

Meet the candidates

Staff Reports - September 17, 2024



Jenise Bohbrink



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To see what's on your ballot, just enter your address into Vote411.org and review candidate information. Additional candidate information will be added and will be available throughout the Election Season.

Plan your Vote. Go online for forms, deadlines, early voting and election day polling locations, and to check your voter registration: IndianaVoters.com or the County Clerk's office 20 E. Main St. in Nashville. Phone: (812) 988-5510.

Know your deadlines:

- Register to vote or check your voter registration by Oct. 7.
- Apply for a Mail in Absentee ballot by Oct. 24 and make sure it is RECEIVED at the Clerk's office by Nov. 5. Postmark does not count!
- Early Voting is Oct. 8 to Nov. 4. See days and hours in IndianaVoters.com or on the County Clerks Election website <https://browncounty-in.gov/DocumentCenter/View/697/Voting-Locations?bidId=>
- Home bound or ill voters apply for a Travel Board by noon Monday Nov. 4.
- Election Day Voting is Tuesday, Nov. 5, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.. You must go to YOUR polling location to make your vote count. Check your polling location on IndianaVoters.com or the County Clerk's website <https://browncounty-in.gov/DocumentCenter/View/697/Voting-Locations?bidId=>

The following is candidate information compiled by the League of Women Voters of Brown County.

Category: County

Race: Brown County School Board at Large

Description: Brown County School Board The school system is governed by a five member nonpartisan board of trustees who are elected to serve four year staggered terms. Two of the members are elected at large; three must reside in the district from which they run. The school board sets policy and hires a superintendent to administer the system. The district boundaries for the three (3) School Board seats elected by district are identical to the boundaries of each of the three (3) County Commissioner districts. One (1) board member shall physically reside in District I during the term of their office; One (1) board member shall physically reside in District II during the term of their office. One (1) board member shall physically reside in District III during the term of their office. Two (2) board members shall physically reside anywhere in the three (3) resident districts of Brown County Schools

during the term of their office with not more than any two from any one district. All board member candidates are to be voted on by all registered voters of the County of Brown County. School Board by laws, policies and reports to the community can be found on the Brown County Schools website: <https://www.browncountyschools.com/about-bcs/district-info-school-board/>

Jenise Bohbrink

Party: Nonpartisan

Biographical Info:

Education Background: Purdue University: Bachelor of Science- AgriBusiness Management, Master of Science- Youth Development & Agriculture Education

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Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100085762450587&mibextid=LQQJ4d

Occupation: Brown County Community Foundation- Finance & Programs Manager

Q: Please tell us about your background and why you want to be a school board member. What are your priorities as an elected school board member?

A: Graduated from Purdue University and moved to Nashville in 2006. Currently working and raising 2 children with my husband, Brent.

It is important to have parents on the School Board. I will be the voice of parents whose kids are currently in the Brown County School District.

My priority has been and always will be the children in the community. We have to do what is best for them.

Q: What are the strengths and weaknesses of Brown County Schools in serving the wide range of student interests and needs in terms of core curriculum, STEM, arts and accessibility?

A: The Brown County Schools have amazing staff and teachers. They are working hard to give our kids world class opportunities and experiences. Our 4th & 6th graders, love the staff and teachers in their respective buildings. They enjoy learning and being able to discover new things.

Q: What are the greatest challenges you perceive for Brown County schools, such as declining enrollment, and what is your strategy to address these?

A: The biggest challenge BCS faces is being understaffed and losing great teachers because of funding. Declining enrollment is a factor that has caused a decrease in State dollar support to our district.

Winning the referendum is the first step to help with this challenge. But it is just the beginning, because Brown County Kids ARE worth it and we are going to find a way to keep our teachers and students.

Q: What changes will be required for Brown County schools to accommodate proposed new high school diploma requirements from IDOE, and how will you address this as a school board member?

A: As a School Board member, I will do everything in my power to support the staff, administration and students as we shift to guide them on the pathway(s) that best suit them.

Q: What goals do you have as an elected school board member for enacting disciplinary policies that will hold students accountable for their behavior while addressing their social emotional needs and physical safety.

A: My goal is to help guide/provide staff, teachers and students with the resources they need to feel safe, comfortable and protected within the walls of our schools. As adults we are held accountable for our actions. It is equally important that students be held accountable as well.

Amy Huffman Oliver

Party: Nonpartisan

Biographical Info:

Campaign Mailing Address: P.O. Box 93 Nashville IN 47448

Campaign Phone: (812) 703-9051

Education Background: JD Indiana University Mauer School of Law, BA Smith College

Email: oliverforschoolboard@gmail.com

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/amyoliverforschoolboard/

Occupation: Attorney, Mediator, Adjunct Faculty at Ivy Tech, former teacher with Brown County Schools, current school board member with Brown County Schools

Q: Please tell us about your background and why you want to be a school board member. What are your priorities as an elected school board member?

A: After working as an attorney for 20 years, I returned to school for my teacher's license. I taught for five years at Brown County Middle School. I was elected to the school board in 2020, and I'm running again. My parents are long-time residents of Brown County, and my husband and I have lived here with our two sons since 1997.

I firmly believe in our school's mission statement: We believe small school relationships and world class opportunities lead to positive lifelong impacts for our students. As a board member, I support safe facilities where our children can learn and grow, academic and mental health programming that supports students to reach their career, college & enlistment goals, and competitive pay for our teachers and staff.

Q: What are the strengths and weaknesses of Brown County Schools in serving the wide range of student interests and needs in terms of core curriculum, STEM, arts and accessibility?

A: We are relentlessly pursuing the best education possible for our students. Our schools excel at providing world-class opportunities for students while offering small class sizes and personal attention. We offer more programs than I can name for students of every age.

