



THE MORGAN COUNTY Correspondent

2026 PRIMARY ELECTION

VOTER GUIDE





Supporters, owners, staffers and family members of the *Morgan County Correspondent* join Martinsville Mayor Kenny Costin and editor Stephen Crane outside our office at 109 E. Morgan St. in Martinsville back in 2023 for the official ribbon-cutting ceremony with the Martinsville and Mooresville chambers. Our newspaper ownership group – with all nine members based in Morgan County – is united in its mission to serve our community. (Keith Rhoades photo / MCC)

An informed voter is the best kind

When a newspaper disappears in a community, the detrimental impacts are almost immediate — and widespread.

At the basic level, a number of effects can be seen in short order. Community engagement — already under threat in this age of distraction — tends to wither on the vine. Government spending goes up, and civic pride often wanes.

But some of the more immediate impacts can be seen at election time. Voter turnout goes down. The number of candidates

running for office shrinks. And knowing who's running — and what they stand for — becomes increasingly difficult.

Local journalism, when done well, is a true public service, and for elections, our mission to serve the public is spurred on by a desire to inform voters.

In the pages that follow, you'll see just that.

Every contested race — from the U.S. Congressional seat down to the trustee positions — that involves Morgan County is covered.

Every editor is different as to

how an election is approached, and for me, a Q-and-A format is the “cleanest” approach, allowing potential voters to compare and contrast the answers from candidates on the same set of questions.

The candidates were given word-count limits on each question, which was a tall order at times as many of these questions could allow for extended explanation. But for our purposes, we wanted a concise forum for voters to get a good handle on candidates throughout the county.

We hope you will take your time with this. There's a lot of dense information to unpack.

But our greatest hope is that it will go a long way in helping voters here in the county go to the ballot box armed with the knowledge to make an informed decision.

Happy reading, Morgan County, and happy election year!

Now get out and vote! And be informed before you do!

— *Stephen Crane, editor*

U.S. CONGRESS – FOURTH DISTRICT – REPUBLICAN CONTINUED

Q *What role, if any, should bipartisan collaboration play in advancing legislation in D.C.?*

A **Baird:** I'll work with anyone if it leads to real results, but not at the expense of conservative values. Voters want solutions, not political games. Bipartisanship should mean getting things done for the American people, not compromising on principles that matter to our district.

Haggard: I believe in bipartisan collaboration when it advances what is best for the country, but I will never compromise my core conservative principles. I took an oath to uphold the Constitution – not to any political party.

Q *What is your view on campaign finance reform and the role of money in politics?*

A **Baird:** Transparency and accountability are essential, and voters deserve to know who is funding campaigns. I'm proud to have one of the strongest grassroots networks in this race, supported by thousands of small-dollar donors. We need stronger enforcement to ensure campaign funds are used strictly for their intended purpose.

Haggard: Money will always play a role in politics, but the key is transparency and accountability. I support clear disclosure so voters know who is funding campaigns, while protecting the First Amendment rights of Americans to support the candidates and causes they believe in.

Q *What is your view on term limits for federal office holders?*

A **Baird:** I support term limits and understand why voters want fresh leadership and accountability. In my own career, I've effectively self-imposed limits, running to accomplish specific goals and stepping aside once achieved. Ultimately, elections are the best check, and I remain focused on serving, not making a career in Washington.

Haggard: I strongly support term limits and have taken the National Term Limits pledge because I believe public service was never meant to be a lifelong career. There is a time to serve and a time to step aside so new leaders and fresh ideas can step forward.

Q *What are your thoughts on the rise of data centers that have been or are looking to be established in the Fourth District?*

A **Baird:** These decisions must be driven at the local level, not by Washington or outside interests. While data centers can bring investment, communities have real concerns about land use, energy demand, and long-term impact. Local leaders and residents should have the final say to ensure development benefits them, not burdens them.

Haggard: The people of our communities should have the ultimate say in what their neighborhoods and towns look like. When it comes to the rise of data centers, I recognize they can play a role in national security, but their presence

should not come at the expense of local residents.

