our county public servants so that we can attract and retain the top talent for our county, as well as provide appropriate funding for our public safety and services. I also understand the role of county council members to be fiscal responsible for the financial health of our county and that those funds be utilized in the most effective way to support the needs of Madison County residents.

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

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Q&A MADISON COUNTY COUNCIL

DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATES

Caroline (Carrie) Bale (Continued)

- **Q3: Many residents believe their vote doesn't count; what roots do you already have in your community, and how will you ensure their voices are heard?**
  - I have made Madison County my home for the last 24 years. My husband and I have raised our 3 young adult kids in Anderson, Indiana. I am a school teacher in Anderson Community Schools as well as run a nonprofit called Outfitters. I am uniquely positioned to hear from our youth, our families , businesses and community members about their hopes and dreams and how from a county level we can help provide a place to live, work and play to make those hopes and dreams come true. You have to be willing to listen to make fiscal decisions that will positively impact the greater good of Madison County. I will continue to listen and show up for the residents of Madison County.

Brandon Collins (L)

- **Q1: What strengths and experiences do you bring to this office?**
  - I bring experience in sales, business, technology, and solving complex problems. My career has taught me to manage resources carefully, negotiate effectively, listen to different perspectives, and focus on results. I believe government should be accountable to the taxpayers it serves, operate within its means, and avoid unnecessary spending and bureaucracy. I'm not a career politician- I'm a working professional who wants to bring a fresh perspective, common-sense fiscal discipline, and greater accountability to county government. I'm willing to ask difficult questions, challenge the status quo, and work with anyone when it means delivering better value for Madison County taxpayers.

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Q&A MADISON COUNTY COUNCIL

DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATES

Brandon Collins (Continued)

- **Q2: What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
  - 1. Fiscal Responsibility: Treat every taxpayer dollar like it matters. Cut waste, prioritize essential services, and demand accountability for how county government spends money.
  - 2. Limited, Accountable Government: Government should do its job well without growing beyond what is necessary. I'll stand for transparency, individual liberty, and responsible stewardship of public resources.
  - 3. A Fresh Voice for Madison County: I'm not a career politician. I'm a working professional bringing a business-minded, solutions-focused perspective to county government - and I'll put Madison County taxpayers first.
- **Q3: Many residents believe their vote doesn't count; what roots do you already have in your community, and how will you ensure their voices are heard?**
  - I believe people feel disconnected from government when they don't feel heard or see results. My roots in Madison County come from living, working, and raising my family here, and from being involved in our community and local issues. I want to change the idea that government is something that happens to people rather than something they have a voice in. As County Councilor, I'll make myself accessible, listen directly to residents, communicate clearly about decisions, and actively seek input before major choices are made. Every resident, whether they agree with me or not, deserves to be heard and treated with respect.

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Q&A MADISON COUNTY COUNCIL

DISTRICT 3 CANDIDATES

Mike Reed (R)

- **Q1: What strengths and experiences do you bring to this office?**
  - Retired lieutenant from Anderson PD with over 31 years experience. I'm also a retired small business owner. Currently a member of the Edgewood Town Council.
- **Q2: What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
  - I believe in an accountable government, effective public safety, and improving quality of life services.
- **Q3: Many residents believe their vote doesn't count; what roots do you already have in your community, and how will you ensure their voices are heard?**
  - I'm roots are deep in this county. I've lived here all my life. My two adult children and their families live here. I've served my country in the Marine Corps and the city of Anderson as a police officer. I believe in the people of this community and would be honored to serve them on the council.

Fred Reese (D)

- **This candidate was contacted with the questions multiple ways and did not respond.**

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Q&A MADISON COUNTY COUNCIL

DISTRICT 3 CANDIDATES

Greg Noland (L)

- **Q1: What strengths and experiences do you bring to this office?**
  - The main responsibility of the Council is to set and approve the budget for the county. Having been a Factory Superintendent in the business world with many people working for me, I have experience dealing with large budgets and their challenges. In addition, I have worked on budgets for the Boards of Directors of a number of non-profit organizations, including my church, a museum, and other civic organizations. I have also worked as an Industrial Engineer for Fortune 500 companies, where I was responsible for reducing costs and calculating return on investments.
- **Q2: What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
  - 1. "I am in it for you"
    - I have no financial self-interest in this office, whether through increased retirement benefits or earnings. I pledge to donate my earnings to a Madison County charity.
  - 2. Stop the increases in county income taxes
    - Madison County is the 13th largest county by population in Indiana. Out of the top 20 largest counties, Madison County has the highest county income tax percentage. In 2022, the county council raised the income tax from 1.75% to 2.25%. This year, the state passed a bill allowing counties to increase to 2.9%, effective in 2029.
  - 3. Prioritizing Fiscal Responsibility in Madison County

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Q&A MADISON COUNTY COUNCIL

DISTRICT 3 CANDIDATES

Greg Noland (Continued)

- **Q3: Many residents believe their vote doesn't count; what roots do you already have in your community, and how will you ensure their voices are heard?**
  - Of course, every vote counts. Given the abundance of straight-party voting, I need every vote and am working hard to earn your confidence. I have deep roots in the community. I have been active and held leadership roles in my church and other civic organizations. During my career, I turned down a number of promotion offers that would have required me to move away so I could raise my children here. The people should always have the opportunity to be heard. This is clear in the Constitution: "Congress shall make no law... abridging... the right of the people... to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

LOCAL RACE SNAPSHOT

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COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT 1 CANDIDATES

Cory Bohlander (R)

- Email: cobo_82@yahoo.com

Helen Wean (D)

- Website: www.electhelenwean.com
- Facebook: Elect Helen Wean
- Email: helenwean07@gmail.com

COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATES

Mikeal Vaughn (R)

- Facebook: Mikeal Vaughn for County Council
- Email: mikealvaughn765@gmail.com

Caroline (Carrie) Bale (D)

- Facebook: Carrie Bale for Madison County Council - District 2
- Email: bbale99@hotmail.com

Brandon Collins (L)

- Website: https://ElectBrandonCollins.com/
- Facebook: Brandon Collins for Madison County Council - District 2
- Email: collins.brandon.m@gmail.com

Role Description on page 55
*__Incumbent:__ This is the person who currently holds an office.

LOCAL RACE SNAPSHOT

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COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT 3 CANDIDATES

Mike Reed (R)

- Website: https://www.mikereedforcouncil.com/
- Email: mreedin157@gmail.com

Fred Reese (D)

- Email: freese2@yahoo.com

Greg Noland (L)

- Website: https://www.nolandforliberty.com
- Facebook: Noland for Liberty
- Email: noland836@gmail.com

COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT 4 CANDIDATES

Rob Steele (R) - incumbent*

- Email: rsteele@madisoncounty.in.gov

No Democratic candidate filed

County Council's Role: "The financial powers of a county are placed in the county council, which serves as a check on the board of commissioners and board of finance." Their duties include but aren't limited to: "adopting the annual budget,...incurring county debt within constitutional limits,...appropriating additional funds that arise,...re-appropriating surplus funds," and "fixing salaries of officers, deputies, assistants, and employees whose salaries are payable from any county fund."

"For election purposes, each county is divided into four districts, with one council member elected from each district. In addition, three council members are elected from the county at large, thus making a total of seven council members" (Here is Your Indiana Government, 2024-2025, p.44).

