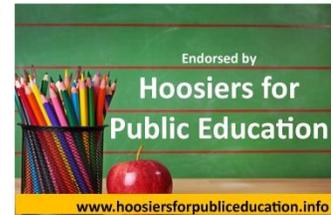


**Hoosiers for Public Education endorses
Dr. Woody Myers for governor and Linda Lawson for
lieutenant governor**



Indianapolis – October 21, 2020 - Hoosiers for Public Education endorses Dr. Woody Myers in the race for Indiana governor.

Hoosiers for Public Education, a bipartisan political action committee associated with the Indiana Coalition for Public Education advocacy group, based its endorsement for Myers on his positions on public education and his responses to its candidate questionnaire.

“Although both the Republican and Democratic candidates for governor express support for public schools, Dr. Myers is particularly strong on two issues of high importance for Hoosiers for Public Education,” said Dr. James Mervilde, a member of the Hoosiers for Public Education board and a retired public school superintendent.

Mervilde adds: “Dr. Myers announced that he would appoint Dr. Jennifer McCormick, our current Indiana Superintendent of Public Education, to be Indiana’s Secretary of Education if he is elected. That signals his commitment to our shared values of opposing vouchers and other privatization methods that divert taxpayers’ money from public schools.

“Dr. McCormick certainly has the experience and passion for public education we seek. For the first time in history, Indiana voters do not have the opportunity to vote for the person who will lead Indiana’s K-12 education system. Starting in 2021 a governor could appoint a Secretary of Education who has never worked in an Indiana K-12 public school, a concept we do not support.

“In endorsing Dr. Myers, we are also endorsing his running mate, Linda Lawson, who supported public education during her 20 years in the Indiana General Assembly and consistently voted against vouchers.

“Resources are going to be scarce in the next budget session of the Indiana General Assembly because of the pandemic. Our organization supports a gubernatorial candidate who will stand up for the public schools that educate more than 90 percent of Indiana’s children.

“Although some legislators claim they approved ‘record spending’ for K-12 schools, our tax money is now funding three separate school systems: traditional public schools, charter schools and private schools through vouchers. Indiana has spent more than \$1 billion of Hoosiers’ tax dollars on vouchers in the past nine years, without seeing overall academic gains from students using vouchers to attend private schools that are allowed to discriminate against certain students and staff members.

“Legislators have a Constitutional duty to provide adequate funding for traditional public schools. If state revenue is in short supply, any cuts should come from funding for private school vouchers and charter schools, not traditional public K-12 schools.”

Hoosiers for Public Education announced endorsements for 80 candidates for Indiana General Assembly last week, including 22 candidates who are current or former teachers or work in public education. Additional information about the organization and its legislative endorsements is available at www.hoosiersforpubliceducation.info.

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Editors Note: Dr. Mervilde is available for interviews by phone, Zoom or other conferencing platforms. He can be reached at 317-753-1361 or jmervilde@comcast.net.