Q *What are your thoughts on the U.S. military action in Iran?*

A **Baird:** I believe in peace through strength. As such, America must remain strong and prepared to defend its interests. Iran's a serious threat and mustn't have nuclear weapons. We must support our military and allies. Any action should be decisive, strategic, and focused on protecting Americans while avoiding unnecessary long-term conflict.

Haggard: First and foremost, our priority must be the safety of our military personnel and the swift completion of any mission we undertake. The Iranian regime has a long history of hostility toward Americans and our allies, backing proxy attacks and destabilizing actions across the Middle East for decades.

Q *Why should voters cast a ballot for you?*

A **Baird:** I've spent my life serving, in uniform, in agriculture, and in public office. I understand what Hoosiers are facing because I've lived it. I'll continue to fight for lower costs, secure borders, and a stronger America, always putting the people of this district first.

Haggard: Voters should choose me because I bring real-life experience, proven leadership, and a lifelong commitment to service. I have built my life on the foundations of business, family, military service, and community involvement, and I know what it takes to get results for the people I represent.

Vote Carl
Gilbert
 County Commissioner
 Transparency ★ Collaboration
 Paid for by Carl Gilbert for County Commissioner

U.S. CONGRESS – FOURTH DISTRICT – DEMOCRAT

DEMOCRAT CANDIDATES

Drew Cox

*no contact information available

Roger D. Day

*did not respond

Darin Patrick Griesey

Occupation: 4th Generation White County Farm Owner and NGO Consultant

Education: Bachelors of Science-RHIT Purdue University with Post Graduate Certificates in Community Development (Ball State University) and Public Management (Indiana University)

Relevant work experience:

For over 25 years, I have been developing, administering, and evaluating community based initiatives throughout urban and rural Indiana. Partnering with government, and neighborhood based organizations from around the United States to lift the lives of Hoosiers.

Community affiliations: Monon Historic Preservation Society-Lifetime Member; Monticello Spirit Festival-Chairman; Big Monon Basin Conservation Club-Chairman; Democrat Precinct Committeeman-Monon Township

Family: Divorced, Single Parent, One Daughter, in Law School (IU McKinney)

General biography: For the last 30 years, I have advocated in support of dozens of organizations and hundreds of individuals. I have worked across diverse industries, and directed multiple million-dollar projects. Always striving in my personal and professional life to make the dreams of tomorrow, the policy of today.

Thomas D. Hall, Jr.

*did not respond

Joe Mackey

Occupation: Retired

Education: Industrial machining on the job

Relevant work experience:

Former Democrat District Chair IN04

Community affiliations:

Lafayette Rotary, Mackey Family Pediatric Cancer Foundation, Roman Catholic

Family: Married 37 years to wife Tami. Two sons and one daughter – Connor, Patrick (deceased) and Claire (deceased)



DARIN GRIESEY



JOE MACKEY

General biography: My wife and I were born and raised in Lafayette in the heart of Indiana's 4th Congressional district. Our children also were born in and raised in Lafayette. My wife is a registered nurse and I am a retired machinist.

Jayden McCash

*did not respond

Paul McPherson

Occupation: Professor of Practice in School of Engineering Technology and Faculty Director of Bechtel Innovation Design Center at Purdue University

Education: B.S. in Technology and Industrial Arts Management (Berea College), M.S. in Technology (Purdue University)

Relevant work experience:

Director of Bechtel Innovation Design Center, Medina Township Board Member, Chair of Warren County Democrats

Family: Married to a second-grade teacher and have two teenage children.

General biography: I grew up on a 210-acre farm in south central Ohio. I've spent 15 years in manufacturing and higher education here in Indiana. I'm not a career politician. I'm a farmer, an engineer, a teacher, a husband and a dad.

John Phillip Whetstone

*no contact information available

QUESTIONS

Q Why are you running for U.S. Congress?

A Griesey: Washington is corrupt, and this district and our residents need help! I promise on Day One to submit to Congress bills focused on lifting the lives of Hoosiers, guaranteeing health care as a right, strengthening social security, balancing the federal budget, fixing immigration, and ushering in a new American economy.

Mackey: I believe residents of the 4th Congressional have been, and I fear will continue to be, represented in Congress by people who are more committed to a party than they are to their District. It is time to place the needs of our citizens above the desires of their corporate masters.

