



2023 GENERAL ELECTION VOTER GUIDE

KNOW YOUR CANDIDATES WHEN YOU VOTE

Designed for Voters in Anderson, IN
Election Day: Tuesday, November 7, 2023

Non-partisan Voter Guide
developed in
collaboration with:



communitylensanderson.org



Heart of Indiana
United Way

heartofindianaunitedway.org



HIGHLIGHTING THE MISSIONS:



Community Lens of Anderson is a grassroots initiative, formed in May 2021.

We exist to reduce civic apathy and increase transparency in local government through awareness, education, and advocacy. Building a civically engaged community one voice at a time!

 communitylensanderson.org

 Community Lens of Anderson

 admin@communitylensanderson.org



Heart of Indiana
United Way

Heart of Indiana United Way formed in 2021 and will create lasting changes and a brighter future for the communities in Delaware, Fayette, Henry, Madison, and Randolph counties.

Our mission is to improve the quality of life in our community by engaging people and organizations to advance education, income and health outcomes for all.

 heartofindianaunitedway.org

 Heart of Indiana United Way

 office@heartofindiana.org



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For Voters in Anderson, IN

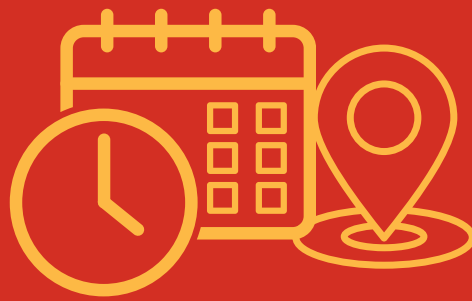


**Get Informed by following this non-partisan guide.
Take as little as 5 minutes and as much as 2 hours.**

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2023 GENERAL ELECTION VOTER GUIDE

For Voters in Anderson, IN

PREPARE TO VOTE WITH DATE, TIME AND LOCATION

- **General Election Day:** Tuesday, November 7, 2023, 6am-6pm. Choose **ANY** voting site.
- **Register to Vote by October 10, 2023**
- **Application to Vote Absentee:** Submit no later than 12 days before Election Day, by October 25th or 26th at the latest.
 - in.gov/sos/elections/voter-information/ways-to-vote/absentee-voting/
- **Identify your district:** visit <https://bit.ly/3mxaF9W>
- **Early voting begins in October**, each site varies on early vote start date and hours. For early voting polling places and hours visit indianavoters.in.gov
- **Satellite early-voting and voting day sites (locations other than Anderson bolded):**
 - Alethia Fellowship Church, 2505 Faith Drive.
 - Anderson Zion Baptist Church, 2008 Rev. J.T. Meniffee St.
 - Cross Roads United Methodist Church, 2000 N. Scatterfield Road
 - Elwood City Hall, 1505 S. B Street, **Elwood, IN**
 - Madison County 4-H Building, 512 E. 4th Street, **Alexandria, IN**
 - Madison County Government Center, 16 E. 9th Street (not in operation on Election Day)
 - Pendleton Community Library, 595 E. Water Street, **Pendleton, IN**
 - UAW Local 1963, 2840 S. Madison Ave.
- **Election Day Only (November 7) voting sites:**
 - Anderson Community Schools administration building, 1600 Hillcrest Ave.
 - Anderson Fire Department Station 3, 2103 Columbus Ave.
 - East Main Street Christian Church, 1801 Main Street, **Elwood, IN**
 - Lapel Lions Club, 329 South Main St.
 - Main Street Church of God, 4211 S. Main St.
 - National Guard Armory, 125 Scatterfield Road
 - Orestes Town Hall, 14 W. Oak Street, Orestes, IN
 - Parkview Nazarene Church, 911 S. Rangeline Road
 - Pendleton Christian Church, 1170 S. Pendleton Ave., **Pendleton, IN**
 - Wesley Free Methodist Church, 3017 W. 8th St.
 - Whetstone Christian Church, 5940 S. Madison Ave.

For voting information go to <https://indianavoters.in.gov/>





2023 PRIMARY VOTER GUIDE

For Voters in Anderson, IN

TIPS WHEN VOTING



HOW GENERAL VOTING WORKS WITH PARTIES

Straight ticket vs. Split ticket voting

- **Straight ticket voting:** Voting for only one party of candidates in an election.
 - This limits your choice in voting because it focuses on R or D parties versus who you believe is the most qualified candidate based on your values and policy preferences.
 - Only 6 states offer straight ticket voting
- **Split Ticket Voting:** Voting for candidates of different parties for different offices at the same election.
 - Policy balancing model- you want to select based on different policies among varying candidates across parties.
 - Different expectations of slated candidates among various parties.
 - Overall quality of candidates differs and you want choice with each candidate you deem best.
 - This is especially important to give you choice for city council and for at-large positions.

Identify your district: <https://bit.ly/3mxaF9W>

KEEP IN MIND WHEN PLANNING TO VOTE

- **Do your research on the candidates** using this guide and also looking into their websites, social media pages and even emailing them with questions, concerns and comments you have as an engaged citizen.
- **Choose 1-3 elected offices to research and vote for** if you feel overwhelmed about searching all of the candidates. There is no rule that you have to research and vote for every single office.
- **Take your candidate list of who you plan to vote for to the voting center.** 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. You can also find a simple list of who is on your ballot by going to indianavoters.in.gov, selecting "Who's on the ballot", putting your information in and scrolling down to "Who's on the ballot?".

For voting information Go to <https://indianavoters.in.gov/>





KNOW YOUR CANDIDATES

SNAPSHOT OF MAYORAL RACE CANDIDATES



Role description: The city executive and head of the executive branch and executive cabinet. Being a part of the executive branch of the local government, the Mayor is responsible for the enforcement of laws and regulations in a city.

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

Note:

- Names placed in alphabetical order, by party. Information obtained through candidate campaign materials, social media, candidate websites, and directly from candidates.
- Relevant employment and experience history is in each candidate's words with some structural revisions from the Voter Guide creators to keep consistency of flow in the guide.
- "Stated priorities" information was retrieved from available materials distributed by candidates, and candidate responses.
- ** Denotes the candidate was contacted to provide this information, with no response. Also denotes information provided was found by the creators of this Voter Guide. If no information was provided, no information was found using reasonable research.