- At all of our schools, we offer outstanding science labs, STEM projects, and academic competitions like the Invention Convention and TEDEd clubs.
- At the middle school, we have a unique interdisciplinary curriculum in cooperation with local corporate partners.
- At the high school, we offer student-run businesses in advanced manufacturing through Eagle and Eaglet Manufacturing, C4 programs, Advanced Placement, Ivy Tech & Indiana University classes for college credit.

Q: What are the greatest challenges you perceive for Brown County schools, such as declining enrollment, and what is your strategy to address these?

A: Most rural districts in Indiana have declining enrollment as families move to suburban areas. We lose funding because state legislators created a formula in 2010 benefiting larger, growing districts while allocating tax dollars to private & charter schools. Add a shortage of housing & jobs for families with children & the result is declining enrollment & fewer dollars from the state. I've been active in community groups addressing issues of affordable housing, as well as lobbying the legislature. We've successfully pursued funding sources including referenda, grants, & private donations. I'm excited to share the remarkable accomplishments of Brown County Schools to attract more students.

Q: What changes will be required for Brown County schools to accommodate proposed new high school diploma requirements from IDOE, and how will you address this as a school board member?

A: The new high school diploma requirements are being negotiated at the state level and are not yet final, so we will continue to monitor them. We were honored to receive a grant

this school year to hire a full-time career counselor, and we've hired Cory Joy to fill that role. This continues to open career possibilities for high school students. We already provide pathways, apprenticeships, and rigorous coursework to prepare students for college, career, or enlistment. I don't see the new requirements requiring significant changes to our high school curriculum.

Q: What goals do you have as an elected school board member for enacting disciplinary policies that will hold students accountable for their behavior while addressing their social emotional needs and physical safety.

A: As a school board member, I am not part of the day-to-day decision-making process related to discipline unless a student appeals a determination by the building principal and superintendent to the board level. All our policies and procedures are based on best practices developed nationwide. They are designed not only to be clear enough for students and parents to understand what is allowed and what is prohibited, but they are also broad enough to allow our staff to use their discretion to take all circumstances into account when making decisions about discipline. If our administrative staff makes suggestions to change those policies, I would review those recommendations carefully if they reach the board level.

Race: Brown County Circuit Court Judge

Description: Judges are elected by judicial circuits in elections held every six years. These elections are usually partisan elections, except in Vanderburgh County, where the elections are non-partisan. Generally, before an individual can be elected as a Circuit Court judge, the person must be licensed to practice law in the state of Indiana and be a resident of the circuit. Brown County Circuit Court is the 88th Judicial Circuit. The Indiana court system consists of 91 judicial circuits. There is at least one Circuit Court in each of the state's counties, except for Ohio and Dearborn counties. These counties are a joint circuit, and they share a combined courthouse. Indiana Circuit Courts are jury trial courts with unlimited trial jurisdiction over all criminal and civil cases heard in the state. Typically, Circuit Courts hear cases that are outside the jurisdiction of other courts. These types of cases include: Cases involving felony charges and any lesser offenses included in a felony charge Misdemeanor and ordinance violation cases (Circuit Courts handle these types of cases in counties that do not have Superior Courts)General civil claims beyond the jurisdiction of the other trial courts in the state (In counties without Superior Courts, excluding Marion County, Circuit Courts also handle small claims cases)Civil equity cases Domestic relations cases Juvenile matters (Circuit Courts share jurisdiction with Superior Courts over some types of juvenile cases, such as termination of parental rights, juvenile delinquency, child abuse, and child neglect cases)Mental Health and probate cases (Circuit Courts share jurisdiction with Superior Courts in these types of cases)In addition to this, Indiana Circuit Courts also have appellate jurisdiction over decisions rendered by the state's City and Town Courts. There are over 110 Circuit Court judges in the Indiana court system.

Mary Wertz

Party: Republican

Biographical Info:

Occupation: Attorney

Campaign Mailing Address: Nashville IN 47448

Education Background: Juris Doctorate 1990- Indiana University, Bloomington Bachelors Degree 1987- Indiana University, Bloomington

Q: What information would you like Brown County residents to know about the work of the court?

A: The Brown County Circuit Court hears and decides every case filed in Brown County. In 2023, 1,688 cases were filed. There were 452 criminal cases filed. There were 568 civil cases filed, this includes torts, protective orders, divorces, estates, small claims, guardianships, and trusts. 570 civil violations were filed, this includes infractions and ordinance violations. 98 juvenile cases were filed, this includes juvenile delinquency, paternity, and child in need of services cases.

Q: What additional resources for incarcerated individuals would be beneficial to facilitate re-integration and reduce recidivism?

A: It is critical that funding remain available for several programs.

The Sheriff provides inmates the opportunity to engage in cognitive rehabilitation programs, high school equivalency programs, and NA/AA support groups. The Sheriff employs a grant funded Jail Resource Officer who assists inmates in finding placement in-patient treatment facilities. The Court employs a grant funded Pretrial Release Officer who is responsible for ensuring that all people who have been released while awaiting the resolution of the case follow conditions of release that are court ordered to reduce the risk of recidivism. Brown County Community Corrections, which is also grant funded, supervises home detention and work release as ordered by the Court.

Q: What do you see as some of the greatest challenges faced in this office?

A: There are many challenges that go along with being a judge. One of the greatest challenges is the responsibility of making decisions that greatly impact people's lives. Many times, people come before the court in their most stressful and trying times. It is the Court's responsibility to hear the facts, apply the law, and make difficult decisions. I never forget that everyone who comes before the Court deserves to be treated fairly and with respect. The Court must also ensure that its decisions are legally correct and will be affirmed if appealed to a higher court. Sometimes this means that numerous hours are spent researching legal issues and writing orders that can exceed 20 pages.

Q: What are some successes you'd like to share?