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

LOCAL RACE SNAPSHOT

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COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CLERK CANDIDATES

Linda Smith (R) - incumbent*

- **Facebook:** Linda Smith for Madison County Clerk
- **Email:** lsuesmith1963@gmail.com

Stephany Mae Stennis (D)

- **Website:** https://www.stephanymaestennis.com
- **Facebook:** Elect StephanyMae Stennis
- **Email:** electstephanymae@gmail.com

County Circuit Court Clerk's Role: "The Madison County Clerk's Office is responsible for the filing of public records, vital records, and court records, as well as processing child support payments, issuing marriage licenses, and providing copies of documents. The office also oversees all aspects of the election process, including receiving nominations and petitions for elections, preparing ballots, and maintaining voting equipment" (Madison County Government, 2026)

COUNTY RECORDER CANDIDATES

Angela (Angie) Abel (R) - incumbent*

- **Facebook:** Angie Abel for Recorder
- **Email:** angie.abel@yahoo.com

Amy Terry (D)

- **Email:** adhough1@aol.com

County Recorder's Role: "The chief function of the recorder is to preserve public records, including deeds, mortgages, liens, leases, articles of incorporation and amendments, certificates authorizing foreign corporations to do business within the state, army and navy discharges, bankruptcy notices, and other documents" (Indiana Bar Foundation, Indiana Chamber of Commerce, p. 48).

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

LOCAL RACE SNAPSHOT

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COUNTY TREASURER CANDIDATES

Rick Gardner (R)- incumbent*

- Email: rg2119@gmail.com

Shannon Watters (D)

- Email: helloboots69@yahoo.com

County Treasurer's Role: a public official responsible for collecting taxes and maintaining financial records for a county. This official organizes the regular collection of property taxes from county residents and special taxes from businesses. A county treasurer may also be responsible for issuing business permits and publishing unclaimed property lists (Ballotpedia, 2026).

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

LOCAL RACE SNAPSHOT

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CIRCUT COURT JUDGE CANDIDATES

DIVISION 1

Angela Warner Sims (R) - incumbent*

- None found

No Democratic candidate filed

DIVISION 2

Stephen Koester (R) - incumbent*

- None found

No Democratic candidate filed

DIVISION 4

David Happe (R) - incumbent*

- Facebook: Re-Elect Judge David Happe

No Democratic candidate filed

DIVISION 5

Scott A. Norrick (R) - incumbent*

- Facebook: Judge Norrick

Emilee Hammond (D)

- Website: https://emileehammond.com/
- Facebook: Hammond for Madison County Judge

Circuit Court Judge's Role: "The Circuit Court Judge is a constitutional officer of the judicial circuit elected for a six year term. The Circuit Court Judge may be reelected without limit." (IN.gov) "Circuit Courts hear cases that are outside the jurisdiction of other courts," such as cases involving felony charges, domestic relations, juvenile matters, mental health, and probate. (indianacourtrecords.us).

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

LOCAL RACE SNAPSHOT

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COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY CANDIDATES

Andrew Hanna (R)- incumbent*

- **Website:** https://www.andrewhannaforprosecutor.com/
- **Facebook:** Andrew Hanna for Madison County Prosecutor
- **Email:** andrewhannaforprosecutor@gmail.com

No Democratic candidate filed

Prosecuting Attorney's Role: "The prosecuting attorney's duties include representing the State of Indiana and prosecuting violators of state statutes in various courts with criminal jurisdiction." (Indiana Bar Foundation and INdiana Chamber of Commerce, 2024-2025, p. 51)

COUNTY ASSESSOR CANDIDATES

Larry Davis (R) - incumbent*

- **Email:** ldavis@madisoncounty.in.gov

No Democratic candidate filed

County Assessor's Role: The primary responsibilities of the county assessor are to determine the assessed value of property in the county and to certify those values to the county auditor for the preparation of property tax statements. The assessor does not establish the tax rate, only the assessed value of property (Indiana Bar Foundation and Indiana Chamber of Commerce, 2024-2025, p. 52)

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

LOCAL RACE SNAPSHOT

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COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1 CANDIDATES

Danny (Dan) Girt (R)

- Email: dpgirt@att.net

Todd Shelton (D)

- Email: todd@toddsheltonforin.com

Mike A. Garringer (IND)

- Email: mike@gomikego.com

County Commissioner: Each Indiana county is governed by a Board of Commissioners consisting of 3 elected persons. In Madison County "the commissioners are elected from separate districts (in which they must reside)" but by vote of the county as a whole ... "The terms of office of county commissioners are four years on a staggered basis: two run during a presidential election year, and in the off two-year election cycle, the third commissioner runs" (Here is Your Indiana Government, 2024-2025, pp. 40-41)

"The three commissioners are the custodians of the home rule powers of the county. They are the executive body of the county." The oversight, duties, and powers of commissioners include but are not limited to the following:

- County buildings, lands and property
- Audits and authorizes claims against the county
- Receiving bids and authorizing contracts
- Supervising many County departments
- Overseeing construction and maintenance of roads and bridges
- Exercising many of the legislative powers and duties of the county

(Indiana County Commissioners, 2023)

There are three county districts but this year District 1 is the only one up for election. All voters can vote for this district.

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REFERENDUM QUESTION

What is a School Tax Levy Referendum?

"In Indiana, school referendums are a mechanism through which local school districts seek voter approval to increase property taxes to fund specific education initiatives or cover general operating expenses." (Anderson Community Schools, 2026)

"Indiana Code 20-46-1-8 allows the governing body of a school corporation" (ie: school board) "to adopt a resolution to place a public question on a ballot if the governing body determines that the school corporation

> (1) cannot carry out its public educational duty unless it imposes a referendum tax levy or
>
> (2) that a referendum tax levy should be imposed to replace property tax revenue that the school corporation will not receive because of the application of circuit breaker credits" (property tax cap).

"Indiana Code 20-46-1-8.5 allows for the school corporation to place a public question on the ballot to extend a referendum tax levy for a period not to exceed the number of years the original referendum tax levy was imposed for. A referendum tax levy may be extended only if

> (1) the resolution is adopted by the governing body of the school corporation" (ie: school board) "and
>
> (2) the public question to extend the levy is approved in a referendum before December 31 of the final calendar year the original referendum tax levy is imposed." (State of Indiana, 2026)

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REFERENDUM QUESTION

ANDERSON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS REFERENDUM

The question that will appear on the ballot:

ANDERSON COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
Shall Anderson Community School Corporation continue to increase property taxes paid to the school corporation for no more than eight (8) years for the purpose of funding daily operational needs and academic and support programs by imposing a property tax rate that does not exceed $0.1077 and results in a maximum annual amount that does not exceed $2,903,078. If this operating referendum public question is NOT approved by the voters, for a median residence of $100,000, the property's annual tax bill would decrease by $54.00 per year. IF this operating referendum public question is approved by the voters, it would be a renewal of the most recent operating referendum public question passed in 2018 with a property tax rate of $0.0177.

YES
NO

RESOURCES

The full Anderson Community Schools (ACS) "RENEWAL OF REFERENDUM TAX LEVY RESOLUTION" can be reviewed here: **ACS Renewal of Referendum Tax Levy Resolution**

The ACS Board of Trustees voted on June 8, 2026 to adopt a resolution to extend their Operating Referendum passed in 2018. On November 3, 2026 (or during early voting starting Oct. 6, 2026) registered voters in the ACS school district will vote on whether or not to support the ACS Board of Trustees' resolution to renew the Operating Referendum.
ACS information to the public to learn more: https://www.acsc.net/referendum

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REFERENDUM QUESTION

ELWOOD COMMUNITY SCHOOLS REFERENDUM

The question that will appear on the ballot:

ELWOOD COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
Shall the Elwood Community School Corporation, Madison County, Indiana, increase property taxes paid to the school corporation for no more than eight (8) years immediately following the holding of the referendum for the purpose of funding teacher and staff retention and recruitment efforts to maintain current class sizes, student transportation, student and staff technology programs, and school safety and security programs and projects by imposing a property tax rate that does not exceed $.4900 per $100 of net assessed value and results in a maximum annual amount htat does not exceed $2,500,000. If this operating referendum public question is approved by the voters, for a median residence of $100,000, the property's annual property tax bill would increase by $245 per year.

YES
NO

RESOURCES

The Elwood Community School Corporation Board of Trustees voted on June 18, 2026 to adopt the **2027 Operating Referendum Tax Levy Fund Resolution.**
On November 3, 2026 (or during early voting starting Oct. 6, 2026) registered voters in the ECSC school district will vote on whether or not to support the ECS Board of Trustees' resolution for the referendum tax levy.

