

Address: 3431 State Road 45 Nashville“IN“47448

Campaign Phone: [8123208798](tel:8123208798) **Questions:**

Q: 1. What role, if any, does working with the Town of Nashville play in County Council responsibilities? Please explain.

A: While the town is a separate entity from county government, I do support working together and cooperatively as needed.

Q: 2. Please explain what, if anything, the County Council can do to facilitate public input into important County decisions.

A: Allow public input in our meetings. Making agendas available 1 week in advance of meetings via public spaces, and on website.

Q: 3. What do you view as the biggest financial challenge(s) for Brown County this year and for the next five years and how might you address these challenges?

A: We have many challenges.

Our Emergency Services is one of our biggest funding challenges for our community. Finding a way to support Emergency Services via different avenues other than our local tax base. Such avenues though are legislative in nature. Keep pursuing those legislative avenues. Maintenance of our buildings and infrastructure of buildings. Managing our health care benefits and trying to navigate the best we can can afford without breaking the bank and keeping the employees in mind. Building our county cash reserve funds.

Having a new financial advisor and a plan is the right direction.

Q: 4. What actions, if any, would you take to address the need for affordable housing?

A: That is a difficult question to answer. We have many challenges to address. This isn't solely a council issue. It's multifaceted with many agencies to be involved.

Scott Rudd

Party: Republican **Biographical Info: Education Background:** Indiana University, School of Public and Environmental Affairs



how might you address these challenges?

A: All elected officials and department heads need to work together to secure our financial house by keeping spending under control, better understanding our revenue, and effectively managing our personnel, assets, and capital infrastructure. Establishing internal controls upon which the county is run would be instrumental.

Developing and regularly updating a five-year plan would be essential so we can be proactive in preparing for budgetary concerns and take advantage of grants that we are aware of.

Commissioners are fundamental to proactively managing and planning in these areas and many of their responsibilities significantly impact the County's financial health and wellbeing.

Q: 4. What actions, if any, would you take to address the need for affordable housing?

A: Having a longer-term strategic plan may help address this topic but that means it takes not only local government but the community.

Commissioners can contribute here by making sure we have appointed the best candidates to boards, have a clear capital improvement plan, solid comprehensive plan, and a robust long-term strategic plan in place.

Race: Brown County Commissioner District 3

Description: Commissioners are elected for four year terms on a staggered basis. The Board of Commissioners consists of three elected officials who

Occupation: Small business owner

Campaign Mailing Address:

Questions:

Q: 1. What role, if any, does working with the Town of Nashville play in County Council responsibilities? Please explain.

A: The county seat of Brown County plays an important role. It is the county's government seat, main commercial center and most densely populated area. With that said, it's also a very small town, and has fewer resources than the county. The resources it does have, however, are very important.

Those resources include a water and sewer system, a road system, and the ability to provide attainable housing with those utilities. The entertainment, shops and food provide a quality of life that is somewhat unparalleled in other rural counties, and contributes to people wanting to continue to live in the county. These are all important resources in reducing the county's brain drain. Cooperation within the county is essential to improve housing.

Q: 2. Please explain what, if anything, the County Council can do to facilitate public input into important County decisions.

A: The council is required by law to ensure an open, fair and transparent process in all of its proceedings and decision making. The public entrusted the council with this responsibility and its part of the oath that we take as council members and our duty. In my role on County Council I will continue to uphold the open door laws, advertising and posting of meetings, and provide opportunity for public input on important decisions. I consider this to be a minimum operating standard for the council.

In addition, the council can do things like post our meetings online, increase our engagement with the public in our decision making processes, and provide for ample input on any issue that is important to taxpayers.

Q: 3. What do you view as the biggest financial challenge(s) for Brown County this year and for the next five years and how might you address these challenges?