A: The Court has been awarded over \$350,000 in grant funds since I have been the judge. \$105,000 was used to partially fund improvements to the Courthouse. These improvements resolved security, accessibility, and space issues and were necessary to ensure that the court can remain housed in the historic Brown County Courthouse. Since 2020, grant funding has paid the salary and benefits of the Pretrial Services Officer. The Pretrial Services Officer ensures those persons who are released from jail pending trial comply with the Court’s conditions of release, which may include drug and alcohol treatment, drug screens, and home detention. The Court has also implemented program to provide low-cost mediation in divorce and child custody cases.

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:

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

The candidate did not respond by deadline.

Race: Brown County Treasurer

Description: The treasurer is a constitutional officer, elected by vote of the county at large for a term of four years, but prohibited from serving more than two terms within 12 years. The treasurer duties include but are not limited to the following: Collect, retain custody of and disburse county funds Send annual statements to each taxpayer of tax owed; collect state and local general property taxes, including delinquent taxes, inheritance taxes, innkeeper’s tax and taxes on certain capital stock and bank deposits Work closely with the

auditor to ensure balancing of ledgers and accounts Serve as a member of the county board of finance

Andy Vasquez Bond

Party: Republican

Biographical Info:

Campaign Mailing Address: 1050 Upper Schooner Rd. Nashville IN47448

Email: andrea.bond@yahoo.com

Occupation: Brown County Treasurer

Campaign Phone: (812) 720-0516

The candidate did not respond by deadline.

Race: Brown County Surveyor

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. 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

Tim Allen

Party: Republican

Biographical Info:

Campaign Phone: (317) 403-8912

Campaign Mailing Address: 8759 N Lick Creek Rd. Morgantown IN 46160

Education Background: Bachelor in Land Surveying and Civil Engineering from Purdue University

Email: timallen8649@gmail.com

Occupation: Professional Land Surveyor and autoCAD Draftsman

Q: What are your qualifications for this position including training, experience, licensing and credentials?

A: I am a licensed land surveyor and have been surveying since graduating from Purdue University in 2002 with a bachelor's degree in both Surveying and Civil Engineering.

Q: How would you assess the reliability of our current GIS mapping systems? What improvements or updates do you think are necessary to enhance their accuracy and effectiveness, and how would you prioritize these enhancements within the budget constraints?

A: I believe the current GIS system is reliable. I would like to see recorded, legal, and miscellaneous surveys referenced on GIS like neighboring counties. I would also like section corners found in surveys shown on GIS with notation stating the County Surveyors office has not verified this corner, should it be needed.

Q: What strategies or techniques would you employ to ensure accurate and reliable survey results in difficult terrain, and the associated challenges?

A: The equipment today makes this less of an issue than in the past. It is always a good idea to double check field shots and keep good field notes in case something goes wrong you can retrace your steps to determine the issue. It is good practice to close out a traverse loop so that you can check closure error, keeping distances between traverse points at a maximum distance.

Q: Do you believe the surveyor's office currently has sufficient resources to deliver services in a timely manner? What changes or improvements would you propose, if any, to enhance the office's capacity to meet service demands effectively?

A: I believe the surveyor's office has the necessary resources to complete the tasks required of a county surveyor.

Q: What is the role of county surveyor in drainage and storm water control?

A: No response

David Kimberly Harden

Party: Democratic

Biographical Info:

Campaign Phone: (812) 345-9004

Campaign Mailing Address: 2497 Country Club Road Nashville IN 47448

Email: davidkharden@aol.com

Q: What are your qualifications for this position including training, experience, licensing and credentials?

A: I have been the County Surveyor since 2007 and I have been directly involved with the Surveyor's Office since March 1983. I have been involved with 100's of surveys in this county over the years.

Q: How would you assess the reliability of our current GIS mapping systems? What improvements or updates do you think are necessary to enhance their accuracy and effectiveness, and how would you prioritize these enhancements within the budget constraints?

A: The reliability of our current GIS map is very good and it is updated on a daily basis, budget constraints are not a factor with the accuracy and effectiveness.

Q: What strategies or techniques would you employ to ensure accurate and reliable survey results in difficult terrain, and the associated challenges?

A: No strategies or techniques outside of the standard practice of surveying regardless of the terrain is needed. The associated challenges of surveying in Brown County is not an issue.

Q: Do you believe the surveyor's office currently has sufficient resources to deliver services in a timely manner? What changes or improvements would you propose, if any, to enhance the office's capacity to meet service demands effectively?

A: The resources of the Office are currently sufficient and I have always been more than willing and ready to help the public with with information as needed.

Q: What is the role of county surveyor in drainage and storm water control?

A: The county surveyor's role in drainage and storm water control is to work closely with the planning commission and the county health department in these matters.

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, 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

Tiffany Ardent

Party: Democratic

Biographical Info:

Email: strongwoman1968@outlook.com

Education Background: Bachelor's Environmental Policy and Management, Purdue. Graduate Practical Nursing, Ivy Tech, Currently Pursuing Master's Public Administration

Campaign Mailing Address: 7522 Eagle Dr. Nineveh IN 46164

Occupation: Travel Nurse

Campaign Phone: (812) 219-6428

Website: www.arndtforbrowncounty.net

Q: What is the status of the Comprehensive Plan for Brown County and what steps are needed for implementation and fiscal responsibility?

A: The County Comprehensive Plan (CCP), last updated in 2011, outlines its strategic goals regarding how it will govern its land use. It includes guidelines for zoning decisions related to commercial, industrial, and residential properties which affect its tax base. It also addresses future infrastructure needs and emergency service delivery. The plan must adhere to the requirements of IC 36-7-4-502 concerning its content and planning components, and as of August of this year, the APC was in the process of choosing a consultant. Development of a CCP typically takes several months and must include input from the county's residents. The county must have a current CCP to qualify for grants and many other funding sources.

Q: What strategies would you propose, if any, to balance the need for affordable housing with the growth of the tourism and rental sectors?