ECSC information to the public to learn more: www.elwood.k12.in.us/referendums/

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Q&A SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES

All school board candidates were asked the same questions by the creators of this guide. The answers that follow are in their own words.

Questions asked:

1. What strengths and experiences could you bring to this office?

2. What are the three key messages of your campaign?

3. How will you work with the community and school board to address the current challenges your school system is facing?

In the state of Indiana, School Board candidates can now declare a party if they want to, but it is not required. For candidates who did not declare a party, we have used green with NPA (No Party Affiliation) to denote that.

We gave a character count limit for each response from candidates to keep them within similar lengths. However, there is variation. To ensure we fully honor their responses, we are sharing each answer as it was submitted.
You can find candidate contact information in the “Snapshot” sections.
Note: Names listed in alphabetical order and by party.

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Q&A ANDERSON SCHOOL BOARD

AT LARGE CANDIDATES

Olunda Hunt (D)

- **This candidate withdrew, but may still appear on the ballot.**

Aufwiedersehen (Veda) Morris-May (D)

- **Q1: What strengths and experiences do you bring to this office?**
  - I am the Executive Director of the Minority Health Coalition of Madison County. I attended public schools in Fort Wayne, Indiana. I have over 20 years of grant writing experience related to youth out of school education and enrichment. In addition, I have over 20 years' experience in organizational financial management. I have received a B.A. in Public Affairs from Indiana University, Bloomington, IN. and M.A, Public Relations from Ball State University, Muncie, IN.
  - As the Executive Director of MHCMC I have fostered a positive relationship working with Anderson Community Schools since 2021 to improve the education and well-being of the student during in school and out of school time with our own agency funding.
- **Q2: What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
  - The first message is promoting a courteous and structured form of communication between ACS and the public during school board meetings and beyond school board meetings. The second message is promoting a "Youth First" emphasis that focuses on looking at policies and procedures that improves the achievement and well-being of ALL youth. Lastly, a message that emphasizes the importance of fund development beyond state and local dollars to provide additional opportunities for students and staff.

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Q&A ANDERSON SCHOOL BOARD AT LARGE CANDIDATES

Aufwiedersehen (Veda) Morris-May (Continued)

- **Q3: How will you work with the community and school board to address the current challenges your school system is facing?**
  - To provide leadership to work together and solve the problems that our community face and not work against one another. Also, to offer solutions and ideas that may mean a new way of doing things! Stand up for our community. Unification and respect are a must even when you don't always agree.

JoAnna G. Collette (NPA)- incumbent*

- **Q1: What strengths and experiences could you bring to this office?**
  - I bring both perspective and experience. I have served 8 years on the School Board - four currently and four previously from 1994-1998 - giving me a long term understanding of our schools and community. I hold an MBA, and have over 25 years of executive management experience including leadership, budgeting, problem solving and accountability. As the mother of three adult children I understand our schools from both a parent and school board member's perspective
- **Q2: What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
  - 1. Strong Schools. Sound Finances
    - State funding changes will put enormous strain on our schools. We must protect the district's financial stability while keeping strong academic offerings for every student.
  - 2. Leadership that Answers to the Community
    - Administration must be accountable for results, communication and transparency. Parents, teachers, students and the community deserve honest answers, clear information and leadership that can be trusted to address problems openly.

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

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Q&A ANDERSON SCHOOL BOARD

AT LARGE CANDIDATES

JoAnna G. Collette (Continued)

- **Q2: What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
  - 3. Every Voice Matters
    - People should have a real voice in the schools. Parents, teachers, community. Good decisions come from listening, asking hard questions and keeping students at the center.
- **Q3: How will you work with the community and school board to address the current challenges your school system is facing?**
  - Communication. Clarity. Collaboration
    - Communication is vital. Schools must provide our parents and community with consistent, timely and proactive messaging. We must increase our visibility in the community as well as our ability and willingness to engage in meaningful dialogue
    - Clarity of messaging is vital. Our challenges are real. The issues are complex. We must communicate in ways that allow the community to fully understand the issues and be a part of the dialogue.
    - Communication with clarity offers true collaboration opportunities. Schools cannot solve problems alone or in isolation. It truly requires the village and we must put every effort into creating that environment.

Margie Harvey (NPA)

- **This candidate withdrew, but may still appear on the ballot.**

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Q&A ANDERSON SCHOOL BOARD

AT LARGE CANDIDATES

Neal Alan Prange (NPA)

- **Q1: What strengths and experiences could you bring to this office?**
  - As a Firefighter/EMT serving the Public is of High Priority to me. I have held leadership roles in the fire service. As well as leading teams in technical production at several churches in my career. Being an advocate for those you represent along with a voice for those who feel like they have none are qualities I bring to the table.
- **Q2: What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
  - 1) Strong Schools train and retain strong teachers, developing strong students, ultimately creating a stronger and better Anderson. We have to be able to obtain and retain great teachers who are invested in this community.
  - 2) Students deserve every opportunity to be successful and supported throughout their educational journey. Listening to parent and community concerns and developing action steps to create that success.
  - 3) Accountability and Trust are key factors. Our board must be accountable to its citizens in order to gain its trust. Lip service has no place here. Listening to citizen concerns and working with other board members, parents, teachers and administrators to find solutions.
- **Q3: How will you work with the community and school board to address the current challenges your school system is facing?**
  - Bringing a voice of civility and professionalism to the board. Working with Students, Parents, Teachers, and Administrators to create a school system where every student can thrive and get the support they need to succeed while being an advocate to those who feel unseen and unheard.

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Q&A ANDERSON SCHOOL BOARD

CENTRAL DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATES

Robert (Buckie) Bookhart (NPA)- incumbent*

- **Q1: What strengths and experiences could you bring to this office?**
  - As a 41 year Classroom teacher@ ACS, I KNOW a lot of "Players" in charge of decision-making today.
  - Respect, Responsibility & Accountability MUST to be brought BACK!
  - ALL Teachers are in DIRE NEED of SUPPORT!
  - The Fear Of Retaliation (that is very pervasive today) HAS to be addressed and dealt with! A Safe Environment is ESSENTIAL for EVERYONE!
  - It is IMPERATIVE that Disrespectful, Disruptive, Disobedient & Defiant students be DEALT with!
  - Let TEACHER'S TEACHER!
- **Q2: What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
  - REMOVE "the Fear Of Retaliation" or the person's CAUSING the FEAR!
- **Q3: How will you work with the community and school board to address the current challenges your school system is facing?**
  - IDENTIFY the challenges facing us, then HOLD the person(s) ACCOUNTABLE who's responsible for said challenges!

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

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Q&A ANDERSON SCHOOL BOARD

CENTRAL DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATES

Jonathan Trick (NPA)

- **Q1: What strengths and experiences could you bring to this office?**
  - As a foster parent and biological parent of children currently enrolled in ACS schools, I am personally invested in their success. Through my experiences as a parent and foster parent, I have firsthand experience navigating Special Education and the challenges families can face. For 24 years, I have worked with youth through my church and coached soccer through the YMCA, giving me experience mentoring, listening, and bringing people together. As a Director of Software Engineering, I bring a big-picture perspective and a focus on practical solutions. Most importantly, I believe we must stay focused on student outcomes while supporting and retaining the great teachers who make those outcomes possible.
- **Q2: What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
  - Student Success: Keep students at the center of every decision and stay focused on improving academic outcomes while making sure every student gets the support they need.
  - Strong Teachers & Schools: Support, retain, and invest in great teachers while being responsible stewards of our resources and finding new ways to meet the challenges facing ACS.
  - Community & Accountability: Build trust through open communication, listening to parents, educators, students, and the community, and making sure every voice is heard.

