

Candidate

ELECTION

Q&A

2024



The following is information obtained and put together by the League of Women Voters Brown County. The Democrat is deeply appreciative of our partnership with the League and happy to present to voters an in-depth look at the offices and candidates on the ballot this May.

Race: Brown County Recorder

Description: The County Recorder is elected for a four year term by vote of the county at large and is prohibited from serving more than eight years in a 12 year period.

The chief function of the recorder is to preserve records, including deeds, mortgages, liens, articles of incorporation, military discharges, bankruptcy notices and other documents. The Recorder manages the process of keeping and indexing specific documents.

The Recorder receives a fee for recording instruments and certificates. The fees are county property and are paid to the county treasury.

Candidates:

Sandra Pool

Party: Republican **Biographical Info:** Occupation: Brown County School Bus Driver, Office Administrator at a local church

Campaign Phone: [\(812\) 360-4172](tel:8123604172)

Campaign Mailing Address: 277 East Pool Road Morgantown IN 46160

Email: sandrapool70@gmail.com

Education Background: Brown County High School Graduate

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/818088383670194

Questions:

and commissions and appropriates funds used by the county and its officers. Powers and duties include, but are not limited to, the following:· Approving annual operating budgets of all county offices and agencies, including establishing salaries and other compensation· Fixing property tax rates, establishing levies, establishing rates for the county adjusted gross income tax (CAGIT); county option income tax (COIT), county economic development income tax (CEDIT), excise surtax and wheel tax· Authorizing the borrowing of money through bonds or notes· Authorizing purchase or sale of certain county property· Making appropriations of public funds.

Candidates:

Diana McDonald Biddle

Party: Republican **Biographical Info:**

Questions:

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

A: -no response- **Q: 2. Please explain what, if anything, the County Council can do to facilitate public input into important County decisions.**

A: -no response- **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: -no response- **Q: 4. What actions, if any, would you take to address the need for affordable housing?**

A: -no response-

Q: 1. What are your qualifications and why are you running for this office?

A: I bring with me a business mind set with a background in real estate and government experience. I am entering my 8th year with the Jackson Township Trustee Advisory Board. With my life experiences I understand budgeting, public relations, and the need for accuracy, time management and leadership.

Q: 2. What are the biggest challenges for the Recorder’s office and how would you address these?

A: The biggest challenge is managing the records. An eye for detail and good organization skills are a MUST for this position. It is important to communicate well with the public as well as the office staff in order to effectively hold this position.

Q: 3. Briefly describe the Recorder responsibilities and how it benefits to the community.

A: The recorder is responsible for keeping track of public records, such as deeds, mortgages, contracts, easements and liens. This allows for title companies to search and ensure what, if any, liens are on the property. This is a benefit to the title companies because they rely on the accuracy of these records as well as county residents because it allows for documentation of chain of title to protect them when buying and selling property.

Q: 4. What is your wish list to improve resources for the Recorder’s office and how would this benefit Brown County?

A: The Recorder’s office must follow state statute so a “Wish list” is limited. However, I would strive to make the records more user friendly for the public and offer a GREAT working environment for ALL staff. This will be done by having the proper training and office equipment available.

Mary Smith

Party: Republican

Biographical Info: Occupation: I am the current Brown County Recorder. I have worked for Brown County Government over 20 years. I was the Brown County Treasurer from 2013 to 2020.

Campaign Mailing Address: Education Background: I graduated from Indian Creek High

Michael J. Wagner

Party: Republican **Biographical Info:**

Questions:

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

A: -no response- **Q: 2. Please explain what, if anything, the County Council can do to facilitate public input into important County decisions.**

A: -no response- **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: -no response- **Q: 4. What actions, if any, would you take to address the need for affordable housing?**

A: -no response-

Patrick Nielander

Party: Republican

Biographical Info: Email: pnielander7 @ymail.com

Education Background: MSMBusiness Management, BS-Healthcare Administration, Minor-Criminal Justice

Occupation: Retired-Law Enforcement (about 38 years) Healthcare

Campaign Mailing Address: 796 Harrison Ridge Rd. Nashville IN 47448

Campaign Phone: (317) 908-2510

Questions:

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

A: Cooperation is a very valid most important role for the county council. Everything has cause and effect. Planning, development, and resources for both entities relates to governance in an efficient manner

for all.

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

School in 1999. I have a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Indiana University.

Questions:

Q: 1. What are your qualifications and why are you running for this office?

A: I am proud to say I have over 20 years of employment in county government. It has gone from a part-time job I had during college to a career I love. I love the people of Brown County and enjoy working with them. I have served two terms as Brown County Treasurer and I am in my 4th year as the current Brown County Recorder. The recorder's office has furthered my education in the workings of county government.

Q: 2. What are the biggest challenges for the Recorder's office and how would you address these?

A: The biggest challenge for the recorder's office is to continue the work of getting all old recorded documents from 1873 forward organized, indexed, and digitized so they are available to the public online. We are currently back more than 50 years, which is a big milestone. It helps title searchers and the general public search without the need to make a physical trip to the office. This project was started before I became recorder and will continue on after I am out of office.

Q: 3. Briefly describe the Recorder responsibilities and how it benefits to the community.

A: The county recorder function is to maintain permanent public records involving a wide variety of instruments. These documents detail transactions involved in: real estate, mining, personal property, mortgages, liens, leases, subdivision plats, military discharges, personal bonds, etc. {IC 36-2-11-8}.

Generally, all of these instruments are recorded either for giving legal public notice of their existence or for safekeeping and future reference.

The recorder is also a member of the county commission on public records, which has the authority over the preservation or disposition of all public records maintained by the county. {IC 5-15-6}."

Q: 4. What is your wish list to improve resources for the Recorder's office and how would this benefit Brown County?

A: - no response -

A: Solicitation of the public to attend County Council meetings is the most efficient way to involve the public. First hand information is always the best.

A motivated public is an informed public. The concerned

interested public will attend to give their input.

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: Inflation is a financial challenge for government and families. Both governments and people feel the current tight insufficient monetary resources.

We should explore to find ways to create income without injuring families including businesses. We need driven to creating services that generate income without an additional tax burden for the people.

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

A: Affordable housing is a very complex topic. There is no simple answer. The topic must first be absolutely defined. It has not yet been done. Affordable is a definition that is relative to individuals and circumstances. I am open to that discussion. That is why electing people with the education, knowledge, and experiences is so vital. That's why I am a candidate.

Judith "Judy" Swift Powdrill

Party: Republican

Biographical Info: Email: Judyswift@ yahoo.com

EducationBackground: Many years of experience working in county government and several classes through AIC on budget and finance for local government.

Occupation: Retired from local government 31 years
Campaign Mailing

Race: Brown County Council at Large

Description: Members of the county council are elected to serve staggered four-year terms. Three council members at large are elected by the voters of the entire county. Four council members are elected from separate districts, chosen by the voters of their district alone. Council districts must be redrawn every 10 years and may be done in any odd-numbered year. The financial powers of a county are placed in the county council, which serves as a check on the Board of Commissioners and Board of Finance. The County Council has fiscal control over all county officers, boards

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

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 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,

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

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

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

Biographical Info: Campaign Mailing Address:
7522 Eagle Dr.

Nineveh IN 46164

Campaign Phone: [\(812\) 219-6428](tel:(812)219-6428)

Email: strongwoman1968@outlook.com

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

Graduate Practical Nursing, Ivy Tech, Currently Pursuing Master's Public Administration

Website: www.arndtforbrowncounty.net

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.

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.

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 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

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?