A: In consultation with the Brown County Redevelopment Commission (BCRC), (Bartlett et al., 2017) determined that Brown County's tax structure, including lower property and higher income taxes, helps increase property demand and value in the county, attracting high-income home buyers who use their BC property as a second or income-generating property. They do not live here or pay income taxes to the county. We must have policies that continue to support tourism while broadening our tax base. Providing incentives for

higher-income workers in specific industries to live and work in the county means improving our digital infrastructure. Attracting families with children by providing grants and other incentives for home ownership needs priority.

Q: Please outline your vision for the future of the Music Center? Specifically, how do you plan to address its potential for either continued ownership by the county or sale, and what factors will influence your decision?

A: I hope the Music Center will continue to be an integral part of the county's capital and financial portfolio. The State Bank of Lizton funded the original project, using the five percent Innkeepers Tax charged on overnight rooms rented for less than thirty days as collateral, and the county has already seen positive returns on its investment. In January 2023, the Music Center announced a gift of \$267,000 to be distributed by the Brown County Community Foundation (BCCF). The Brown County Volunteer Fire Department received \$38,825.50 from these funds for new emergency radios to ensure safe and efficient communication across Brown County. Additionally, the Music Center attracts additional tourists and spending to the county.

Q: What do you see as the role of the county in continuing financial support for health and wellness programs initiated by grants for services such as reintegration support for incarcerated individuals and family counseling.

A: I have been in nursing for 35 years, the last 15 working in mental health/addictions. Access to healthcare, including mental healthcare, is essential for all county residents. The County Commissioners recently opted into the Health First Indiana funding for 2025. The county would have to come up with a minimum \$75,440.63 match; however, it would receive \$175,167.53 in grant funding, twice its investment. Options for raising this sum include pursuing additional grant funding and partnering with neighboring counties that have bigger populations and, therefore, more significant income potential. Helping previously incarcerated individuals with housing and employment opportunities has been shown to increase the overall health of the community.

Q: What are your thoughts on finalizing the middle segment of the Salt Creek Trail and how would you approach its completion?

A: Finishing Salt Creek Trail would do several things. First, as mentioned in question #2, attracting families to the area should be a priority to help strengthen the counties tax base and fund its schools. Providing family oriented recreational activities and ensuring the safety of our children is one key to do this. The walking trail would provide a safer way for students to commute to various areas after school while providing a place for families to get outside in a safe space. Bloomington was able to complete its Showers Complex project with the assistance of a Public Private Partnership (PPP) with CFC Properties. I would like to explore a similar partnership with a suitable partner for the completion of the Salt Creek Trail.

Kevin Patrick

Party: Republican

Biographical Info:

Email: kpatrick4bc@gmail.com

Education Background: Bachelor of Science, Aeronautical Engineering

Campaign Mailing Address: 2124 Twinlake Road Morgantown IN 46160

Occupation: Self Employed / Retired

Campaign Phone: (765) 346-4642

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

Q: What is the status of the Comprehensive Plan for Brown County and what steps are needed for implementation and fiscal responsibility?

A: Our existing comprehensive plan is basic and satisfies state law. However, it is vague and lacks clear vision for the county.

\$37,000 exist to update the plan with funds coming from a Community Foundation gift and the APC. Current quotes to update are more than this and staggering the update over budgeting cycles has been suggested.

The process could move forward with public meetings to collect data, define a clear direction/vision, and identify additional funding sources to continue this process. The Commissioner's should focus on community engagement, identifying grant funding, work with the APC and County Council to budget for this activity, and help put together a clear timeline for getting the plan updated and maintained.

Q: What strategies would you propose, if any, to balance the need for affordable housing with the growth of the tourism and rental sectors?

A: By updating and enhancing our comprehensive plan for the county, these 3 topics will be among the main issues that need more detail. The process for updating the plan and turning it into a roadmap will clearly help promote engagement on a vision for our county.

Part of that vision will likely be the need for infrastructure such as sewers and the internet. These are imperative to facilitate housing and business in Brown County. Housing and small business is critical for the continued growth and health of the county. It would be a source of intellectual capital that would promote opportunities for families, teachers, emergency workers, etc. to live and work in the county to support small businesses, tourism, schools and other industry.

Q: Please outline your vision for the future of the Music Center? Specifically, how do you plan to address its potential for either continued ownership by the county or sale, and what factors will influence your decision?

A: The Music Center (MC) is an asset that can help stimulate and stabilize our county financially. Last year, \$121,000 (25% from MC profit & a payment in lieu of taxes) was paid to the General fund. \$200,000 (75% of profit) went to the Community Foundation for use as local grants. Based on these past numbers; I would like to see the split changed to 50/50 and have a slight increase in the payment in lieu of taxes based on the financial health of the Music Center. Funds could be used for health insurance, capital improvements/maintenance, paving, bridges, or a rainy-day fund.

The Commissioners need to ensure there is a clear vision, competent oversight, and changes made to ensure this asset is a sustainable and reliable funding source.

Q: What do you see as the role of the county in continuing financial support for health and wellness programs initiated by grants for services such as reintegration support for incarcerated individuals and family counseling.

A: The financial authority for such decisions is the County Council and they consider recommendations from the Health Department when asked. To ensure the best outcome on such a decision, the Commissioners need to make Health Department board appointments that operate in the best interest of the taxpayer while balancing our community's needs.

Q: What are your thoughts on finalizing the middle segment of the Salt Creek Trail and how would you approach its completion?

A: I see completion of the Salt Creek trail to the State Park as an opportunity to enhance the quality of life and economy for our residents and visitors. However, I only support using State or Federal funds with no or small funding matches from the County to complete this section of the trail. This means that we will have to work closely with the County Council, our grant writers, and State/Federal agencies to identify those funding opportunities while putting together a clear plan for a project of this size.