Q&A ANDERSON SCHOOL BOARD

CENTRAL DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATES

Jonathan Trick (Continued)

- **Q3: How will you work with the community and school board to address the current challenges your school system is facing?**
  - ACS faces significant challenges, from finding our next superintendent and navigating changes in state funding to improving student outcomes and responsibly using technology and AI. I believe the school board must be connected to both our schools and our community. I would work to create more opportunities for meaningful dialogue through town halls, community conversations, and bilingual outreach. I would listen to parents, students, educators, and community members, then work collaboratively with the board and administration to turn that input into practical solutions. Together, we can build trust and move ACS forward.

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Q&A ANDERSON SCHOOL BOARD

EAST DISTRICT 1 CANDIDATES

Nickolas W. Freeman (R)

- **Q1: What strengths and experiences could you bring to this office?**
  - I bring a background in information technology which includes addressing complex project management and critical thinking. I currently am the Treasurer for the Madison County Republican Party which affirms my conservative values and strong fiscal management. I hold a bachelors degree in History from Wabash College and have a year of experience in the classroom as a substitute teacher.
- **Q2: What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
  - I will demand a 3rd party financial audit of all ACSC finances dating back to Covid and hold public hearings to address those findings to ensure that your taxes do not get raised for the foreseeable future.
  - I will also work to fight the academic decline by pushing for Phonics training for all ACSC teachers and restore pencil, paper, and physical books to the main method of classwork.
  - I will work to bring additional programs to D26 such as Cosmetology and Computer Technology to further expand our career opportunities for our students.
- **Q3: How will you work with the community and school board to address the current challenges your school system is facing?**
  - I will work with the community by advocating that parents have a seat at the table by ensuring they are included on program reviews without having to demand it. I will also push to open up public comment in meetings without a long legal explanation that is not needed. I also pledge to host at least two town halls a year that will serve as listening sessions to hear out taxpayer, parent, and district employee concerns.

Q&A ANDERSON SCHOOL BOARD

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EAST DISTRICT 1 CANDIDATES

Olivia Reyes (IND)

- **Q1: What strengths and experiences could you bring to this office?**
  - I bring a perspective that challenges the status quo and asks whether our systems are actually working for the people they serve. My graduate background in I-O psychology focuses on how people function within organizations and how leadership, culture, policies, and environments affect their success. Combined with my experience as a parent and advocate, I understand that one system does not work for every student. I bring critical thinking, pattern recognition, persistence, and a willingness to question outdated practices and push for meaningful change.
- **Q2: What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
  - 1. Students first. Every decision should begin with what helps students learn, feel safe, and thrive.
  - 2. Every student deserves an environment built for them to succeed. Education should recognize different needs instead of expecting every child to fit the same mold.
  - 3. Listen. Lead. Change. I believe in hearing our community, demanding transparency and accountability, using evidence and data, and challenging the status quo when it is not working.
- **Q3: How will you work with the community and school board to address the current challenges your school system is facing?**
  - I will work with the community and board by listening to understand, then doing the work behind the decisions. I will research concerns, examine data and empirical evidence, ask difficult questions, and help identify root causes before considering solutions. A board member should contribute more than a "yay" or "nay" vote. I want to help develop thoughtful, evidence-based approaches with the board and administration that are measurable, adaptable, and responsive to different student needs rather than maintaining the status quo simply because it is familiar.

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Q&A ANDERSON SCHOOL BOARD

EAST DISTRICT 1 CANDIDATES

Lindsay Brown (NPA)

- **Q1: What strengths and experiences could you bring to this office?**
  - I would bring strong communication, collaboration, budgetary and problem-solving skills to the school board. I value listening to different perspectives and working respectfully with others to find practical solutions. My experiences have taught me the importance of responsibility, accountability, and advocating for others. I am committed to supporting students, families, teachers, and staff while helping ensure our schools provide a safe, inclusive, and successful learning environment. I would approach this role with an open mind, a willingness to learn, and a genuine desire for accountability that will make a positive difference in our community.
- **Q2: What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
  - 1. Student Success: Every student deserves the opportunity to learn, grow, and succeed. I will support strong academics, safe schools, and the resources students need to thrive.
  - 2. Strong Schools & Educators: Great schools depend on dedicated teachers and staff. I will listen to educators, support them, and encourage responsible decisions that strengthen our classrooms.
  - 3. Community & Accountability: I will listen to families, communicate openly, and make decisions based on what is the best for students and their families. I believe in transparency, fiscal responsibility, and working together to build a stronger school community.

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Q&A ANDERSON SCHOOL BOARD

EAST DISTRICT 1 CANDIDATES

Lindsay Brown (Continued)

- **Q3: How will you work with the community and school board to address the current challenges your school system is facing?**
  - I will work collaboratively with the community, school board, educators, families, and students by listening first and keeping communication open and respectful. I will seek input from those directly affected by challenges and use facts, data, and community feedback to help guide decisions. I will focus on practical solutions, responsible use of resources, student achievement, school safety, and supporting teachers and staff. I believe progress happens when we work together, remain transparent, and stay focused on what is best for students. I will approach challenges with an open mind, a willingness to compromise, and a commitment to follow through.

Laura Crenshaw (NPA)

- **Q1: What strengths and experiences could you bring to this office?**
  - I am running for the Anderson Community School Board because I believe every child deserves access to a strong public education, and every family deserves a school system they can trust. For more than 36 years, I've proudly served Anderson Community Schools as a secretarial employee. My husband and I raised all three of our children in Anderson schools. They received the foundation that allowed them to pursue advanced degrees in education, business, and medicine. I know our schools from multiple perspectives, as an employee, as a parent, and as a neighbor.

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Q&A ANDERSON SCHOOL BOARD

EAST DISTRICT 1 CANDIDATES

Laura Crenshaw (Continued)

- **Q2: What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
  - 1. Students first, parental involvement
  - 2. Supporting teachers and staff
  - 3. Making fiscally responsible decisions
    - I will put students first, support our teachers and staff, make fiscally responsible decisions, and work collaboratively to strengthen public education. I'm not running because I have all the answers. I'm running because I've spent decades listening, learning, and serving.
- **Q3: How will you work with the community and school board to address the current challenges your school system is facing?**
  - I will listen to parents, staff, and neighbors. Being approachable helps build trust during important district changes, such as superintendent transitions.
  - I will ask the questions about why are parents choosing other school districts and what can be done to retain our students and staff.
  - Transparency is of utmost importance. We have to listen and understand the concerns and frustrations coming from our parents and community. Trust will need to be built. I want to continue my service of 36 years as an Anderson Community employee by working with the board, community and families to make sure that ACS remains a source of pride for generations to come.

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Q&A ANDERSON SCHOOL BOARD

EAST DISTRICT 1 CANDIDATES

Patrick (Pat) Hill (NPA)- incumbent*

- **Q1: What strengths and experiences could you bring to this office?**
  - I bring 12 years of experience on the Anderson Community Schools Board, including serving as Board President. That experience has given me a strong understanding of school finance, policy, collective bargaining, strategic planning, and the challenges facing public education. My professional background in higher education and Labor Studies has strengthened my leadership, collaboration, and problem-solving skills. I listen, ask questions, and work with people who bring different perspectives. Most importantly, I bring experience, institutional knowledge, and a commitment to putting students first, supporting employees, being accountable to taxpayers, and strengthening our public schools.
- **Q2: What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
  - My campaign focuses on three priorities. First, put students first by providing safe, supportive schools and the opportunities every student needs to succeed. Second, support and respect our teachers, staff, and administrators by listening to those doing the work and ensuring they have the resources needed to serve students. Third, be a responsible steward of taxpayer dollars by maintaining strong financial oversight, protecting essential services, and making decisions that strengthen our students' lives and their academic performance.