Mayoral Candidates

- **Jon K. Bell (R)**
 - Email: jkbell@gmail.com
 - Website: <https://votejonbell.com/>
 - Relevant employment and experience history: Dedicated to public service but along the way has worked as a machinist, a hired hand on a Nebraska cattle ranch, in an accounting office for Agriculture; has worked in business development and construction management of multi-million dollar projects; and is a retired police officer from Anderson currently working for Community Health Network and finishing up his second term as an Anderson City Council Member.
 - Stated Priorities: Improve public safety; improve transparency in city government; and bring new jobs/opportunities to Anderson.
- **Thomas Broderick Jr. (D)**
 - Incumbent
 - Email: mayorthomasbroderick@gmail.com
 - Website: <http://mayorbroderick.com/>
 - Facebook: [mayorbroderick](#)
 - Instagram: [@votebroderick](#)
 - X (Twitter): [@votebroderick](#)





KNOW YOUR CANDIDATES

SNAPSHOT OF MAYORAL RACE CANDIDATES



Mayoral Candidates Continued

- **Thomas Broderick Jr. (D) continued**

- Relevant employment and experience history: Serving as Anderson Mayor for nearly 8 years; Chief Deputy and elected County Prosecutor for 12 years; elected and served on Madison County Council (President twice) for 12 years; served as attorney for Anderson City and Anderson Redevelopment Commission, Park Board, Merit Commission, Board of Public Safety, Human Relations Commission; downtown business owner, Broderick Law Office for 33 years. Graduate of Ball State University (B.S.) and Indiana School of Law (J.D.).
- Stated priorities:
 - Continue our quality-of-life initiatives by attracting new businesses and jobs, continue to upgrade our park and recreational amenities, and maintain our first-rate public safety, to help keep our community safe; while continuing our efforts at community redevelopment through blight elimination, new infield developments, and CDBG programs.
 - Grow our community through marketing and development of new housing starts that include homes for workers, families and executives, as well as quality affordable housing and quality apartment options.
 - Continued investment in our aging infrastructure, including expansion of our Lafayette Water Treatment plant, adding new wells, and replacing old distribution mains; all of which will ensure plentiful safe drinking water; and continue with our annual paving projects to keep our streets safe.

- **Douglas McNaughton Sr. (L)**

- Email: admin@douglasmcnaughton.com
- Relevant employment and experience history: Worked as an Automation Engineer for over 30 years and has traveled the world in that capacity seeing what does and does not work for communities to progress.
- Stated Priorities: 1. Make an attractive tax package to encourage high tech companies to move to Anderson. 2. Relax zoning requirements for business so that it is easier for startup companies to come to Anderson. 3. Repair streetlights.

- **John Dyer (I)**

- Email: cburkhardt6213@hotmail.com
- Relevant employment and experience history: None provided.
- Stated Priorities: None provided.





KNOW YOUR CANDIDATES



SNAPSHOT OF THE CITY COUNCIL RACE

Role description: The City Council is a part of the legislative body of local government. It is referred to as the "Common Council" in Anderson, IN. The Common Council is responsible for the creation of new laws and regulations in a city. With the help of the Mayor, the common council helps create new laws. (City of Anderson Administrative Codes)

There are six districts in Anderson, with one council member per district and three at-large council members, totaling nine members in all.

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

Note: Names placed in alphabetical order, by party. Information obtained through candidate campaign materials, social media, candidate websites, and directly from candidates.

** Denotes candidate was contacted to provide this information, with no response. Also denotes information provided was found by the creators of this Voter Guide. If no information was provided, no information was found using reasonable research.

At Large Republican City Council Candidates 3 can be selected from either party when voting

- **Tiffany Harless (R)**
 - Email: harless4council@gmail.com
 - Twitter @ harless4council
 - Instagram @ harless4council
 - Relevant employment and experience history: Presently works for the Anderson Township Trustee's Office as a Case Worker, serving the public, particularly the lower income population. Prior to that, was employed with Aspire and served the severely mentally ill population in Madison County as a Life Skills Coach and a Care Coordinator. Has obtained 3 degrees, 2 are Psychology degrees. Almost ready to start working on her dissertation for her doctoral degree in Psychology as well. Candidate has served many years in customer service; has been a new hire trainer; has factory machine work experience and certifications as a result of that work.





SNAPSHOT OF THE CITY COUNCIL RACE AT-LARGE



At-Large Republican City Council Candidates Continued

- **Rachel Lee Landers (R)**

- Email: rachelleelanders2023@gmail.com
- Website: <https://www.rachelleelanders.com/>
- Social Media:
 - Facebook: personal page, 100% public posts, under "Rachel Lee Landers"
 - Campaign page under "Elect Rachel Lee Landers"
- Relevant employment and experience history:
 - 1988: Graduated high school from Madison Heights High School
 - 1992: Graduated from Ball State University with a B.S. in Psychology
 - 1993-94: Residential Counselor of the chronically mentally ill at The Center for Mental Health
 - 1994-99 and 2008-09: Residential Counselor of at-risk youth at the Madison County Youth Center
 - 2001-present: Photographer at Rachel Lee Photography
 - 2004-11: Cubmaster at Cub Scouts with the Boy Scouts of America
 - 2004-present: Philanthropist and Volunteer
 - 2008-09: Substitute Librarian at Indiana Christian Academy
 - 2009-16: Homeschool Teacher at White River Christian Co-op
 - 2015-present: Travel Agent at Travel with Rachel Lee
 - 2022-present: Founder of Larry's Legacy: In Memory of Larry "The Can Man" Van Ness

- **Mark Turner (R)**

- Email: none provided
- Relevant employment and experience history**: Planning Commission at City of Anderson; owner of Aqua Systems.





SNAPSHOT OF THE CITY COUNCIL RACE AT-LARGE



At-Large Democratic City Council Candidates

- **Meredith (Coco) Armstrong (D)**
 - Email: bellarmstrong12@yahoo.com
 - Relevant employment and experience history: Always has been a concerned citizen; has worked with youth and seniors; active in church and held a lot of positions; also active in a lot of organizations.
- **Anthony (Ty) Bibbs (D)**
 - Incumbent
 - Email: bibbscitycouncil@yahoo.com
 - Social Media: Candidate stated, "As an Educator, in a K-12 school corporation, my professors strongly advised prospective educators to greatly limit one's social media exposure. As a result, I have chosen to refrain completely."
 - Relevant employment and experience history: An educator for 20 years; has worked for the Anderson Community School Corporation (ACSC) and for Anderson Preparatory Academy; in ACSC, taught at Anderson Elem., College Corner Elem., Edgewood Elem., Killbuck Elem., Robinson Elem., Southview Elem., and Southside Middle School; in APA, taught at the K-2 Elementary School.
 - Education:
 - Anderson University (All Grade Physical Education Licensure) (GPA 4.0)
 - Ball State University (30+credit hours) (GPA 4.0)
 - Indiana University--Bloomington (B.S. in Recreation-Sport Management)
 - Graduated with High Distinction--Magna Cum Laude
- **Rebecca (Becky) Crumes (D)**
 - Incumbent
 - Email: rcrumes@sbcglobal.net; rcrumes@cityofanderson.com
 - Relevant employment and experience history: Currently serving 8th year as Anderson City Council At-Large member and 3rd time as President of City Council; retired UAW General Motors; former small business owner; Certified Municipal Official (Municipal Management Institute).





CITY COUNCIL DISTRICTS



SNAPSHOT OF THE CITY COUNCIL RACE: DISTRICTS 1 & 2

To determine your district visit <https://bit.ly/3mxaF9W>

District 1 City Council Candidates

- **Jennifer Culp (R)**
 - Incumbent
 - Email: culpfamily5@icloud.com
 - Relevant employment and experience history: Has been on the city council for 7 years; has worked in the public school system; is a coach, health, nutrition and wellness coach.
- **Brandon Collins (L)**
 - Email: Collins.Brandon.M@gmail.com
 - Relevant employment and experience history:
 - Graduated from Pendleton Heights High School and pursued higher education through Ivy Tech Community College in Anderson, as well as Ball State University.
 - Obtained multiple degrees through Ivy Tech Community College of Anderson, while working full-time; experience in a multitude of workforce industries: blue collar, white collar, retail, food service, tech, and distribution; has worked alongside residents of Anderson from various backgrounds and economic opportunities.