What needs to be clear to all involved is that we must prioritize the financial stability of the county ahead of a project like this. Only then can we consider allocating any of our valuable resources and funding to be used.

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 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

Tim Clark

Party: Republican

Biographical Info:

Campaign Phone: (812) 345-1833

Education Background: Bachelors, Masters Degree Public Administration, Masters Strategic Studies, Army War College

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61556820012938

Website: [TimJClarkforCommissioner.com](https://www.TimJClarkforCommissioner.com)

Occupation: Semi-Retired

Campaign Mailing Address: 676 Town Hill Road East Nashville IN 47448

Email: timjclark2024@outlook.com

Q: What is the status of the Comprehensive Plan for Brown County and what steps are needed for implementation and fiscal responsibility?

A: A consultant has been selected. The new plan should represent the voice of "all" residents as to what they want and do not want regarding the quality of life, cost of living, and development. The plan provides the basis for zoning, which influences the tax base. Steps in developing a new plan need to include commissioners and council members who represent the various districts that may have unique desires and needs in their respective areas. Residents need to see how the county (and their areas) are zoned, and they need to know what can or should be built in each of the areas. The council has a key role in any infrastructure-related funding. The commissioners have the overall responsibility to ensure an optimal plan for the county.

Q: What strategies would you propose, if any, to balance the need for affordable housing with the growth of the tourism and rental sectors?

A: Affordable housing has been defined by the federal government as housing-related costs below 30% of income. The first step is to ensure that we all have a common understanding of the scope, extent, and definition of the problem as it relates specifically to Brown County. This includes reviewing the results of the efforts that have been made over the past several years at the state, regional, and local levels to include a reliance on government support. The acceptability of options by area should be included in the conversations in support of the development of the comprehensive plan. This plan should identify the desired balance between the interests of the residents, commercial interests, and investors.

Q: Please outline your vision for the future of the Music Center? Specifically, how do you plan to address its potential for either continued ownership by the county or sale, and what factors will influence your decision?

A: The Music Center has lived up to expectations regarding visitors, profitability, and economic impact. Covid resulted in the need for government funding of approximately three million, including funding from the county. I support a series of public meetings and presentations to allow citizens to voice their opinions and make a case for their preferred options. The presentation can be videotaped and made available 24x7. Written comments can also be accepted and included in the official record. The expected outcome is increased knowledge of the history, policies, practices, and options documented in a final report. Any significant changes will require public support and a majority vote by commissioners and council.

Q: What do you see as the role of the county in continuing financial support for health and wellness programs initiated by grants for services such as reintegration support for incarcerated individuals and family counseling.

A: The county government is among the stakeholders in the health and wellness of the community. The county council continues to provide funding for support services such as for the jail services coordinator. The council was provided with an extensive presentation on Aug. 19 on the results from a current grant focusing on Positive and Adverse Childhood Experiences (PACES). The Commissioners can advocate for a "whole-of-community" approach that can include supporting a proof-of-concept project by applying the strategies developed through the Brown County Leader Network (BCLN). The BCLN was created with a grant from Indiana's Hometown Collaborative Initiative (HCI).

Q: What are your thoughts on finalizing the middle segment of the Salt Creek Trail and how would you approach its completion?

A: Phase I of the trail from CVS to YMCA was supported by the commissioners at the time with the caveat that it would be funded with private donations. They did not support acquiring property through eminent domain. The county gave up this option when it accepted state funding to continue the trail to the State Park. The state now negotiates with landowners and has made generous financial offers for land that prevented any forced sale.

Reportedly, state funding for land acquisition to complete the trail has been reduced, but grants from various sources may be available. The country has contracted with a grant writer and should apply for any funds available. State funding and private donations are additional options.

Justin P. Schwenk

Party: Democratic

Biographical Info:

Campaign Phone: (812) 878-5759

Education Background: BS Social Studies Education; Indiana State University MA History; University of Indianapolis

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61557910170628

Website: www.buildabetterbrowncounty.com

Occupation: Dual Credit Government & US History Teacher

Campaign Mailing Address: 4568 State Road 135 South Nashville IN 47448

Email: schwenkj@gmail.com

Q: What is the status of the Comprehensive Plan for Brown County and what steps are needed for implementation and fiscal responsibility?

A: The BC Comprehensive Plan is out of date & needs to be revised. It was built to solve the problems of the past and is not equipped to handle the problems of the future. An analysis of multiple community comprehensive plans demonstrate common elements. Communities pay large amounts of money to consultants to create generalized plans. I would propose that the community elects Commissioners who would take an active role in the creation of the plan with support from consultants as needed. This will minimize the cost to residents and ensure that county leadership is creating an individualized and authentic plan for Brown County. This is a project that must be prioritized if our community plans to prepare for future challenges.

Q: What strategies would you propose, if any, to balance the need for affordable housing with the growth of the tourism and rental sectors?

A: Both goals can be achieved through a cohesive, collaborative approach. Affordable housing & tourism growth are interconnected & should be managed together. We deserve a Commissioner focused on affordable housing, using strategies like mixed-use development, inclusionary zoning, and redeveloping vacant properties. I will prioritize housing that will welcome the next generation of BC residents. Embracing our arts community past by

encouraging artisans & musicians to establish businesses locally, will enhance tourism & support housing in the future. We are living at a time of demographic change. If we fail to recognize that & fail to take action, not only will housing continue to suffer, but it will be harder to support tourism as well.

Q: Please outline your vision for the future of the Music Center? Specifically, how do you plan to address its potential for either continued ownership by the county or sale, and what factors will influence your decision?

A: I support the continued operation of the BCMC as it currently operates. The music center plays an invaluable role in our community. I am comfortable with reasonable negotiation between the BCMC and the county that might result in thoughtful adjustments in profit sharing. I am absolutely opposed to any efforts to divest the county from ownership.