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

Q&A ANDERSON SCHOOL BOARD

EAST DISTRICT 1 CANDIDATES

Patrick (Pat) Hill (Continued)

- **Q3: How will you work with the community and school board to address the current challenges your school system is facing?**
  - I believe our challenges are best addressed through input from stakeholders. During my time on the Board, I have supported and expanded opportunities for community input, including involvement in our strategic planning process, community surveys, town halls, and other public forums. I will continue listening to students, families, employees, and taxpayers while working with fellow Board members and administration. Good decisions require open communication, different perspectives, and a shared commitment to solutions that strengthen our schools and community.

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Q&A ANDERSON SCHOOL BOARD

SOUTH DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATES

Mary Baker-Boudissa (NPA)

- **Q1: What strengths and experiences could you bring to this office?**
  - As a parent, I navigated some challenging situations with my own children. I made the difficult decision to remove my two younger ones, so I understand some of what might bring other parents and families back to ACS. I have always advocated for youth and have spent 15 years working as a consultant for districts across the US. My work has been focused on equitable practices, trauma-informed learning environments, and parent/family engagement.
  - I was part of developing the Hidden Voices curriculum for the New York State Department of Education and Arts Curriculum for Chicago Public Schools. As part of a research team, I conducted special education and equity audits for districts, conducting over 200 focus groups to listen to stakeholders.
- **Q2: What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
  - 1) We achieve more together, and parent/family voices need to be heard and acknowledged. We need more frequent opportunities for the community to engage with the School Board.
  - 2) We need to shift our thinking in how we make decisions with regard to resource allocation, hiring, and discipline. Our approach must be student-centered, trauma-informed, and driven by the unique educational needs and cultural context of our students.
  - 3) We have to focus on making ACS the FIRST and BEST choice for families in our community. This means reaching out to families who have chosen options outside of ACS. We need to give these families a reason to come home to ACS.

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Q&A ANDERSON SCHOOL BOARD

SOUTH DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATES

Mary Baker-Boudissa (Continued)

- **Q3: How will you work with the community and school board to address the current challenges your school system is facing?**
  - I will start with the belief that every Board member is here to do what is best for students, especially when disagreements arise. We can hold the superintendent accountable while supporting their efforts to advance student achievement, improve special education serviced, and increase enrollment. Let's create more opportunities to hear from parents/families, staff, and community members, AND be sure we respond to their concerns. We need to take a hard look at resource allocation (e.g., retaining empty buildings). We must engage community voices to advocate for release of Redevelopment funds. We also have an opportunity to propose a referendum that better meets the financial need.

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Q&A ANDERSON SCHOOL BOARD

SOUTH DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATES

Eric T. Davis (NPA)

- **Q1: What strengths and experiences could you bring to this office?**
  - As a lifelong Anderson resident, I have dedicated my career to serving students, families, educators, and our community. I graduated from Anderson High School, Anderson University, and Ball State University, and I began my teaching career as a social studies teacher in Anderson Community Schools. Over the years, I have had the privilege of serving as an assistant principal, principal, assistant superintendent, and now Executive Director of Schools for Indianapolis Public Schools.
- **Q2: What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
  - I am running for the Anderson Community School Board because I believe every student deserves access to excellent educational opportunities, every educator deserves support, and every family deserves a voice. Together, we can continue building strong schools and a stronger community.
- **Q3: How will you work with the community and school board to address the current challenges your school system is facing?**
  - I will address our challenges by building strong partnerships with the community and school board through transparency, active listening, and shared accountability. I will engage families, staff, students, and community leaders to understand concerns and align priorities. Working closely with the board, I will use data-driven decision making, communicate progress openly, and focus on solutions that improve student achievement, strengthen culture, and ensure responsible stewardship of resources. Together, we can create sustainable improvements that put students first.

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Q&A ANDERSON SCHOOL BOARD

SOUTH DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATES

Sheila (Shay) Fakhreddine (NPA)

- **Q1: What strengths and experiences could you bring to this office?**
  - I bring a lifelong commitment to children, families, and communities, along with firsthand experience navigating Indiana's child-serving systems. As a former youth advocate, foster family trainer, educator, Family Case Manager, and current Wraparound Facilitator, I have worked alongside students, families, educators, schools, and community partners to address challenges and create meaningful solutions. As a parent and community member, I understand the importance of listening, collaboration, and accountability. I will bring a balanced, child-centered perspective to the Board, with a focus on supporting educators and staff, engaging families, removing barriers, and ensuring every student has the opportunity and resources to succeed.
- **Q2: What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
  - 1. Every Child Deserves a Champion. Every student deserves to be seen, supported, believed in, and given the opportunity to succeed. I will keep students at the center of every decision.
  - 2. Listen, Collaborate, Lead. Strong schools are built on relationships and trust. I will listen to students, families, educators, staff, and our community and work together to find solutions.
  - 3. Invest in Our Future. I will advocate for strong schools, responsible stewardship, meaningful opportunities, and community partnerships that prepare every student for success after graduation, whether through college, career, trades, entrepreneurship, or the workforce.

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Q&A ANDERSON SCHOOL BOARD

SOUTH DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATES

Sheila (Shay) Fakhreddine (Continued)

- **Q3: How will you work with the community and school board to address the current challenges your school system is facing?**
  - I will work collaboratively with the school board and community by listening, building trust, and keeping students at the center of every decision. My experience as a parent, educator, child welfare professional, and Wraparound Facilitator has taught me that lasting solutions come from working together. I will listen to students, families, educators, staff, and community partners to understand challenges and identify practical solutions. I will support strong community partnerships and advocate for opportunities that help every student succeed. Most importantly, I will lead with transparency, compassion, accountability, and a willingness to have difficult conversations.

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Q&A ANDERSON SCHOOL BOARD

SOUTH DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATES

Cathy Hodson (NPA)

- **Q1: What strengths and experiences could you bring to this office?**
  - Some personal strengths of mine are teamwork, listening to others, respect different views, support group decisions, and most importantly to explain my views and beliefs and not be bullied or being a rubber-stamp for others. Integrity, being fair and committed in doing what is best for all children in our district and community.
  - Composure, staying professional and calm during meetings that are controversial.
  - I bring 39 years of experience involving elementary, middle-school, and high school Special Education and classroom teaching.
  - I am also a licensed school counselor/social worker and have been instrumental in scheduling hundreds of students in Anderson Community Schools.
- **Q2: What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
  - 1. To return transparency to the teachers, staff, and to the parents of our children.
  - 2. I will serve support and stand-up for each and every student, educator, and family in Anderson Community Schools.
  - 3. To focus on and learn more about the safety of our busses and schools.

Q&A ANDERSON SCHOOL BOARD

SOUTH DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATES

Cathy Hodson (Continued)

- **Q3: How will you work with the community and school board to address the current challenges your school system is facing?**
  - The biggest challenges (other than the hiring of a new superintendent) :
    - (1) increase student enrollment
    - (2) increase test scores of our children
    - (3) funding
  - I would continue and be more involved with our Public Relations director —Brad Meadows.
  - Having had been in charge of state testing for multiple years at the middle school , I would work closely with persons involved in the present testing of our students.
  - I am anxious to share our successes with my colleagues on the board and interested community persons.
  - I would like to be more involved in searching out additional grants for the funding of our system..

LOCAL RACE SNAPSHOT

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ANDERSON SCHOOL BOARD **AT LARGE** CANDIDATES

Vote for one (1) only

Olunda K. Hunt (D)

- **This candidate withdrew, but may still appear on the ballot.**

Aufwiedersehen Morris-May (D)

- **Email:** vedafna@hotmail.com

JoAnna G. Collette (NPA)- incumbent*

- **Email:** jgcollette@comcast.net

Margie Harvey (NPA)

- **This candidate withdrew, but may still appear on the ballot.**

Neal Alan Prange (NPA)

- **Facebook:** Neal Prange for Anderson Community School Corporation School Board
- **Email:** Prange4ACS@gmail.com

Role Description on page 89
***Incumbent:** This is the person who currently holds an office.