District 2 City Council Candidates

- **John Poor (R)**
 - Email: none provided
 - Relevant employment and experience history*: none found.
- **Jeff Freeman (D)**
 - Incumbent
 - Email: jtfreeman6t6l@gmail.com
 - Relevant employment and experience history*: Currently on the city council.





CITY COUNCIL DISTRICTS



SNAPSHOT OF THE CITY COUNCIL RACE: DISTRICTS 3, 4 & 5

District 3 City Council Candidates

- **Greg Graham (D)**
 - Running unopposed
 - Email: greggraham1@comcast.net
 - Relevant employment and experience history: Previous member of the common council.

District 4 City Council Candidates

- **Ollie Dixon (D)**
 - Incumbent
 - Email: olliehdixon@aol.com
 - Relevant employment and experience history**: Currently on the city council; 32 years 4th ward councilman; former President and Vice President for Anderson City Council; Former President and Vice President for UAW local 663 president; 36 years Industrial Electrician for GM; 25 years business owner (Ollie D's and Bail Bonding); 32 years service to the community via the annual Back to School Parade and Picnic; initiated development of walking trail at Westvale/Jackson Park; served on UAW International Steering Committee; organized labor for the city of Anderson; awarded "Issac 'Ike' Weatherly Community Award."

District 5 City Council Candidates

- **Art Pepelea Jr. (R)**
 - Email: a pepelea@comcast.net
 - Relevant employment and experience history**: Insurance and investment broker; partner in Pepelea Insurance and Investments.
- **Lance Stephenson (D)**
 - Incumbent
 - Email: lancetstephenson@gmail.com
 - Relevant employment and experience history**: none found.





CITY COUNCIL DISTRICTS



SNAPSHOT OF THE CITY COUNCIL RACE: DISTRICTS 6

District 6 City Council Candidates

- **Marquest Higgins (R)**

- Email: quest@myanderson.solutions
- Website: www.myanderson.solutions
- Facebook: My Anderson Solutions <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61550227141878>
- Relevant employment and experience history:
 - Studied at DeVry Institute of Technology in Dacatur, Georgia
 - 1988-1997-worked for SmithKline Beecham Clinical Laboratories as a Support Analyst and Biomedical Instrumentation Technician
 - 1997-2004- worked at the Coca-Cola Company Corporate as Project Manager and Corporate IT Liaison Manager
 - 2005-Present- works at The Smart Place Adult and Children Services, Inc. as the Program Operations Director.
 - Skills highlighted: planning, money management, teamwork, and community engagement.

- **Joe Newman (D)**

- Incumbent
- Email: localjoenewman@comcast.net
- Relevant employment and experience history**: currently on the city council.





CITY CLERK AND CITY COURT JUDGE



Anderson City Clerk

- **Sheila D. Ashley (D)**

- Incumbent
- Running unopposed
- Voter Guide preparers did not collect information on this candidate running unopposed but wanted voters to be aware of who would appear on their ballot.

Anderson City Court Judge

- **Jason Jamerson (D)**

- Incumbent
- Running unopposed
- Voter Guide preparers did not collect information on this candidate running unopposed but wanted voters to be aware of who would appear on their ballot.



Q & A



ANDERSON, IN MAYORAL CANDIDATES



All mayoral and city council candidates were asked the same questions by the creators of this guide. Here are their answers in their own words.

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

Note: Names listed in alphabetical order.

Questions asked:

1. What are the first three action items you want to focus on if elected?
2. What parts of the city would you prioritize for revitalization? How might that look?
3. How might the local government better communicate with and involve the residents in Anderson in its decision-making?
4. How can the local government demonstrate transparency to communicate what it is doing for the city?
5. Across Anderson citizens, Community Lens is hearing a desire to live in a safe community for everyone. How can local government continue to address and improve safety for everyone?
6. What would a healthy collaboration between the mayor and city council look like to you and how could you promote that vision if elected?

Mayoral Republican Candidate Q & A Responses

• Jon Bell (R)

- **Q1: What are the first three action items you want to focus on if elected?**
 - When elected, our first three action items would be very clearly defined. We have a day-one goal in our new administration to put in place a Collaboration Committee. This committee would identify issues and projects that can be addressed by other entities and institutions along with local government to effect real solutions to our most significant challenges. We also have a two week deadline to schedule Anderson's first strategic planning events which would include all elected officials, department heads, and community leaders to establish clear, immediate, one year, two year and four year goals, giving Anderson a clear direction at this crucial time in our history. Lastly, we would order a forensic audit to get the real picture of the state of the city, allowing us to discover processes in which we are operating with success, areas where we have to improve, and inefficiencies we can attempt to eliminate.

Q & A



ANDERSON, IN MAYORAL CANDIDATES



Mayoral Republican Candidate Q & A Responses

- **Jon Bell (R) responses continued**

- **Q2: What parts of the city would you prioritize for revitalization? How might that look?**
 - When it comes to revitalization, you need look no further than our historic downtown. We would seek to create a walkable and user-friendly downtown as well a more viable restaurant district. Both of these concepts would increase quality of life and result in a better use of our environment. We would also seek a real solution to the west side food desert that plagues our citizens with a viable, responsible partnership with a developer while petitioning the state to establish Nichol Ave as a west side gateway to our city, re-engineer traffic patterns, and address drainage in that retail corridor.
- **Q3: How might the local government better communicate with and involve the residents in Anderson in its decision-making?**
 - In order to better communicate with Anderson's residents I would propose to allow public input to take place before our strategic planning sessions, possibly through open surveys. Afterward, the goal and direction of the sessions will be announced to the public with priorities, justifications and financial modeling to achieve those goals. There will be no more knee-jerk reactions to long term problems.
- **Q4: How can the local government demonstrate transparency to communicate what it is doing for the city?**
 - Transparency can be achieved by allowing limited access to the accounting software (MUNIS) to all council members. This will demonstrate a willingness to work with council members instead of against them. The administration would also use a public information officer to function as a true beacon of information, not a campaign photographer on the city payroll. Finally, we would completely redesign the city's webpage to a more user-friendly version where information is updated regularly and easily accessed.
- **Q5: Across Anderson citizens, Community Lens is hearing a desire to live in a safe community for everyone. How can local government continue to address and improve safety for everyone?**
 - Due to its complex nature, the public safety system is always under continual critique. Several issues within public safety can be improved upon immediately with very little impact to the city's financial obligation.