Q: What do you see as the role of the county in continuing financial support for health and wellness programs initiated by grants for services such as reintegration support for incarcerated individuals and family counseling.

A: County governments often play a crucial role in sustaining programs that support our residents. As Commissioner, I would actively seek to support grant funding & program expansion. I would look to support innovative funding mechanisms such as social impact bonds or public-private partnerships. The Commissioners have a role in collaborating with local non-profits to oversee & evaluate the effectiveness of existing programs as well as developing new ones. By involving community stakeholders, I can assist in advocating for resources at the State-level as well as promoting community engagement. By building the capacity of organizations, we have the opportunity to help our neighbors be productive, contributing members of our community

Q: What are your thoughts on finalizing the middle segment of the Salt Creek Trail and how would you approach its completion?

A: The Salt Creek Trail was a great idea that was poorly executed. Now that it is started, it needs to be completed. Until it is completed, it is a testimony to our counties governmental incompetence. A fresh look, by objective eyes, at where the project stands and what is required to finish it is needed. I would prioritize building a plan, finding the funding while minimizing the exposure to the community, and then completing the trail.

Greg Taggart

Party: Independent

Biographical Info:

Campaign Phone: (812) 325-1868

Occupation: Retired

Campaign Mailing Address: 247 Artist Drive Nashville IN 47448

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Q: What is the status of the Comprehensive Plan for Brown County and what steps are needed for implementation and fiscal responsibility?

A: The status of the comprehensive plan, we now have narrowed down to the company to start the plan. At the present time we have \$37,000 dollars from the community foundation to proceed. It was stated by both companies competing in the process it would cost around \$80,000 to have the complete plan. So as of now the implementation of the plan and the fiscal responsibility would be dependent entirely on grants to complete.

Q: What strategies would you propose, if any, to balance the need for affordable housing with the growth of the tourism and rental sectors?

A: Number one it still starts with infrastructure sewers, water and hopefully internet. If we can start with affordable apartments (not section 8), and housing additions with starter homes. We as commissioners can't build the projects but we can promote and lay the foundations so we can have more opportunities. Hopefully a side effect we could promote small businesses to start here. I really feel we can preserve our beautiful small town and have opportunities for all.

Q: Please outline your vision for the future of the Music Center? Specifically, how do you plan to address its potential for either continued ownership by the county or sale, and what factors will influence your decision?

A: My vision would be that the Music Center continue to thrive as they are. We have an excellent team in place. I see no need to sell the Music Center it's been nothing but a blessing to the county. We've had 80,000 attendees and the county received \$267,000 dollars from the center. The center is another drawing card to our tourist industry like the Brown County State Park, Bill Monroe Music Park, our village with all it's wonderful shops, Salt Creek Retreat, Hard Truth and T C Steele to name a few.

Q: What do you see as the role of the county in continuing financial support for health and wellness programs initiated by grants for services such as reintegration support for incarcerated individuals and family counseling.

A: I promote the county to continue receiving grants to help our community. It's unfortunate that one of my opponents and one commissioner cost us a tremendous opportunity to receive a Stellar Grant! Who know if we'll get pick again to apply!

Q: What are your thoughts on finalizing the middle segment of the Salt Creek Trail and how would you approach its completion?

A: I love our trails, but right now we'll need to apply to INDOT and the DNR before we can purchase the property to proceed with the completion.

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 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. Members of the county council are elected to serve 4 year terms, staggered. 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, boards 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.

Patrick Nielander

Party: Republican

Biographical Info:

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

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

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

Campaign Phone: (317) 908-2510

Q: What is the status of the Comprehensive Plan for Brown County and what steps are needed for implementation and fiscal responsibility?

A: Brown County is indeed in need of fiscal responsibility at present. Major projects can't be considered or programs implemented until funds are available. Financial responsibility is living within your budget.

Q: What strategies would you propose, if any, to balance the need for affordable housing with the growth of the tourism and rental sectors?

A: Affordable housing is the purchase of housing that one can afford. That's common sense. The housing market dictates price. County government solutions should not be considered a part of this financial blueprint. The county is in need of budgetary restraint. Prediction of current revenues and expenditures demand that.

Q: Please outline your vision for the future of the Music Center? Specifically, how do you plan to address its potential for either continued ownership by the county or sale, and what factors will influence your decision?

A: The county is currently profiting from its involvement in the Music Center as is. Brown County desperately needs the income generated from the Music Center. Don't fix what isn't broken. Selling it would give a one-time income profit. Not selling it gives a continuous stream of income. To reiterate, the county needs these funds to meet operational responsibility.

Q: What do you see as the role of the county in continuing financial support for health and wellness programs initiated by grants for services such as reintegration support for incarcerated individuals and family counseling.

A: The county is currently struggling with financial responsibility issues. If sufficient funds are available, continue to fund them. Please remember economic responsibility comes first.

Q: What are your thoughts on finalizing the middle segment of the Salt Creek Trail and how would you approach its completion?

A: I would need more information and details to comment on this.

Judith "Judy" Swift Powdrill

Party: Republican

Biographical Info:

Education Background: 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

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The candidate did not respond by deadline.

Scott Rudd

Party: Republican

Biographical Info:

Education Background: Indiana University, School of Public and Environmental Affairs

Occupation: Small business owner

Campaign Mailing Address: Owl Creek Road Nashville In 47448

Q: What is the status of the Comprehensive Plan for Brown County and what steps are needed for implementation and fiscal responsibility?

A: The Brown County Area Plan Commission is responsible for executing the comprehensive plan project, along with the ultimate approval by the County Commissioners. The Brown County Community Foundation provided a generous gift to the county to partially fund the plan. The Plan Commission has selected a consultant to lead the process and I encourage community leaders and the public to participate to ensure your voice is heard.

Q: What strategies would you propose, if any, to balance the need for affordable housing with the growth of the tourism and rental sectors?