LOCAL RACE SNAPSHOT

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ANDERSON SCHOOL BOARD
CENTRAL DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATES

Vote for one (1) only

Robert (Buckie) Bookhart (NPA)- incumbent*

- **Email:** buckie.bookhart@gmail.com

Jonathan Trick (NPA)

- **Facebook:** Jonathan Trick for Anderson Community School Board
- **Email:** electjonathantrick@gmail.com

ANDERSON SCHOOL BOARD
EAST DISTRICT 1 CANDIDATES

Vote for one (1) only

Nickolas W. Freeman (R)

- **Facebook:** Nickolas W. Freeman for Anderson School Board
- **Email:** freemanforandersonschools@gmail.com

Olivia Reyes (IND)

- **Facebook:** https://www.facebook.com/ReyesForEastDistrict
- **Email:** livmoryes95@gmail.com

Role Description on page 89
***Incumbent:** This is the person who currently holds an office.

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SNAPSHOT

ANDERSON SCHOOL BOARD
EAST DISTRICT 1 CANDIDATES

Vote for one (1) only

Lindsay Brown (NPA)

- **Facebook:** Lindsay Brown For School Board
- **Email:** lindsaybrowndb@gmail.com

Laura Crenshaw (NPA)

- **Email:** llcrenshaw@gmail.com

Patrick (Pat) Hill (NPA)- incumbent*

- **Facebook:** Pat A Hill
- **Email:** pat.hill@gmail.com

Role Description on page 89
***Incumbent:** This is the person who currently holds an office.

LOCAL RACE SNAPSHOT

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ANDERSON SCHOOL BOARD
SOUTH DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATES

Vote for one (1) only

Mary Baker-Boudissa (NPA)

- **Facebook:** Baker-Boudissa for ACS School Board
- **Email:** Mary.bakerboudissa@gmail.com

Eric T. Davis (NPA)

- **Facebook:** ERIC T. DAVIS for Anderson Community School Board
- **Email:** eterialdavis04@gmail.com

Shelia (Shay) Fakhreddine (NPA)

- **Facebook:** Sheila "Shay" Fakhreddine for ACS School Board
- **Email:** sheilafakhredine@gmail.com

Cathy Hodson (NPA)

- **Email:** Cat.ken.ten@gmail.com

School Board's Role: Madison County schools' school board members are elected. "School boards establish the direction and structure of their school districts by adopting policies through the authority granted by the state legislature. School board policies have the force of law equal to statutes or ordinances. Policies establish directions for the district; they set the goals, assign authority, and establish controls that make school governance and management possible. These policies are one of the means by which educators are accountable to the public" (Here is Your Indiana Government, 2024-2025, p. 101).

Note: No matter what district you live in, you vote for all of the school board positions, whether they are a district or at-large. School board candidates do not run under a party affiliation.

*__Incumbent__: This is the person who currently holds an office.

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Q&A ELWOOD SCHOOL BOARD

AT LARGE CANDIDATES

Vote for two (2) only

Steven Mireles (NPA)

- **This candidate was contacted with the questions multiple ways and did not respond.**

David (Mike) Peterson (NPA)- incumbent*

- **Q1: What strengths and experiences could you bring to this office?**
  - I am running for my second term of the board. I have been in retail management for close to 30 years and have worked with budgets and payroll.
- **Q2: What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
  - Every decision that I make in this position, I make for the kids. I will always put our kids first. We have made so great strides in the school system and I believe that we will continue to get better get year.
- **Q3: How will you work with the community and school board to address the current challenges your school system is facing?**
  - I am always open to anyone who wants to talk or has any questions. We have so hard decisions ahead of us as a school system but I will always do what is best for our kids.

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

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Q&A ELWOOD SCHOOL BOARD

AT LARGE CANDIDATES

Vote for two (2) only

Sandra Ratliff (NPA)- incumbent*

- **Q1: What strengths and experiences could you bring to this office?**
  - I was on Elwood school board for over 8 years (2008-2016), someone came to me and said Elwood needs you back on the school board, so I ran and was elected back on in 2022. I was also a preschool teacher for many years.
  - I bring a lot of experience to the board, with everything going on with state funding for schools, I think my knowledge/experience is very important.
- **Q2: What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
  - I want to do what is best for our students, staff and community.
  - Together we can make things happen.
  - Experience is important.
- **Q3: How will you work with the community and school board to address the current challenges your school system is facing?**
  - I am very involved with our community. I belong to a number of clubs , organizations , committees and park board. I talk about the challenges and some of the ways we, as a school corporation have "tightened our belt" and why the corporation now need to put the referendum on the ballot, what could happen if the referendum does not pass and what will happen if it does.

Joseph Greg Tackett (NPA)

- **This candidate was contacted with the questions multiple ways and did not respond.**

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

LOCAL RACE SNAPSHOT

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ELWOOD SCHOOL BOARD **AT LARGE** CANDIDATES

Vote for two (2) only

Steven Mireles (NPA)

- **Email:** alex.mireles@emscchurch.org

David (Mike) Peterson (NPA)- incumbent*

- **Email:** Mikepeterson79@comcast.net

Sandra Ratliff (NPA)- incumbent*

- **Email:** saratliff@elwood.k12.in.us

Joseph Greg Tackett (NPA)

- **Email:** jgregtackett@yahoo.com

School Board's Role: Madison County schools' school board members are elected. "School boards establish the direction and structure of their school districts by adopting policies through the authority granted by the state legislature. School board policies have the force of law equal to statutes or ordinances. Policies establish directions for the district; they set the goals, assign authority, and establish controls that make school governance and management possible. These policies are one of the means by which educators are accountable to the public" (Here is Your Indiana Government, 2024-2025, p. 101).

Note: No matter what district you live in, you vote for all of the school board positions, whether they are a district or at-large. School board candidates do not run under a party affiliation.

*__Incumbent__: This is the person who currently holds an office.

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Q&A MADISON-GRANT SCHOOL BOARD

DISTRICT 3 FAIRMOUNT CANDIDATES

Vote for one (1) only

Katti Sneed (NPA)- incumbent*

- **Q1: What strengths and experiences could you bring to this office?**
  - I am seeking re-election to the MG School Board because of my commitment to education and student success. With approximately ten years of service on the board, I bring experience, leadership, and a strong understanding of our district's needs. As a professor at Indiana Wesleyan University and the developer and director of its Master of Social Work program, I have experience in educational leadership, strategic planning, and budget oversight. My background as a social worker gives me a deep appreciation for the social and emotional well-being of students and the impact it has on learning. I am dedicated to supporting students, families, and staff while helping our schools remain strong, accountable, and focused on excellence.
- **Q2: What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
  - Educational Excellence: I am committed to maintaining high academic standards, supporting great teachers, and ensuring responsible stewardship of resources.
  - Whole Student Success: Students are more than their test scores. Students thrive when their academic, social, and emotional needs are supported. I will advocate for safe, supportive learning environments where every student can reach their full potential.
  - Community Partnership: Strong schools depend on strong communities. I will continue to listen, collaborate, and build trust with families, staff, and community members to ensure MG Schools remain a source of pride and opportunity for all.

NOTE: This Q&A section does not include those who are running unopposed.
*__Incumbent__: This is the person who currently holds an office.

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Q&A MADISON-GRANT SCHOOL BOARD

DISTRICT 3 FAIRMOUNT CANDIDATES

Vote for one (1) only

Katti Sneed (Continued)

- **Q3: How will you work with the community and school board to address the current challenges your school system is facing?**
  - Senate Bill 1 presents significant financial challenges for public schools, requiring thoughtful planning and strong community partnerships. I have and will work with fellow board members, administrators, staff, parents, and community leaders to identify priorities, use resources wisely, and maintain transparency in decision-making. My goal is to protect academic excellence, student support services, and safe learning environments while advocating for sustainable funding. Together, we can navigate these challenges and continue providing students with the high-quality education they deserve.