Q & A



ANDERSON, IN MAYORAL CANDIDATES



Mayoral Republican Candidate Q & A Responses

- **Jon Bell (R) responses continued**

- First, a 13-part resolution passed by council and a citizen committee could be addressed to look at modernizing the police department. Some of these aspects include mental health professionals available as a police resource when on the scene of a mental health crisis and a second improvement would be maintaining a level of professionalism through accreditation. Lastly, a realistic assignment of administrative resources and supervision could create more police presence in the community. At AFD, we would seek to immediately add an additional ambulance to the emergency medical response capabilities of the fire department. This needs to be done to alleviate the high stress call level of our medics and EMT's. The result would be quicker response times and a higher level of care for our citizens. We already have the facility available for this medical service.

- **Q6: What would a healthy collaboration between the mayor and city council look like to you and how could you promote that vision if elected?**

- Collaboration has been a basic tenet of our campaign since the beginning. We feel like it has a strong concept in any effective civil government. Our strategic planning concept is designed to be inclusive of all council members and department heads. Regular attendance at city Council meetings by the mayor, unlike what we have endured for the previous 8yrs. Will include quarterly updates on our public projects and goals. This would create a level of understanding between the two branches of government. Finally, everything we do will be conducted under a value system with a PRIDE acronym...Professionalism, Relationships, integrity, Diversity and Excellence will foster an understanding that working together we can make the best version of Anderson we have seen yet!

- **This candidate's responses to the May 2023 Primary Voter Guide Questions can be found at this link: <https://bit.ly/3t5FOPy>**

Mayoral Democratic Candidate Responses to Questions on Next Page

Q & A



ANDERSON, IN MAYORAL CANDIDATES



Mayoral Democratic Candidate Q & A Responses

- **Thomas Broderick (D)**

- **Q1: What are the first three action items you want to focus on if elected?**
 - a. Continue with our water infrastructure improvement plan and acquire appropriate funding for our water utility to ensure plentiful, safe, drinking water for our community.
 - b. Support private housing development to ensure quality and affordable housing for current and future residents.
 - c. Continue our focus on public safety by continuing our focus on community policing, training, crime prevention programs, patrols, fire safety, quick response times, and expanded ambulance capacity.
- **Q2: What parts of the city would you prioritize for revitalization? How might that look?**
 - While all areas of town are important, some areas need more help than others when it comes to “revitalization.” We will continue our revitalization of the west side of town and our downtown area. This will include our continuation of the removal of blighted properties, investing in infrastructure, investing, and supporting new housing, supporting new businesses, and continuous improvement of quality of place and life initiatives.
- **Q3: How might the local government better communicate with and involve the residents in Anderson in its decision-making?**
 - Our city government operates 24/7, 365 days a year. With 20 departments, 650+ employees serving 55,000 residents and another nearby nearly 10,000 individuals and businesses who are customers of our utilities or frequent users of our city space. Multiple decisions and actions are made each day by our local government as it conducts its vital functions for all individuals in our community. In order to communicate what we are doing, why we are doing it, and to acquire feedback and input from our citizens we utilize multiple channels of communication. We try to be clear and concise in our communications, we provide regular updates on community events and initiatives, and we respond promptly to resident enquiries. I provide an annual update in my State of the City address, meet with residents and groups on a regular basis, and I attend several hundred events each year where I answer questions, acquire information, and hear concerns from our citizens. We also utilize our city websites, Facebook pages, AndersonTV and I provide a written monthly newsletter, AndersonNow, that is available on-line or in printed format.

Q & A



ANDERSON, IN MAYORAL CANDIDATES



Mayoral Democratic Candidate Q & A Responses

- **Thomas Broderick (D) responses to questions continued**

- Our department heads likewise provide information and meet with residents to listen to concerns and address issues. We also send information monthly in our utility statements. Of course, we have several monthly public meetings that cover every aspect of our activities. We also provide regular press releases on our activities, events, and initiatives. We also respond to all media inquiries.
- **Q4: How can the local government demonstrate transparency to communicate what it is doing for the city?**
 - As noted above, to be clear and concise in our communications and to use multiple channels of communication using the means and methods set out in the above response.
- **Q5: Across Anderson citizens, Community Lens is hearing a desire to live in a safe community for everyone. How can local government continue to address and improve safety for everyone?**
 - Public safety is always a top priority for local government. We are fortunate to have excellent police and fire departments. Our ambulance service is second to none. We are proud that our police department is slated to become accredited this fall. All officers are well trained and equipped and able to promptly respond to any emergency. We are fortunate to not have the higher levels of violent crime that we see in larger cities. We will continue to actively patrol our streets and neighborhoods, engage in community policing, and other programs of crime prevention, like Crime Watch and Senior Link.
- **Q6: What would a healthy collaboration between the mayor and city council look like to you and how could you promote that vision if elected?**
 - A more professional decorum during city council meetings would be well received by the public. The council controls its own conduct during meetings. The administration would support appropriate rules for city council meetings such as Roberts Rules of Order. This would aid in appropriate discussions during meetings.
 - Some members of the council confer with the administration on a regular basis. Unfortunately, many do not. After an election everyone should put politics aside and act in the best interest of the public. The mayor's office remains open to all city council members to meet at any time to discuss any matter. The individual council members, who do not do so, should take

Q & A



ANDERSON, IN MAYORAL CANDIDATES



Mayoral Democratic Candidate Q & A Responses

- **Thomas Broderick (D) responses to questions continued**
 - advantage of the long-standing opportunity. In the end a healthy collaboration would include mutual respect, honest discussion, and professional interaction, both publicly and privately. After the election, as I have in the past, I will reach out to all council members to invite them to work together in such a manner.

Mayoral Libertarian and Independent Candidate Q & A Responses on Next Page

Q & A



ANDERSON, IN MAYORAL CANDIDATES



Mayoral Libertarian Candidate Q & A Responses

- **Douglas McNaughton (L)**

- **Q1: What are the first three action items you want to focus on if elected?**
 - 1. Make an attractive tax package to encourage high tech companies to move to Anderson.
 - 2. Relax zoning requirements for business so that it is easier for startup companies to come to Anderson.
 - 3. Repair streetlights.
- **Q2: What parts of the city would you prioritize for revitalization? How might that look?**
 - Downtown is currently the priority as it almost looks like Anderson does not have a downtown.
- **Q3: How might the local government better communicate with and involve the residents in Anderson in its decision-making?**
 - Council meetings should be broadcast live and Mayoral Town Hall meetings should occur on a regular schedule.
- **Q4: How can the local government demonstrate transparency to communicate what it is doing for the city?**
 - Regular reports and transcripts from town hall meetings can be posted in the Library and other public buildings as well as online.
- **Q5: Across Anderson citizens, Community Lens is hearing a desire to live in a safe community for everyone. How can local government continue to address and improve safety for everyone?**
 - Safety is everyone's responsibility. It is unreasonable to require some third party to guarantee someone's safety. Street light repairs, visibility of patrol cars, and availability of affordable self defense training are all good starts to a safer community.
- **Q6: What would a healthy collaboration between the mayor and city council look like to you and how could you promote that vision if elected?**
 - It would look like a board meeting, not a war zone. Everyone should see we are looking at the same finish line even if we are not all on the place in the race. Open communication, transparency, and civil discourse are all requirements for this.