McPherson: I am tired of the inaction in Washington and lifetime politicians not working for the American people by continuing to repeatedly present the same legislation, knowing it is dead on arrival. I will bring new ideas and solutions to Washington, and work with lawmakers across the aisle.



PAUL MCPHERSON

Q What relevant experience do you have to be a U.S. Representative?

A Griesey: My 30-year professional career includes policy research, program development, organizational management, and project evaluation in both the public and private sectors. I have traveled throughout a dozen countries, and across 40 states, listening to the concerns of others, and helping them implement solutions to the issues of the day.

Mackey: I have lived in the 4th District my whole life. I am no stranger to every corner of our District. Unaffordable Healthcare. Ever increasing cost of energy, poorly funded public schools and higher education costs continue to increase. Knowing the District is paramount to serving the 4th District.

McPherson: I believe my experience in farming, manufacturing, and higher education has prepared me to go and fight for a better future for the individuals in the 4th district. My management and leadership experience has prepared me to work with individuals across various sectors as well as manage budgets.

Q What do you see as the three most important tasks carried out by a U.S. Representative?

A Griesey: The first and most important task is listening to your constituents, ensuring transparency, and having an accessible district office to facilitate proper communication with residents. The next Task is to shape policy and make laws to lift the lives of those you serve, while always preserving the American promise of a government for and by the people. And lastly, Oversight and Accountability of the office and institution.

Mackey: To represent the people of the 4th District and not a party, person or Corporation. To build a budget which addresses the needs of the District. To provide a stable and balanced budget absent of secrecy.

McPherson: A U.S. Representative's core responsibilities boil down to three things: crafting and voting on federal laws, representing the interests and priorities of their district in Washington, and helping constituents navigate federal agencies through casework and local support. Legislating, advocating, and problem-solving define how a representative shapes national policy while staying accountable to the people.

Q In your mind, what are the three biggest challenges confronting the Fourth District, and more specifically Morgan County?

A Griesey: The District and Morgan County are currently plagued with a myriad of issues. The increased cost of living, and less take-home pay are some of the biggest challenges facing residents, while local governments struggle to rebuild crumbling infrastructure, address wastewater issues, treat the sick, and educate the young. Potable drinking water and pollution is a major concern for all.

U.S. CONGRESS – FOURTH DISTRICT – DEMOCRAT CONTINUED

Q *In your mind, what are the three biggest challenges confronting the Fourth District, and more specifically Morgan County?*

A **Mackey:** Rural Healthcare. Healthcare is a human right which has grown well beyond affordable. Education is fundamental to our future. Education should be viewed as an investment in our future and not just an expense from the taxpayer's pocketbook. Water management policy. The U.S. has no modern water use and restoration policy.

McPherson: The three biggest challenges facing the 4th District include cost of living, specifically access to and affordability of healthcare in rural communities, infrastructure related to housing affordability and utility services, and industrial growth, specifically data centers.

Q *When in conflict, how would you reconcile the desires of constituents with the desires of party leadership in D.C.?*

A **Griesey:** My campaign is based on making the dreams of tomorrow, the policies of today. The bills I have pledged to submit on Day One have local support, and broad legislative appeal from both sides of the House.

Mackey: We have suffered decades of our representatives going to Washington to represent a party and now a person. It is time for a representative that is there to represent the needs of the 4th District. I will vote my District interest before all else.

McPherson: I would work with both groups to find a compromise. I am not running to fall in line with the party but rather to improve the lives of Americans. I will host town halls to listen to the concerns of the citizens as well as provide feedback from Washington.

Q *If elected, what would be your top three legislative priorities and why?*

A **Griesey:** Ending the corruption in Washington, Putting more money in the pockets of Hoosiers, and Supporting the needs of local governments, will always be my top legislative priorities. Having implemented community building initiatives throughout urban and rural Indiana, I understand the struggles of local governmental agencies. Having been a single parent, I know the power of disposable income. As a Farm Owner, I know the cost of inputs.

Mackey: Healthcare, education and updating our nations water management policies.