Dylan C. Vector (NPA)

- **This candidate was contacted with the questions multiple ways and did not respond.**

NOTE: This Q&A section does not include those who are running unopposed.
*__Incumbent__: This is the person who currently holds an office.

LOCAL RACE SNAPSHOT

MADISON-GRANT SCHOOL BOARD

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DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATES

John Hanes (R)- incumbent*

- None found

DISTRICT 3 FAIRMOUNT CANDIDATES

Katti Sneed (NPA)- incumbent*

- Email: katti.sneed@indwes.edu

Dylan C. Vector (NPA)

- Email: dylanvetor@gmail.com

DISTRICT 4 VAN BUREN CANDIDATES

Donald Bruce Stanley (R)- incumbent*

- None found

DISTRICT 7 TOWN OF FAIRMOUNT CANDIDATES

Erik Davidson (R)

- Email: Erik.davidson@va.gov

Role Description on page 97
***Incumbent:** This is the person who currently holds an office.

LOCAL RACE SNAPSHOT

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ALEXANDRIA SCHOOL BOARD

DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATES

Barrett Key (NPA)

- Email: bkey@clarkig.com

DISTRICT 3 CANDIDATES

Kyle Williams (R)- incumbent*

- None found

FRANKTON-LAPEL SCHOOL BOARD

AT LARGE, DISTRICT 7 CANDIDATES

Seth Bays (NPA)

- Email: seth.bays@flcs.k12.in.us

DISTRICT 5 LAPEL CANDIDATES

Landon Paddock (NPA)

- Email: ljpaddock@live.com

DISTRICT 6 FRANKTON CANDIDATES

Billie B. Brobston Jr. (NPA)

- None found

Role Description on page 97
***Incumbent:** This is the person who currently holds an office.

LOCAL RACE SNAPSHOT

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SOUTH MADISON SCHOOL BOARD

DISTRICT 1 ADAMS CANDIDATES

Kevin T. Ginder (NPA)- incumbent*

- Email: ktginder@gmail.com

DISTRICT 2 FALL CREEK CANDIDATES

Tom Jewell (R)

- Email: tjewell@acsc.net

DISTRICT 3 GREEN CANDIDATES

Craig Lee (NPA)

- Email: craigscottlee@gmail.com

School Board's Role: Madison County schools' school board members are elected. "School boards establish the direction and structure of their school districts by adopting policies through the authority granted by the state legislature. School board policies have the force of law equal to statutes or ordinances. Policies establish directions for the district; they set the goals, assign authority, and establish controls that make school governance and management possible. These policies are one of the means by which educators are accountable to the public" (Here is Your Indiana Government, 2024-2025, p. 101).

Note: No matter what district you live in, you vote for all of the school board positions, whether they are a district or at-large. School board candidates do not run under a party affiliation.

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

LOCAL RACE SNAPSHOT

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TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE CANDIDATES

ADAMS TOWNSHIP

- **Lana Evans (R) -** lana.evans7@yahoo.com
- **Kimberly Bell (D)**

ANDERSON TOWNSHIP

- **Michael (Mike) Shively (R) - incumbent* -** michael.shively@att.net
- **Obadiah Smith Jr. (D) -** obadiahsmithjr@gmail.com

BOONE TOWNSHIP

- **Lisa Schwinn (R) - incumbent* -** rlschwinn4@yahoo.com
- **No Democratic candidate filed**

DUCK CREEK TOWNSHIP

- **No Republican & Democratic candidate filed**
- **Michael Bell (IND)** - smiley9636@yahoo.com

FALL CREEK TOWNSHIP

- **Marcy DeShong (R) -** marcyd@midwest-remodeling.com
- **Fred Keith Gaskill (D) - incumbent* -** f.gaskill@comcast.net

GREEN TOWNSHIP

- **Greg Valentine (R) - incumbent* -** greg.valentine1945@yahoo.com
- **No Democratic candidate filed**

JACKSON TOWNSHIP

- **Joshua Miller (R)**
- **No Democratic candidate filed**

Role Description on page 100

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

LOCAL RACE SNAPSHOT

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TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE CANDIDATES

LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP

- **Jeremy Chubb (R) -** chubbforlaftownshiptrustee@gmail.com
- **No Democratic candidate filed**

MONROE TOWNSHIP

- **George (Chip) McFerran (R) - incumbent* -** cmcferran2@comcast.net
- **No Democratic candidate filed**

PIPE CREEK TOWNSHIP

- **Patrick Hoose (R)**
- **Lisa Hobbs (D) -** hobbs8827@yahoo.com

RICHLAND TOWNSHIP

- **Douglas Stein (R) -incumbent* -** doug.c.stein@gmail.com
- **No Democratic candidate filed**

STONY CREEK TOWNSHIP

- **Alan Bays (R) -** akbays82@gmail.com
- **No Democratic candidate filed**

Role Description on page 100
***Incumbent:** This is the person who currently holds an office.

LOCAL RACE

SNAPSHOT

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TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE CANDIDATES

UNION TOWNSHIP

- **Timothy (Tim) Dunham (R) - incumbent* -** timdunham808@gmail.com
- **No Democratic candidate filed**

VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP

- **Dee Amos (R) - incumbent* -** d.amos@sbcglobal.net
- **No Democratic candidate filed**

Township Trustee's Role: The Township Trustee is the chief financial officer of the township. They are responsible for fire protection and ambulance services to unincorporated areas of the township, income assistance fore those in poverty, burial assistance for those who cannot afford a burial for a loved one, cemetery maintenance, weed control, and disputes between neighbors regarding fencing (Center Township Trustee's Office).

*__Incumbent__: This is the person who currently holds an office

LOCAL RACE SNAPSHOT

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TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBER CANDIDATES

Vote for three (3) only per township

ADAMS TOWNSHIP

- **Nancy Lowe (R) - incumbent* -** thelowes28@yahoo.com
- **No Democratic candidate filed**

ANDERSON TOWNSHIP

- **Danny McGhee (R) -** myhom3@aol.com
- **Dan Murrell (R)**
- **Kevin Sulc (R) - incumbent* -** kevinasulc@gmail.com
- **Meredith (CoCo) Armstrong (D)**
- **Leandre (Andre) Smith (D) -** leandre.smith@gmail.com
- **Domanic Wills (D) -** domanicw@yahoo.com

BOONE TOWNSHIP

- **John R. Hiatt (R) -** johnrhiatt@gmail.com
- **Ryan Pattison (R) - incumbent***
- **No Democratic candidate filed**

DUCK CREEK TOWNSHIP

- **Andrew Williams (R) - incumbent*** awilliams@madisoncounty.in.gov
- **No Democratic candidate filed**

Role Description on page 104
***Incumbent:** This is the person who currently holds an office.

LOCAL RACE SNAPSHOT

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TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBER CANDIDATES

Vote for three (3) only per township

FALL CREEK TOWNSHIP

- **Robert (Bob) Adams (R)**
- **Beth Carey (R) -** bethc@midwest-remodeling.com
- **David L. Martin (R) -** dmartin887@sbcglobal.net
- **No Democratic candidate filed**

GREEN TOWNSHIP

- **Jerry Manges (R) - incumbent* -** jerry.manges@gmail.com
- **Sharon Robinson (R) - incumbent***
- **Farrell Jason Smith (R) - incumbent***
- **No Democratic candidate filed**

JACKSON TOWNSHIP

- **No Republican or Democratic candidate filed**

LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP

- **Dennis Adams (R) -** da321_2006@yahoo.com
- **Bryan Frank (R) -** fi978@yahoo.com
- **David (Dave) Wise (R) - incumbent* -** wisedavid40@yahoo.com
- **Patricia (Patty) Mauck (D) - incumbent* -** pattymauck89@gmail.com

Role Description on page 104
***Incumbent:** This is the person who currently holds an office.