Mayoral Independent Candidate Q & A Responses

- **John Dyer (I)**

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

Q & A



ANDERSON, IN CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES



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

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

Note: Names listed in alphabetical order.

Questions asked:

1. What are the first three action items you want to focus on if elected?
2. What parts of the city would you prioritize for revitalization? How might that look?
3. How might the local government better communicate with and involve the residents in Anderson in its decision-making?
4. How can the local government demonstrate transparency to communicate what it is doing for the city?
5. Across Anderson citizens, Community Lens is hearing a desire to live in a safe community for everyone. How can local government continue to address and improve safety for everyone?
6. What would a healthy collaboration between the mayor and city council look like to you and how could you promote that vision if elected?

City Council At-Large Republican Candidates Q & A Responses

- **Tiffany Harless (R)**

- This candidate was contacted with the questions and candidate did not respond.
- **This candidate's responses to the May 2023 Primary Voter Guide Questions can be found at this link: <https://bit.ly/3t5FOPy>**

- **Rachel Lee Landers (R)**

- **Q1: What are the first three action items you want to focus on if elected?**
 - A. Ensuring a good working relationship between the mayor and the city council and also between all members of the city council.
 - B. Homelessness issue- being proactive in finding those who are homeless who want to be off the street and getting them connected to resources.
 - C. Address the affordable housing shortage and the hazardous conditions of existing housing (i.e. Bingham Square and Madison Square).

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ANDERSON, IN CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES



City Council At-Large Republican Candidates Q & A Responses

- **Rachel Lee Landers (R) responses to questions continued**
 - **Q2: What parts of the city would you prioritize for revitalization? How might that look?**
 - The West side, the North side, and the East Central area need more businesses, maintenance, and updating. More sidewalks are needed. Vacant buildings need to be utilized or torn down. The grocery store for the West side needs to actually happen. The Mounds Mall building needs to be used. We need to replace the aging power grid, replace the aging water supply system, and ensure proper mobile connectivity in the dead zones around the city. Green spaces and year-round indoor recreational options need to increase.
 - **Q3: How might the local government better communicate with and involve the residents in Anderson in its decision-making?**
 - A. Keep the city government website updated and include a monthly newsletter. Maybe even mail out this newsletter each month or have it printed in the newspaper.
 - B. Hold monthly town hall meetings, in addition to the city council meetings, that are open to the general public attendance and input. All city elected officials should be expected to attend.
 - C. Televisе and stream all of the city meetings, including city council, town halls, planning commission, economic development, board of zoning appeals, etc.
 - **Q4: How can the local government demonstrate transparency to communicate what it is doing for the city?**
 - I believe all the points I discussed for question 3 also answer this question.
 - **Q5: Across Anderson citizens, Community Lens is hearing a desire to live in a safe community for everyone. How can local government continue to address and improve safety for everyone?**
 - A. Address the homelessness and panhandling problems.
 - B. Address the drug problem.
 - C. Put more police on the streets, in parks, and in shopping areas. And, make sure the police are enforcing the laws (i.e. panhandling, public intoxication, littering, traffic violations, etc).
 - D. Keep parks clean, well trimmed, and maintained.
 - **Q6: What would a healthy collaboration between the mayor and city council look like to you and how could you promote that vision if elected?**
 - A. The mayor should attend all city council meetings.
 - B. The mayor should have a meeting with each individual member of the city council on a monthly basis (or at least a quarterly basis) to receive/exchange feedback and

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ANDERSON, IN CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES



- **Rachel Lee Landers (R) responses to questions continued**
 - ideas, in order to be proactive in addressing needs and concerns.
 - C. As a city council member, I would make a point to seek out formal interaction with the mayor on a regular basis and encourage my fellow council members to do so, as well.
- **This candidate's responses to the May 2023 Primary Voter Guide Questions can be found at this link: <https://bit.ly/3t5F0Py>**
- **Mark Turner (R)**
 - This candidate was contacted with the questions and candidate did not respond.

City Council At-Large Democratic Candidates Q & A Responses

- **Meredith (Coco) Armstrong (D)**
 - **Q1: What are the first three action items you want to focus on if elected?**
 - A. provide accountability and transparency of your tax dollars
 - B. programming for youth and seniors
 - C. providing a renters guide
 - **Q2: What parts of the city would you prioritize for revitalization? How might that look?**
 - I look at the city as a whole.
 - **Q3: How might the local government better communicate with and involve the residents in Anderson in its decision-making?**
 - By having a newsletter available and having town meetings.
 - **Q4: How can the local government demonstrate transparency to communicate what it is doing for the city?**
 - Post budget and audits
 - **Q5: Across Anderson citizens, Community Lens is hearing a desire to live in a safe community for everyone. How can local government continue to address and improve safety for everyone?**
 - By continuing to work together and to keep the community informed.
 - **Q6: What would a healthy collaboration between the mayor and city council look like to you and how could you promote that vision if elected?**
 - Working together works. I would suggest meeting with each other weekly to stay on the same level.
 - **This candidate's responses to the May 2023 Primary Voter Guide Questions can be found at this link: <https://bit.ly/3t5F0Py>**

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ANDERSON, IN CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES



- **Ty Bibbs (D)**

- **Q1: What are the first three action items you want to focus on if elected?**
 - The first three specific action items that I would like to continue to focus on if elected would be drug addiction; homelessness, and petty crime, specifically in the downtown area. The Common Council can focus on these issues by continuing to invest in Public Safety and Collaborating with local Social Service Agencies to provide resources for those citizens in need of assistance.
 - The general action items that I will continue to focus on would include: Continuing to make decisions that promote more employment opportunities, attract new residents, keep current residents, and increase the municipal tax base; Continuing to call for more transparency/openness in government; Continuing to make fiscally conservative budgetary decisions.
- **Q2: What parts of the city would you prioritize for revitalization? How might that look?**
 - The parts of the city that I would prioritize for revitalization would be the Western Corridor into the city, the Northern Corridor into the city, and the Downtown Area. This would include working closely with the Community Development/Municipal Development/Economic Development offices within the City of Anderson and the residents of these parts of the city.
- **Q3: How might the local government better communicate with and involve the residents in Anderson in its decision-making?**
 - Local government can better communicate with and involve the residents in its decision-making by keeping them informed of Common Council meetings (Every 2nd Thursday at 6:30 pm at the City Building on 8th Street). Also, by keeping them informed of the agenda items to be discussed at the Common Council meetings. Moreover, I have long been an advocate for expanding Anderson TV to include ALL City of Anderson Public Meetings (not just Common Council meetings). Examples would include: Board of Public Works; Anderson Redevelopment Commission Meetings (ARC); Safety Board; Park Board; etc. Each would be shown live and again at set times. The schedule of meetings on Anderson TV could be included in each citizen's utility bill. I was severely disappointed to learn that the Indiana State Senate decided to pause House Bill 1167 for two years. It would have required governing and local agencies to livestream their respective meetings and make them accessible to the public.