A: The biggest 5 year challenge for the council is balancing the county budget. Thoughtful financial

must reside in separate districts but are elected by the voters of the county as a whole. Commissioner Districts must be redrawn at least once every 10 years. The Board of Commissioners is the executive of the county and shares legislative powers with the County Council. It enacts ordinances and administers all county business. Powers and authorities include but are not limited to:

- Controlling, maintaining and supervising county owned property including the Courthouse, jail and offices;*
- auditing county books*
- Establishing township boundaries*
- Supervising construction and maintenance of county roads and bridges*
- Developing and administering personnel policies for county employees*
- Establishing precincts, providing polling places and election equipment, administering elections in conjunction with County Election Board*
- Establishing minimum housing standards, building regulations, fire prevention ordinances, contracting ambulance services;*
- regulating food establishments, assisting community mental health centers, assisting public transportation facilities, carrying out poor relief duties*
- Selecting and appointing members to fill positions on boards, commissions, committees and appointing certain department heads*
- Establishing parks and recreation facilities, war memorials, historical markers, maintaining county forests*
- Establishing solid-waste districts and serving on the district boards which are responsible for 20 year plans for disposal, recovery and reduction of solid waste*

Candidates:

Tim Clark

Party: Republican

Biographical Info: Occupation: Retired

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Education Background: Bachelors, Masters Degree Public Administration, Masters Strategic Studies

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Questions:

Q: 1. What role, if any, does working with the Town of Nashville play in County Commissioner

planning will be essential to our success and will allow the county to spend within taxpayer's budget. The county needs to continue to identify and pursue the numerous grants that are available to the county through various sources, and increase our capacity to track and account for new funding. This will avoid the county having to pursue new taxes, and bring in funding for previously identified needs that are currently unfunded. Utilizing best practices for public input and transparency will be important so that taxpayers can be involved in the process. After all, every penny of the county's budget is taxpayer funded.

Q: 4. What actions, if any, would you take to address the need for affordable housing?

A: Improving housing of all types in Brown County is clearly an issue that we need to address. I played a vital role in one of the most important housing related projects in the county's history, by securing a significant investment in broadband to thousands of homes across the county, just before the pandemic arrived. This investment ensured that not only people living here could continue to do so, but also allowed our family members and friends to move home, and work from home, thus improving income potential and new job opportunities for residents. The community rallied to support the cause and was able to accomplish something everyone said was impossible.

We did it with a comprehensive community approach. Vote Scott Rudd for Council!

Race: Brown County Commissioner District 1

Description: Commissioners are elected for four year terms on a staggered basis. The Board of Commissioners consists of three elected officials who must reside in separate districts but are elected by the voters of the county as a whole. Commissioner Districts must be redrawn at least once every 10 years. The Board of Commissioners is the executive of the county and shares legislative powers with the County Council. It enacts ordinances and administers all county business. Powers and authorities include but are not limited to: Controlling, maintaining and supervising county owned property including the Courthouse, jail and offices; auditing county books; Establishing township boundaries; Supervising construction and maintenance of county roads and bridges; Developing and administering personnel policies for county employees; Establishing precincts, providing polling places and election equipment, administering elections in conjunction with County Election Board; Establishing minimum housing

responsibilities? Please explain.

A: Nashville has identified its desire to serve as a driver of regional tourism. From an economic standpoint, the county is funded primarily by property and income tax. Tourism accounts for about \$12.1 million in total wages. The taxable income of all county residents is over \$425 million. All county taxpayers cover the additional costs of tourism expenses associated with services and infrastructure.

I support needed updates to the County's Comprehensive Plan to identify a vision for tourism and development that enhances the quality of life of all residents. This reinforces the insight from Andy Rogers, who remarked: "Country is what we sell.... We need to maintain that. Once you destroy that, it won't come back."

Q: 2. Please explain what, if anything, the County Commissioners can do to facilitate public input into important County decisions.

A: I am an advocate for public forums to address issues, and debate proposed policies that can affect everyone in the County.

In 2017, the county received a Hometown Collaborative Initiative (HCI) grant from the Office of Community and Rural Affairs. Volunteers unanimously chose leadership as an area of need.

This resulted in the development of the Brown County Leader Network (BCLN) in 2019, which offers proven methods and tools for supporting fact-based and collaborative decision-making.

Legendary Brown County storyteller Hank Swain once remarked that a good idea in Brown County can take 8 years to be accepted. We have a few more years to improve the BCLN concept and determine if it is a good idea.

Q: 3. What do you view as the biggest financial challenge(s) for Brown County this year and for the next five years, and how might you address these challenges?

A: 2023 was a wake-up call for the county's finance and budget management system.