A: In Brown County's case, the zoning ordinance is decades old and badly in need of an overhaul to improve housing availability. We need a better understanding as a community about what actions we can take to positively improve the housing shortage and address higher values associated with living in a community that is valued for its high quality of life. We are not alone in Brown County, other communities like us across the nation during COVID experienced similar increases in prices and demand, especially if they had broadband. The way to accomplish an improved housing situation is with a zoning ordinance revision to ease cost burdens and assist with improving housing starts at all levels.

Q: Please outline your vision for the future of the Music Center? Specifically, how do you plan to address its potential for either continued ownership by the county or sale, and what factors will influence your decision?

A: The music center is a wonderful addition to our tourist economy. In 5 short years, including COVID, the music center has emerged with positive financials, and true impact. It's a needed addition, along with the History Center, Art Gallery expansion, BC Playhouse, mountain biking, Hard Truth, and the many investors into our historic structures across

town. The Music Center has provided a new opportunity for Brown County's numerous talented performing artists by providing a higher visibility platform for their growth. The future I see for the music center is one of continued growth and community collaboration. I am proud to be one of the many people and organizations that helped make the Music Center possible. The show must go on.

Q: What do you see as the role of the county in continuing financial support for health and wellness programs initiated by grants for services such as reintegration support for incarcerated individuals and family counseling.

A: The county needs to play a greater leadership and financial role on this topic. Several initiatives are underway currently within the county to study and address this issue. Positions like the jail services coordinator and organizations like Centerstone, schools, courts, Do Something, and faith and community groups are carrying out critical work for our community. However we must do more to address this important community issue. The county needs to invest more in this area, and play a larger role in addressing our needs.

Q: What are your thoughts on finalizing the middle segment of the Salt Creek Trail and how would you approach its completion?

A: The Salt Creek Trail has proven to be a welcome asset to Brown County. I have served on the Salt Creek Trail committee for several years and plan to continue this important work. State and federal funding will be essential to the trail's continued expansion. Connecting Deer Run Park and the State Park to town and our school system will be a wonderful connection for families and youth.

Category: State Upper House

Race: Indiana State Senate District 44

Description: The Indiana Senate includes up to 50 members chosen by popular election from legislative districts to serve four year terms. Half of the 50 senators are elected every two years. Those seeking election to the Senate must be a citizen of the United States, a resident of Indiana for at least two years, and an inhabitant of his or her district for at least one year. Senators must be at least 25 years of age when elected. The Indiana Senate and the House of Representatives make up Indiana's General Assembly. The General Assembly has broad powers to enact laws that directly affect the daily lives of Indiana citizens.

Eric Koch

Party: Republican

Biographical Info:

Campaign Mailing Address: 2013 Circle Court P.O. Box 372 Bedford IN 47421

Campaign Phone: (812) 279-6367

The candidate did not respond by deadline.

Category: State Lower House

Race: Indiana Representatives District 62

Description: Indiana State Representative District 62The Indiana House of Representatives includes up to 100 members chosen by popular election from legislative districts to serve two year terms. All 100 members of the House of Representatives are elected every two years. Those seeking election to the House must be a citizen of the United States, a resident of Indiana for at least two years, and an inhabitant of his or her district for at least one year. Senators must be at least 21 years of age when elected. The Indiana Senate and the House of Representatives make up Indiana's General Assembly. The General Assembly has broad powers to enact laws that directly affect the daily lives of Indiana citizens.

Candidates:

Dave Hall

Party: Republican

Biographical Info:

The candidate did not respond by deadline.

Thomas Horrocks

Party: Democratic

Biographical Info:

Email: campaign@horrocksforhoosiers.com

Occupation: Pastor and Military Chaplain

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/horrocksforhoosiers/

Website: www.horrocksforhoosiers.com/

Education Background: Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies and Master of Divinity

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Campaign Phone: (317) 440-5078

Campaign X (formerly Twitter): [HorrocksForIN62](https://twitter.com/HorrocksForIN62)

Campaign YouTube URL: www.youtube.com/channel/UC41ZPatbt6GTtONqZK_ISaA

Campaign Instagram: www.instagram.com/horrocksforhoosiers/

Q: What are your legislative priorities for investment regarding conservation of natural resources including renewable energy, and climate?

A: Hoosiers deserve to drink clean water, breathe clean air, and have access to clean, renewable energy. They also deserve to enjoy our rich parks, forests, rivers, and lakes. Unfortunately, Indiana ranks among the worst in the nation with regard to our environment. In addition to investing in environmental cleanup, we should also be investing even more in both larger utility-scale renewable energy initiatives, as well as smaller initiatives, like community solar projects and subsidies for customer-owned renewable energy investments.

Q: Do you support implementing payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) for State lands (e.g. Brown County State Park), or any other means, to help fund the county emergency services they consume? What would your approach be to legislation at the Statehouse?

A: Yes, I would support implementing a PILOT for state lands. Brown County State Park is a state treasure, and the state benefits from the visitors it attracts. Unfortunately, local Brown County government bears the cost of the park in different ways, including the already-mentioned cost of emergency services as well as the loss of potential revenue in the form of property taxes. A PILOT would help offset those costs and reduce the financial burden on county government.

Q: What legislation do you support concerning the right to privacy related to health and reproductive health?

A: Hoosiers shouldn't be afraid that their most personal healthcare decisions might be publicized. I strongly condemn the Indiana attorney general's push to make these records public, and I would support all legislation that strengthens Hoosier's right to medical privacy.

Q: What is your position on statewide funding for preschool programs and child care?

A: I fully support statewide funding for preschool programs and childcare. We know that early childhood education provides enormous long-term benefits for children in terms of educational attainment and future success. We also know that the current lack of affordable childcare is one of the contributing factors to our workforce issues and one of the reasons CNBC has ranked Indiana as the second-worst state for quality of life. Statewide funding for early childhood education would help solve multiple problems.