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ANDERSON, IN CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES



City Council At-Large Democratic Candidates Q & A Responses

- **Ty Bibbs (D) responses to questions continued**
 - **Q4: How can the local government demonstrate transparency to communicate what it is doing for the city?**
 - Local government can demonstrate transparency by keeping the community informed of Common Council meetings (Every 2nd Thursday at 6:30 pm at the City Building on 8th Street). Also, by keeping them informed of the agenda items to be discussed at the Common Council meetings. Moreover, I have long been an advocate for expanding Anderson TV to include ALL City of Anderson Public Meetings (not just Common Council meetings). Examples would include: Board of Public Works; Anderson Redevelopments Commission Meetings (ARC); Safety Board; Park Board; etc. Each would be shown live and again at set times. The schedule of meetings on Anderson TV could be included in each citizen's utility bill. I was severely disappointed to learn that the Indiana State Senate decided to pause House Bill 1167 for two years. It would have required governing and local agencies to livestream their respective meetings and make them accessible to the public.
 - **Q5: Across Anderson citizens, Community Lens is hearing a desire to live in a safe community for everyone. How can local government continue to address and improve safety for everyone?**
 - The Common Council can continue to address and improve safety by continuing to invest in Public Safety and Collaborating with local Social Service Agencies to provide resources for those citizens that are in need of assistance. The Common Council can also help ensure the confidence of the citizens in Public Safety by continuing to highly recommend that the Anderson Police Department achieve and maintain Dual Accreditation with CALEA (Commission on the Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies and ILEAC (Indiana Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission).
 - **Q6: What would a healthy collaboration between the mayor and city council look like to you and how could you promote that vision if elected?**
 - A healthy collaboration between the Mayor and Common Council would look like the Executive Branch respecting the Legislative Branch as a Separate, but Equal branch of government. This would include the Executive Branch understanding that we are a Democratic Republic and not an Autocratic Dictatorship. Members of the Legislative Branch should continue to focus on being independent thinkers and being a check and balance on Executive

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City Council At-Large Democratic Candidates Q & A Responses

- **Ty Bibbs (D) responses to questions continued**
 - power/decisions and not become mindless rubber stamps.
 - The Mayor should also make ALL Department Heads available at each Common Council meeting, so that if the general public and/or Common Councilors have any questions, the department heads are available to provide answers. Everyone should work together to achieve common goals that will best benefit all the citizens of Anderson.
 - **This candidate's responses to the May 2023 Primary Voter Guide Questions can be found at this link: <https://bit.ly/3t5F0Py>**
- **Rebecca (Becky) Crumes (D)**
 - **Q1: What are the first three action items you want to focus on if elected?**
 - A. Activate Boards and Commissions vital to our community.
 - B. Develop Community Survey.
 - C. Publish a pamphlet listing all the Boards and Commissions, terms and suggested qualifications.
 - **Q2: What parts of the city would you prioritize for revitalization? How might that look?**
 - A Comprehensive Plan would point us in the right direction, in the meantime, a massive clean up and code enforcement would be first.
 - **Q3: How might the local government better communicate with and involve the residents in Anderson in its decision-making?**
 - That's why your Boards and Commissions are made up with community members who help inform, educate and communicate with stakeholders.
 - **Q4: How can the local government demonstrate transparency to communicate what it is doing for the city?**
 - The City should have a website handicapped accessible and user friendly. Information should be posted, such as surveys, complaints and public access forms. Community meetings with Department Administrators at least twice a year.
 - **Q5: Across Anderson citizens, Community Lens is hearing a desire to live in a safe community for everyone. How can local government continue to address and improve safety for everyone?**
 - A safe city must have structure, a sense of belonging and inclusion. Tough decisions have to be made and prioritized with the community's support.

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ANDERSON, IN CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES



City Council At-Large Democratic Candidates Q & A Responses

- **Rebecca (Becky) Crumes (D)**
 - **Q6: What would a healthy collaboration between the mayor and city council look like to you and how could you promote that vision if elected?**
 - Healthy collaboration would mean inclusion and working for the greater good of the entire community. Promoting a clear vision of what our goals and aspirations would be, should not be done alone, bipartisan community support is the key to a successful, sustainable plan.
 - **This candidate's responses to the May 2023 Primary Voter Guide Questions can be found at this link: <https://bit.ly/3t5F0Py>**

City Council District Candidates continued on next pages

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City Council District 1 Candidate Q & A Responses

- **Jennifer Culp (R)**
 - This candidate was contacted with the questions and candidate did not respond.
 - **This candidate's responses to the May 2023 Primary Voter Guide Questions can be found at this link: <https://bit.ly/3t5FOPy>**
- **Brandon Collins (L)**
 - **Q1: What are the first three action items you want to focus on if elected?**
 - 1. Transparency of government. From budgets, taxes, government meetings/forums, and the
 - overall corruption needs to be addressed by allowing for fully transparent and online government work. We need the government to serve us, not do things behind our backs.
 - 2. Continuing Project Blight to remove uninhabitable and abandoned buildings and replacing them with the opportunity for affordable housing and retail space. Anderson's current state of commercial space and individual housing gives the area a bad reputation. Additionally, the appearance of Anderson directly affects how the community and those outside of it interact.
 - 3. Discuss and put to bed one way or the other, the reservoir project. IF this is a project more community members want than not, we should continue discussions and the economic potential of doing so. This has been spoken about for more than a decade now. However, if not, we need to move on and focus resources elsewhere. This project shouldn't remain in limbo as it is and has been.
 - **Q2: What parts of the city would you prioritize for revitalization? How might that look?**
 - I wouldn't particularly consider prioritizing any one specific part, but rather focusing on specific problems throughout the city. However, I do believe it would be in Anderson's best interest to focus on revitalizing downtown to not be merely a bureaucratic hub for government entities but a social and retail hub that makes people want to come and stay in Anderson- in some of the ways that our neighboring cities do. I would also focus on continuing Project Blight across the city and then work to turn those lots into more affordable housing built by local contractors. These are only two of many examples, however.

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ANDERSON, IN CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES



City Council District 1 Candidate Q & A Responses

- **Brandon Collins (L) responses to questions continued**
 - **Q3: How might the local government better communicate with and involve the residents in Anderson in its decision-making?**
 - Create an interactive website and mobile application that provides information on initiatives, meetings, and opportunities for public input - allow for polling on issues so the residents feel heard. In addition, create a stronger social media presence by the city to allow for an open forum, share updates, news and announcements.
 - **Q4: How can the local government demonstrate transparency to communicate what it is doing for the city?**
 - Create online transparency portals where citizens can access a wide range of data, including financial records, contracts, and performance metrics. These portals should be user-friendly and regularly updated. Develop performance dashboards that track performance indicators related to city services, infrastructure, and safety. Those, as well as providing consistent updates on projects, initiatives and developments. Too often are projects left open (road closures and repairs take far too long, for example).
 - **Q5: Across Anderson citizens, Community Lens is hearing a desire to live in a safe community for everyone. How can local government continue to address and improve safety for everyone?**
 - Our local government should involve community members, law enforcement agencies, social services providers, and other stakeholders in a collaborative effort. This could be done by data driven policing, restorative justice programs, crisis intervention training for law enforcement, and allow for community feedback and accountability.
 - **Q6: What would a healthy collaboration between the mayor and city council look like to you and how could you promote that vision if elected?**
 - The mayor and city council members should maintain open lines of communication. with regular meetings to discuss city issues, priorities, and policies. I would commit to transparent decision-making by sharing information, data, and rationale behind policy decisions between the mayoral office, council, and the public.