Historically, the focus was on one-year budgets without performance assessments and longer-term planning. Annual budgets underestimated revenues and expenses,

standards, building regulations, fire prevention ordinances, contracting ambulance services; regulating food establishments, assisting community mental health centers, assisting public transportation facilities, carrying out poor relief duties· Selecting and appointing members to fill positions on boards, commissions, committees and appointing certain department heads· Establishing parks and recreation facilities, war memorials, historical markers, maintaining county forests· Establishing solid-waste districts and serving on the district boards which are responsible for 20 year plans for disposal, recovery and reduction of solid waste

Candidates:

Tiffany Arndt

Party: Democratic

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Occupation: Travel Nurse **Education Background:**
Bachelor's Environmental Policy and Management,
Purdue.

Graduate Practical Nursing, Ivy Tech, Currently
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net

Questions:

Q: 1. What role, if any, does working with the Town of Nashville play in County Commissioner responsibilities? Please explain.

A: The County Commissioners conduct the county's business and can act as both the executive and legislative branches.

Our stakeholders are affected by the decisions made by the town and county political officials, and both entities should work together to ensure all those affected by our choices are confident we are working for all the county residents.

and county officials scrambled throughout the year to make ends meet.

In 2023, we had approximately a \$1.4 million dollar budget shortfall. Fortunately, our financial consultants were able to find the revenue, which reinforces the need for improvement in internal controls.

The county has selected a new consultant that supports fiveyear comprehensive financial planning that includes goals and objectives and monthly budget reviews. A needed first step in a long road to financial sustainability.

Q: 4. What actions, if any, would you take to address the need for affordable housing?

A: I first became involved in learning more about the affordable housing issue in 2016 when I read comments by Then-School Superintendent David Shaffer in his justification for the referendum. He stated, "Declining enrollment is likely due to the lack of affordable housing and competitivepaying jobs that attract young families."

Since then, regional and local studies have been conducted.

Enrollment has continued to decline, affordable housing is still a challenge, and our economic base remains relatively unchanged.

The lack of affordable housing is a systemic issue. A resolution requires a comprehensive review of what has been and is being done in order to develop the best options for Brown County.

Jerry Lee Pittman

Party: Republican **Biographical Info: Occupation:**
Farmer, Entrepreneur

Email: j.pittman@att.net **Education Background:**
Brown County High School (National Honor Society).
Cincinnati Bible Seminary, B.S.

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Questions:

Q: 2. Please explain what, if anything, the County Commissioners can do to facilitate public input into important County decisions.

A: Providing an inclusive environment for the county's stakeholders is important to me. Aside from allowing public comments as permitted by law, we need to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to have their voices heard.

Doing things such as using technology to allow residents to attend public meetings online and making commissioners personally available is important. Additionally, allowing constituents to suggest other forms of communication that they feel comfortable with and then pursuing the use of these suggestions makes sure everyone has a voice they can be assured is heard by their leaders and others in charge.

Q: 3. What do you view as the biggest financial challenge(s) for Brown County this year and for the next five years, and how might you address these challenges?

A: One of the biggest is school funding. In order to ensure our children and grandchildren's future we must provide the schools and teachers with the funding they need. Passing the Brown County School Funding Referendum would be an important first step in meeting funding needs.

It is also important to make sure that funds received from all tax and income sources are used responsibly in a way that benefits all stakeholders and that those stakeholders have a say so in the way their money is spent.

Q: 4. What actions, if any, would you take to address the need for affordable housing?

A: I have researched and written on this subject in my graduate program and believe the county has a remarkable resource in the number of vacant units we now have within the county. Using that resource to attract new families to the area would allow the tax base to increase and provide benefits for all county residents. In order to do this, we must take advantage of the grant programs and other financial incentives available to the county for assisting lower and moderate-income residents with home ownership and making sure we advertise the resources the county has available to those who need and will use them.

Kevin Patrick

Q: 1. What role, if any, does working with the Town of Nashville play in County Commissioner responsibilities? Please explain.

A: The County Commissioners are the Executive branch of County Government in Indiana. Since I have been Commissioner, I have worked to improve the cooperation between us and the Nashville Town Board. Brown County and Nashville are almost synonymous in the eyes of our tourists. A good relationship and cooperation will benefit everyone in the County. We both can benefit by working together on the upcoming Stellar Program that the State is offering.

Q: 2. Please explain what, if anything, the County Commissioners can do to facilitate public input into important County decisions.