Q: What strategies do you propose to support rural school districts that are experiencing declining enrollment and decreased funding? How would you address

the challenges these districts face while ensuring rural children have access to quality education?

A: Indiana's current education funding model significantly disadvantages small and rural schools. This is especially true of Indiana's private school voucher program. According to the Indiana Coalition for Public Education, Brown County School Corporation lost nearly three million dollars to the voucher program in the last 7 years, including nearly 760,000 in the last school year alone. I would therefore oppose the further expansion of the voucher program and I would support school grants to help fund small and rural schools.

Category: U.S. House**Race: Indiana U.S. House District 9**

Description: U.S. House of Representatives Qualifications: To be elected, a representative must be at least 25 years old, a United States citizen for at least seven years and an inhabitant of the state he or she represents. Each representative is elected to a two-year term serving the people of a specific congressional district. <https://www.house.gov/the-house-explained>Duties: Among other duties, representatives introduce bills and resolutions, offer amendments, and serve on committees. The house has several powers assigned exclusively to it, including the power to initiate revenue bills, impeach federal officials and elect the President in the case of an Electoral College tie. <https://www.house.gov/the-house-explained>

Russell (Russ) Brooksbank

Party: Libertarian

Biographical Info:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ChooseBrooksbank

Educational background: High School Graduate

Occupation(s): Driver

Campaign email: rpbrooksbank@aol.com

Q: What roles would addressing environmental protection and climate change play in your policy agenda? What specific actions or strategies would you support?

A: The role of government is to secure our rights and provide a means for people who are harmed to be made whole. The current system does not do that with regards to the environment. The EPA does not protect the environment. It gives corporations freedom to pollute up to a certain level without fear of lawsuit. I would abolish the EPA and allow those affected by a company's actions to sue in court.

Q: Please explain your goals for financial sustainability of public health care programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, and the Affordable Care Act.

A: I don't believe those programs are sustainable while ensuring liberty. They require theft to operate. I would vote to end these programs. Not an immediate end, but a phasing out. This way those who have paid into the system get what was promised to them.

I believe that if the government were to get out of the healthcare business prices would drop. A free market and voluntary foundations to help those less fortunate is the only path to sustainability.

Q: What legislation do you favor concerning reproductive health?

A: The recent Supreme Court ruling rightly took this issue and sent it back to the states where it belongs. As a member of Congress I would have no say in the abortion issue. I would, however, support a Personhood Amendment to the Constitution defining a legal person's life as beginning at conception. I believe this would settle the legal question.

As far as birth control is concerned, I believe it should be readily available over the counter.

Q: What are your priorities for addressing our current immigration system?

A: I fault nobody for wanting to come to the greatest country on Earth and make their life better. We need to eliminate the quota system and totally revamp our immigration policy. I'm a proponent of the Ellis Island approach. We should have ports of entry where people wanting to come and live in this country pass through while being registered and vetted. Are they criminals? Are they healthy? Do they have a means of support and a place to live? These basic requirements. Let them in. Let them pay taxes. Let them work towards full citizenship.

Q: The Equal Rights Amendment should be ratified and added to the U.S. Constitution.

A: Support

Q: Please explain your answer.

A: I believe the government should support all our freedom, all the time, for all people. If we need an amendment to the Constitution to make people understand that we mean ALL then I support it 100%.

Erin Houchin

Party: Republican

Biographical Info:

The candidate did not respond by deadline.

Timothy (Tim) Peck

Party: Democratic

Biographical Info:

Instagram: www.instagram.com/timpeckforcongress

Website: timpeckforcongress.com/

Facebook: www.facebook.com/timpeckforcongress

X (formerly Twitter): www.twitter.com/timpeckcongress

Educational background: College of the Holy Cross – Bachelor of Arts, New York University School of Medicine – Doctor of Medicine (MD) Emergency Medicine

Occupation(s): Emergency Physician, Entrepreneur

Campaign email: tim.peck@timpeckforcongress.com

Q: What roles would addressing environmental protection and climate change play in your policy agenda? What specific actions or strategies would you support?

A: As a candidate committed to environmental stewardship, I believe strongly in policies to combat pollution and its impact on climate and the environment. This includes advocating for regulations on industrial emissions and environmental impact, investing in renewable energy sources, and supporting initiatives to preserve and restore ecosystems.

Additionally, I prioritize community engagement and collaboration to address local environmental concerns effectively. By prioritizing science-based solutions and fostering partnerships, we can mitigate pollution's harmful effects, safeguard our planet for future generations, and build a cleaner, more sustainable future for all. Indiana is ranked 49th in pollution and air quality. We must do better.

Q: Please explain your goals for financial sustainability of public health care programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, and the Affordable Care Act.

A: As an Emergency Physician, I've saved the lives of pregnant women who had to make the tough choice to live or die. I've had to witness the trauma of rape and incest – and I've seen that the continued trauma of a woman's or girl's pregnancy from an act of sexual violence. The doctor-patient relationship is based in science, trust, empathy, and faith – and the government has no role in the exam room.

Q: What legislation do you favor concerning reproductive health?

A: Fighting poverty is a moral imperative. I will focus on targeted policies addressing education, job creation, and social support programs to lift our community members out of poverty.

I also believe in working with the private sector to promote the construction of more housing, limiting the red tape around sustainable development and providing incentives for affordable home construction.

As the son of a man who built homeless shelters for a living, I understand the importance of helping the less fortunate and housing the unhoused.

Q: What are your priorities for addressing our current immigration system?

A: No response

Q: The Equal Rights Amendment should be ratified and added to the U.S. Constitution.

A: No response

Q: Please explain your answer.

A: No response

Staff Reports

Nobody covers Brown County like the Democrat!

No posts to display