LOCAL RACE SNAPSHOT

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TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBER CANDIDATES

Vote for three (3) only per township

MONROE TOWNSHIP

- **Sarah Collis (R) - incumbent* -** simplysarahs2021@gmail.com
- **Valerie Jerrils (R) - incumbent* -** vjerrils@att.net
- **Jennifer Ward (R) - incumbent* -** rugddwad@yahoo.com
- **No Democratic candidate filed**

PIPE CREEK TOWNSHIP

- **Joseph Miller (R) - incumbent* -** joejanejess@hotmail.com
- **Tonita (Toni) Perkins (R) -** toniperkins49@gmail.com
- **Richard Shepherd (R) -** richard@shepherdauctioners.com
- **Shelia McPhearson (D) - incumbent* -** srmcphearson@ymail.com
- **Jeffery Myers (D) -** oldpollardinn@hotmail.com

RICHLAND TOWNSHIP

- **Dale Russell Cook (R) - incumbent***
- **Michelle Davis (R) - incumbent***
- **Horace (Bill) England (R) - incumbent* -** beboiler@yahoo.com
- **No Democratic candidate filed**

STONY CREEK TOWNSHIP

- **Jeffrey Thomas Purdue (R) -** jeffpurdue1@gmail.com
- **Rob Trotter (R)**
- **Connie Sears (D) -** b.ll_sears76@hotmail.com
- **Tom Shelton (D)-** tashelton70@gmail.com

Role Description on page 104

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

LOCAL RACE SNAPSHOT

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TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBER CANDIDATES

Vote for three (3) only per township

UNION TOWNSHIP

- **Lloyd Brown (R) - incumbent* -** lloyd.brown_anderson@outlook.com
- **Jack Odle (R) - incumbent* -** jrodle@sbcglobal.net
- **Russ Willis (R)**
- **No Democratic candidate filed**

VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP

- **Ralph Gordon (R) - incumbent* -** screenmanw1@yahoo.com
- **Stephen Andrew Waller (D) - incumbent* -** steve-waller@sbcglobal.net

Township Board's Role: Township Board Members serve as advisors to the Township Trustee. They also approve the annual budget and township contracts (Center Township Trustee's Office).

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

LOCAL RACE SNAPSHOT

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INGALLS TOWN COUNCIL CANDIDATES

At Large, Vote for two (2) only

Crystal Everhart (R) - incumbent*

- Email: ceverhart531@gmail.com

Cody Head (R)

- Facebook: Cody Head for Ingalls Town Council
- Email: codyheadforingalls@gmail.com

Georgia Parker (D) - incumbent*

- Email: gcpark121146@gmail.com

LAPEL TOWN COUNCIL CANDIDATES

At Large, Vote for two (2) only

Roger Fouse (R) - incumbent*

- Email: rfouse3109@gmail.com

Lindsay Washmuth (R) - incumbent*

- Email: lindsay.washmuth@ascension.org

No Democratic candidate filed

PENDLETON TOWN COUNCIL CANDIDATES

At Large, Seat 2 Vote for one (1) only

Jennifer Roberts (R)

- Email: jenniferl_roberts@hotmail.com

No Democratic candidate filed

PENDLETON TOWN COUNCIL CANDIDATES

District 3 Vote for one (1) only

Bryan Williams (R) - incumbent*

- Email: bwilliamslaw@comcast.net

No Democratic candidate filed

Role Description on page 106

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

LOCAL RACE SNAPSHOT

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SUMMITVILLE TOWN COUNCIL CANDIDATES

At Large, Vote for two (2) only

Steve Conrad (R) - incumbent*

- None available

No Democratic candidate filed

SUMMITVILLE TOWN COUNCIL CANDIDATES

District 1 Vote for one (1) only

No Republican candidate filed

Dedira Ann Pierce (D) - incumbent*

- Facebook: Dedira Pierce
- Email: dpierce2333@icloud.com

Town Council's Role: " The legislative body of the town. May pass a resolution between January 1 and August 8 before the town's election to establish a town election board to conduct that election. In the case where the county election board conducts the town's election, the town council can enter into an agreement with the county election board to reimburse the county at a certain amount to cover conducting the election and makes appropriations to the county to cover those costs. Additionally, the town council can adopt an ordinance not later than January 1, 2023, to have Democratic and Republican candidates for town office nominated at a primary election conducted by the county election board." (IN.gov).

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

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PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON BALLOT

Ratification of State Constitutional Amendment

These questions will be asked at the beginning of the ballot.

Public Question #1:

Currently, under the Constitution of the State of Indiana, a person charged with murder or treason is not entitled to be released on bail if the proof is evident or the presumption strong.

Shall the Constitution of the State of Indiana be amended to provide that a person charged with an offense other than murder or treason is not entitled to bail if: (1) the proof is evident or the presumption strong; and (2) the state proves by clear and convincing evidence that no release conditions will reasonably protect the safety of any other person or the community. (This question concerns Article 1, Section 17 of the Constitution of the State of Indiana.)
Yes
No

Public Question #2:

Shall the Constitution of the State of Indiana be amended to permit the judge of a city or town court to reside in: (1) the county in which the court is located; or (2) the bordering county closest to the city or town in which the court is located? (This question concerns Article 6, Section 6 of the Constitution of the State of Indiana.)
Yes
No

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JUDGE RETENTION QUESTIONS

COURT OF APPEALS JUDICIAL RETENTION

SECOND DISTRICT

Shall Judge Dana J. Kenworthy be retained in office?

FOURTH DISTRICT

Shall Judge Mary A. DeBoer be retained in office?

FIFTH DISTRICT

Shall Judge Paul A. Felix be retained in office?

RETENTION OF JUDGE OF THE INDIANA TAX COURT

Shall Judge Justin L. McAdam be retained in office?

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PREPARE TO VOTE IN THE GENERAL ELECTION

KEEP IN MIND WHEN PLANNING TO VOTE

- **Do your research on the candidates** using this guide and also looking into candidate websites, social media pages and even emailing or calling them with questions, concerns and comments you have as a concerned citizen.
- **Choose 1-3 elected offices to research and vote for** if you feel overwhelmed about researching 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.

FOR VOTING INFORMATION GO TO HTTPS://INDIANAVOTERS.IN.GOV/

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HOW THE GUIDE WAS CREATED

COLLABORATION

- Special acknowledgement of Ball State University student intern with Heart of Indiana United Way, Mia Palacios, pursuing a Bachelor of Psychology degree, for her extensive work on this guide through research and creation.
- Thank you to Community Lens of Anderson (CLA) and their team for providing training and resources for this guide. Special thank you to Maria Alexander, Cherilyn Horning, and Candy Short for their research and editing support.
- Thank you to Heart of Indiana United Way staff who provided the project management and support for the project.

UTILIZED TRUSTED SOURCES

- Madison County Election Office
- Websites: indianavoters.in.gov; ballotready.org; ballotpedia.org
- "Here is Your Indiana Government" publication from the Indiana Bar Foundation and Indiana Chamber of Commerce
- Anderson Community Schools and Elwood Community Schools
- Local community members
- Special thank you to the candidates running for each office and also the candidates who we sent questions to and responded with answers.

SELECTED CANDIDATES TO SEND OUR Q&A

- We chose candidates from the Federal, State, and Local levels to send questions to for our Q&A sections of the guide. We relayed the answers they provided verbatim.

CHECKS & BALANCES

- There are times when candidates are removed from lists because they have pulled out of the race or they don't meet requirements for candidacy. We do our best to keep track of these changes. We recognize mistakes can be made in this process as it is ongoing through election season. There are several checks and balances we use within CLA, Heart of Indiana United Way, and also with the above resources to make this guide as accurate as possible.

FEEDBACK

- **We want your feedback!** Fill out our Google Form at https://forms.gle/fdR87tkxiZXtr1iTA so that we can learn how to improve this guide!
- We recognize we are not perfect and this guide isn't perfect. If you have reason to believe there is missing, incorrect, or inaccurate information in this guide, please contact us:
  - Annie Wood Bell, Heart of Indiana United Way: awoodbell@heartofindiana.org