A: I would like for the Commissioners to schedule a public meeting time for discussion, when important and/or controversial issues are being contemplated. Our monthly regular meetings are not the place for open discussion. They are where we do the County's business. I do value everyone's input and transparency is always valued, but some issues have to remain confidential by law. My door has always been and always will be open to any questions that my constituents may have. My contact information is everywhere.

Q: 3. What do you view as the biggest financial challenge(s) for Brown County this year and for the next five years, and how might you address these challenges?

A: The County must have a balanced budget. I believe our current County Council is doing a great job of controlling expenses and looking for additional revenue without raising taxes. Commissioners and Council have hired a new financial consultant who I believe will advise us in the right direction. We are developing a five year plan that will be updated annually. The County's finances experience many of the same challenges that we all do at home. Prices keep going up for almost everything, but the income lags behind.

Therefore, we have to ask about every expenditure; is this a want or a need?

Q: 4. What actions, if any, would you take to address the need for affordable housing?

A: "Affordable Housing" I have always believed that it meant that young people could save some money for a

Party: Republican

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Email: kpatrick4bc@gmail.com **Occupation:** Self Employed/ Retired

Education Background: Bachelor of Science, Aeronautical Engineering

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100086328515413

Questions:

Q: 1. What role, if any, does working with the Town of Nashville play in County Commissioner responsibilities? Please explain.

A: All local and municipal government should strive to work together to achieve what is best for the county, which includes working with the Town of Nashville when there is a common goal. This would mean engaging with the Town on a regular basis so that we all have a clear understanding of each other's challenges and opportunities of where we can work together today and in 5 years.

Q: 2. Please explain what, if anything, the County Commissioners can do to facilitate public input into important County decisions.

A: The Commissioner meetings are one forum for engaging but given the limited time and topics covered in those meetings, I believe the best way to engage is to have one on one or small group discussions with your elected officials.

Prior to being elected and if elected, I will welcome the opportunity to meet with anyone and discuss any topic that is related to the responsibilities of the Commissioner.

Q: 3. What do you view as the biggest financial challenge(s) for Brown County this year and for the next five years, and

to drive economic sustainability and growth. In order to continue to move forward, any commissioner candidate should possess the

down payment and obtain a loan which they could afford to repay without undue hardship. Today, young people may have to rent for a time and for that we need rentals they can afford. Currently, many homes have been converted to Tourist Rentals and are off the market to rent or buy. I believe we need more apartments for people starting out who want to live here. Then we need single homes on small lots that are able to be purchased by these starters. In both cases there must be infrastructure. Everything, including water, sewer, power, and internet. I support the Housing Partnership and investors who would build more rentals.

Justin P. Schwenk

Party: Democratic

Biographical Info: Occupation: Teacher

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Education Background: Social Studies Teacher

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Questions:

Q: 1. What role, if any, does working with the Town of Nashville play in County Commissioner responsibilities? Please explain.

A: The partnership between Brown County and the Town of Nashville is absolutely critical for the long-term sustainability of our community. It is a symbiotic relationship that can not exist without one another.

Municipal and county governments have complex roles and relationships, but we must foster an environment of collaboration if we want to achieve the growth that our community needs. As a Commissioner, I would actively seek out opportunities to partner with the town and innovate ways

Description: The surveyor is a constitutional officer, elected for a four year term by the voters of an entire county. There is no restriction upon eligibility for re-election.

important competency of driving innovation through partnerships.

Q: 2. Please explain what, if anything, the County Commissioners can do to facilitate public input into important County decisions.

A: A government that excludes the voice of its constituents limits the collective power of the community to find solutions. Multiple innovations can easily be adopted to make county decision-making more accessible to drive engagement & input. Good leaders welcome input, not hide from it. What is required are leaders who can integrate & advocate for new outreach methods. It is critical that your Commissioner not only listens but ensures that you are empowered to participate in the process. Passively making yourself available to people or engaging on social media is insufficient today.

Actively seeking out public opinion, embracing innovative technologies, & ensuring that meetings are transparent & held at accessible times are my priorities.

Race: Brown County Surveyor

The surveyor responsibilities include but are not limited to the following: Survey and keep records of all section corners throughout the county, maintain a legal survey record book showing maps of each section, grant, tract, subdivision, GIS mapping

Candidates:

Tim Allen

Party: Republican **Biographical Info:** **Email:** timallen8649@gmail.com

Campaign Mailing Address:

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