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ANDERSON, IN CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES



City Council District 2 Both Parties Candidate Q & A Responses

- **John Poor (R)**
 - No contact information has been found on this candidate.
- **Jeff Freeman (D)**
 - This candidate was contacted with the questions and candidate did not respond.

City Council District 3 both parties Candidate Q & A Responses

- **Greg Graham (D)**
 - **Q1: What are the first three action items you want to focus on if elected?**
 - Since I have previously held the office of Member of the Common Council I have an established voting record. My priorities have not changed. My votes will support Public Safety, (Police, Fire, and Emergency Ambulance service), Economic Development, and Neighborhood Improvements. In preparation for assuming this Councilmember position on January 1, 2024, I have already met with Chief Mike Lee of the Police Department, David Cravens from our Fire Department and Greg Winkler, Director of Economic Development.
 - **Q2: What parts of the city would you prioritize for revitalization? How might that look?**
 - Revitalization of our City is an ongoing process. The Mayor's program to demolish unlivable structures in the neighborhoods is right on point and would receive my support. I would also support more dollars being put into this program. I believe Anderson needs to build more low- moderate income replacement homes on these lots. Additionally, making maximum use of Community Development Funds to replace old and decrepit sidewalks and supplementing with General Fund Monies would maximize our effort. I would look at ways to get private banks to commit funds at favorable rates to owners to fix up their homes.
 - **Q3: How might the local government better communicate with and involve the residents in Anderson in its decision-making?**
 - Communication is a two- way street. The City communicates in several ways. The Utility Bill is used for communication of upcoming events. The Mayor publishes a monthly letter used to advise residents of City projects and news. The Mayor uses his State of the City to give his (or her) a report on the last year's events, reports on the City's financial situation, and to look forward at the

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ANDERSON, IN CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES



City Council District 3 both parties Candidate Q & A Responses

- **Greg Graham (D) responses to questions continued**
 - upcoming year. All of this is available on the City's web page for citizen review. The Indiana Municipal Power Authority sends a quarterly newsletter detailing current municipal power news. Probably the method most citizens get their news about City issues is the Anderson Herald Bulletin newspaper, in print or on-line.
 - Communication with Council members is best done by a phone call or an e-mail. Citizens can also notify the City Clerk and asked to be put on the agenda of their next meeting. They may call a Department Head to inform them of a neighborhood problem. If they do not get a satisfactory response, calling the Board of Works, Board of Public Safety, and the Mayor's office for help are always options for the resident. If no satisfactory answer is received calling the press can be very effective.
- **Q4: How can the local government demonstrate transparency to communicate what it is doing for the city?**
 - Our democracy depends on a free press and an informed citizenry. By law there are only three reasons for decisions or discussions on those reasons allow for a closed meeting. The law is known as the Open Door Law. This allows exceptions for meetings to discuss Labor Contracts, Real Estate Contracts, and specific personnel issues. No meetings can be held of a majority of council members without press notification. I support those conditions and will abide by them.
- **Q5: Across Anderson citizens, Community Lens is hearing a desire to live in a safe community for everyone. How can local government continue to address and improve safety for everyone?**
 - That is a very true statement. Anderson is a safe city. We are, as are all cities, plagued with the scourge of illegal drug activity. The Anderson Police Department has increased the numbers involved in the work of the Madison County Drug Task Force. This has resulted in some major arrests this year by this group, according to Police Chief Michael Lee. Additionally, Mental Health issues are also a high cause of criminal activity. Homelessness in the community results in some, mostly petty, crimes.
 - Anderson has had only two murders this calendar year. Both were solved by the Police.
 - Crime across the city is balanced. There is no one area in town that screams criminal activity.

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ANDERSON, IN CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES



City Council District 3 both parties Candidate Q & A Responses

- **Greg Graham (D) responses to questions continued**
 - We must keep our manpower at budgeted numbers. We must hire the best young officers and pay competitive salaries with other communities of our size. We must train them thoroughly and give them the tools and equipment needed to do the job. Protecting our citizens is my highest priority for municipal government.
- **Q6: What would a healthy collaboration between the mayor and city council look like to you and how could you promote that vision if elected?**
 - All relationships between people serving in government, industry, or any other group must be based on a mutual respect for the office they hold. You might not like the person personally. You might not believe they are competent to hold their office or position but a respect for them as a person must be maintained. The same is true of persons speaking before the Council. They have a point of view, they have taken their time to come to a meeting and should be heard. In the same way, speakers before the Council should have respect for the Council members who have been elected by voters of our city. Citizens should be heard first, non-citizens to follow. When there are several speakers a time limit should be in effect. Three minutes should work fine to make their points.

City Council District 4 Both Parties Candidate Q & A Responses

- **Ollie Dixon (D), running unopposed**
 - This candidate was contacted with the questions and candidate did not respond.

City Council District 5 Both Parties Candidate Q & A Responses

- **Arthur (Art) Pepelea Jr. (R)**
 - This candidate was contacted with the questions and candidate did not respond.
- **Lance Stephenson (D)**
 - This candidate was contacted with the questions and candidate did not respond.

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ANDERSON, IN CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES



City Council District 6 Both Parties Candidate Q & A Responses

- **Marquest Higgins (R)**

- **Q1: What are the first three action items you want to focus on if elected?**

- From a perspective of City Council legislative initiatives, my top priorities will be:
 - **Community Engagement:** I will propose legislation to formalize and enhance community engagement processes, ensuring that residents have a structured platform to voice their concerns, provide input on policies, and actively participate in decision-making.
 - **Economic Development:** I will champion legislation focused on welcoming new businesses to our city, simplifying the permitting process, and offering incentives to boost local small businesses. Additionally, I'll advocate for land banking program opportunities for our citizens, scrutinizing absentee landlords, and holding out-of-state real estate speculators accountable to ensure the prosperity of our community.
 - **Affordable Housing:** I will advocate for legislative measures that promote affordable housing initiatives, including incentives for local developers to build affordable units, rent control policies, and zoning reforms that encourage mixed-income neighborhoods.
 - These legislative initiatives will form the basis of my work on the City Council, addressing critical issues such as housing affordability, economic development, and community involvement.

- **Q2: What parts of the city would you prioritize for revitalization? How might that look?**

- Prioritizing areas for revitalization is a crucial aspect of my agenda. Here's how it might look:
 - **Historic Districts:** I would prioritize the revitalization of historic districts within the city. This could involve preserving and restoring historic buildings, promoting tourism, and encouraging businesses to establish themselves in these areas while maintaining their historical charm.
 - **Downtown Core:** The downtown area often serves as the heart of a city. I would focus on making the downtown core more vibrant by encouraging mixed-use development, supporting local businesses, creating pedestrian-friendly spaces, and investing in cultural and recreational amenities.
 - **Underdeveloped Neighborhoods:** Communities that have been historically underinvested in would be a priority. Revitalization efforts might include

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City Council District 6 Both Parties Candidate Q & A Responses

- **Marquest Higgins (R) response to questions continued**
 - infrastructure upgrades, affordable housing initiatives, and job training programs to improve the overall quality of life for residents.
 - Waterfront and Parks: If the city has waterfront areas or parks that are underutilized, I would seek to transform them into attractive spaces for recreation and leisure. This could involve creating walking trails, adding recreational facilities, and organizing community events.
 - Green Spaces and Sustainability: Prioritizing the creation and maintenance of green spaces and sustainable initiatives across the city can enhance both the environment and the overall appeal of the community. This could involve tree planting, green energy projects, and environmental education programs.
 - Arts and Culture Districts: Encouraging the development of arts and culture districts can attract both residents and visitors. This might include supporting local artists, hosting cultural events, and creating public art installations.
 - The key is to take a holistic approach, involving the community in planning and decision-making, securing funding through public-private partnerships, and ensuring that revitalization efforts align with the unique character and needs of each area. The goal is to create more livable, vibrant, and inclusive neighborhoods for all residents.
- **Q3: How might the local government better communicate with and involve the residents in Anderson in its decision-making?**
 - As a candidate, I'm all about boosting engagement and giving you a stronger voice in our community. We'll launch a user-friendly digital hub for easy access to city info and get interactive on social media to chat about the issues that matter most to you. Regular surveys will keep us in tune with your opinions, and I'm committed to hosting town hall meetings for direct conversations. We're bringing neighborhoods into the fold with advisory councils and making everything transparent by streaming meetings and sharing budgets. Educational workshops will empower you with knowledge, and I'll ensure you're part of decision-making committees. We'll break down language barriers and provide online portals for your feedback. Dedicated community reps will

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City Council District 6 Both Parties Candidate Q & A Responses

- **Marquest Higgins (R) response to questions continued**
 - be there to address your concerns, and our youth will play a crucial role in shaping our future. Plus, with participatory budgeting, you'll have a direct say in our finances. Keep an eye out for our updates in local media and concise newsletters. Together, we'll energize our community and make it thrive!
- **Q4: How can the local government demonstrate transparency to communicate what it is doing for the city?**
 - My vision for enhancing transparency in local government centers around practical steps. Firstly, we'll open up meetings to the public, encouraging participation and input. We'll revamp our website to make vital information easily accessible to everyone. Financial clarity is crucial, so we'll provide clear statements and budgets for scrutiny. Online budget dashboards will offer a visual breakdown of our finances. We're simplifying public records requests to ensure information is within reach. Sharing regular performance metrics and progress reports is a priority. Our strong ethics policies will be upheld, and we'll publish annual transparency reports to summarize our actions and future plans. Engaging with the community through various channels, including social media and newsletters, is essential. Collaborating with local media will ensure accurate coverage, and whistleblower protection policies will be put in place. Residents will have dedicated feedback channels, access to an online transparency portal, and benefit from public awareness campaigns. These initiatives, from my perspective, will promote transparency, keeping residents well-informed and building trust in our local government.
- **Q5: Across Anderson citizens, Community Lens is hearing a desire to live in a safe community for everyone. How can local government continue to address and improve safety for everyone?**
 - Ensuring safety in our community is a joint effort that starts with strong accountability. We'll firmly enforce our laws so that anyone breaking them knows there are serious consequences. But it's not just about enforcement; we're also focusing on prevention and support. We'll build trust in our neighborhoods through community policing, making sure police officers and residents work together. Our young people will have better options with programs that keep them engaged and away from trouble. We'll also provide more mental health services and training for the police to handle mental

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City Council District 6 Both Parties Candidate Q & A Responses

- **Marquest Higgins (R) response to questions continued**
 - health issues with care. When conflicts arise, we'll use violence interruption programs to help mediate and prevent violence. To make our streets safer, we'll improve traffic safety, add more lights in public areas, and have more police presence in high-crime areas. Lastly, we'll promote diversity and inclusion to create a more tolerant community and reduce hate crimes. All of these efforts will be successful because we're working together - the police, the government, non-profit groups, and you, the community. Our goal is to make our community safe and welcoming for everyone.
- **Q6: What would healthy collaboration between the mayor and city council look like to you and how could you promote that vision if elected?**
 - A strong partnership between the Mayor and City Council is fundamental for effective governance, characterized by open communication, mutual respect, and a shared commitment to our city and its residents.
 - Regular Communication: It starts with consistent and clear communication. Scheduled meetings, updates on city initiatives, and opportunities for council members to contribute and ask questions should be the norm.
 - Mutual Respect: We must respect each other's roles. The mayor should recognize the council's authority to legislate and represent the community, while council members should acknowledge the mayor's executive responsibilities. Disagreements should be handled professionally, with a focus on finding common ground.
 - Collaborative Decision-Making: Important decisions should be a joint effort, with input from both the mayor and council members. This can involve joint committee meetings, task forces, or workshops to discuss and shape policies and initiatives.
 - Accessibility: Information should be accessible to the public, and residents should be involved in significant decisions through public hearings and community engagement.
 - Respect for Diversity of Opinions: We should embrace diverse opinions and perspectives. City council members represent various constituencies, and the mayor should welcome these viewpoints when making decisions that affect our entire community.
 - Shared Commitment to Common Goals: Shared priorities, such as improving public services, addressing community needs, and fostering economic growth, should be our focus.

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ANDERSON, IN CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES



City Council District 6 Both Parties Candidate Q & A Responses

- **Marquest Higgins (R) response to questions continued**
 - Problem-Solving Approach: Challenges will arise, but we should approach them as problem solvers. Instead of blame, we should work together to find solutions that benefit our city.
 - If elected, I will lead by example to promote this vision of a healthy collaboration. I'll establish open lines of communication with city council members, actively participate in council meetings, and encourage collaborative initiatives involving both branches of government. I'll also champion public engagement, ensuring residents are informed and have a say in decisions. My goal is to create an environment where everyone's ideas and concerns are valued, leading to better outcomes for our city.
- **Joe Newman (D), incumbent**
 - This candidate was contacted with the questions and candidate did not respond.



USE YOUR VOICE AND VOTE



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

We are grateful for the excellent resource of each candidate running for office, the candidates that thoughtfully responded to our questions, indianavoters.in.gov, ballotready.org, and community members who helped round out this guide with voting information.

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

- **Maria Alexander:** mariaegnatzalexander@gmail.com or Facebook, Maria Egnatz Alexander
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Please follow:

- "Community Lens of Anderson" on Facebook for voting information and ways you can participate in civic engagement.
- "Heart of Indiana United Way" on Facebook to learn about and participate in their efforts to fight for the health, education, and financial stability for all people across Madison, Delaware, Fayette, Henry, and Randolph counties.

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Heart of Indiana
United Way

communitylensanderson.org heartofindianaunitedway.org

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