McPherson: Three of my top issues include healthcare, education, and farm bill reform. We need more affordable and better access, especially in rural communities, to healthcare. We need more investment into K-12 public education to strengthen the future workforce. We need an updated and stronger farm bill to ensure vital programs continue.

Q *What are the common themes you're hearing from residents while on the campaign trail?*

A **Griesey:** So many common concerns have been voiced, but a few of the most memorable include- Get ICE out of the Streets, Stop the Corruption in Washington, End the Forever Wars, Guarantee my Social Security, Lower the cost of Goods and Services, Help Fund our Schools, No Data Centers, I want Clean Water, I

can't Afford to go to the Doctor, Balance the Budget, Term Limits for Congress, Overhaul the Supreme Court, Eliminate Income Taxes.

Mackey: Everywhere I travel I hear the same concerns. Unaffordable Healthcare. Ever increasing cost of energy, poorly funded public schools and higher education costs continue to increase. While Wall Street gains, Main Street suffers. I am focused on the issues affecting everyone in the 4th District.

McPherson: The common themes are that people are tired of the inaction in Washington. They want someone that can find middle ground between both parties for common sense, affordable solutions. They are concerned about energy prices, healthcare, and infrastructure.

Q *What role, if any, should bipartisan collaboration play in advancing legislation in D.C.?*

A **Griesey:** This campaign hopes to usher in a new era of servant leadership. A paradigm shift from our current politics. A place without the influence of a party or donor. A Washington where bipartisan collaboration will be the norm and those elected will give their full support to good ideas.

Mackey: This is where we are today. Hyper partisan politics. Congress focuses on the issues that divide us and fails to work on the issues in which there is agreement. The art of politics, "Nobody gets all they want, but everybody can get something." Politics is the art of compromise, and we have lost that in government today.

McPherson: I strongly believe the only way our government will work for all Americans is through bipartisan legislation. Lawmakers should use facts and figures to drive legislation, not special interests or partisan politics.

Q *What is your view on campaign finance reform and the role of money in politics?*

A **Griesey:** I have been a Democrat precinct committeeman for the last 28 years, across three different Indiana counties. Sadly, I have watched campaigns go from listening to residents, to calling donors all day to feed their coffers. The dark money and corruption has to stop.

Mackey: We must end Citizens United and remove soft money from the political arena. Our democracy is being manipulated by those who do not wish to be exposed to the public.

McPherson: I believe campaign finance reform is needed. Legislators should not be bought out by companies. In the short term, more transparency is needed to know where money is coming from for campaigns.

Q *What is your view on term limits for federal office holders?*

A **Griesey:** I have supported term limits for decades at both the local and federal levels. If elected, I have promised to deliver a bill on Day One to limit both the US House and the Senate to a maximum of two consecutive terms.

Mackey: I think it should be left to the voters at home to determine the value of their representatives.

McPherson: I believe there should be term limits for

federal office holders. Progress only happens if new ideas are being brought to Washington on a regular basis.

Q *What are your thoughts on the rise of data centers that have been or are looking to be established in the Fourth District?*

A **Griesey:** Data centers are important for the growing US digital economy. But Centers can drain a community's natural resources, and raise electricity rates. To address these concerns, I have proposed a bill mandating homeowners the right to produce and sell electricity back to their local utility at a guaranteed rate.

Mackey: We should place a federal moratorium on all data center development until the public has a thorough understanding of the impact these will have on communities, and we can properly regulate their safety to the public and our environment.

McPherson: I think data centers are a necessary evil in today's technological and data driven society. However, more regulations are needed to prohibit such facilities from being built where resources such as water are not readily available. Companies should not receive tax breaks and should bear the cost of infrastructure upgrades.

Q *What are your thoughts on the U.S. military action in Iran?*

A **Griesey:** Trillions of dollars in military spending, billions in contractor grift, and increased US debt is bad business. The death, illness, and trauma to military and civilian populations in the region are a backslide for humanity.

Mackey: This action is an absolute disaster on a global scale. This action has clearly been poorly planned, hastily executed and extremely costly in terms of life and finance. We taxpayers are now being burdened with rapidly expanding debt. The stupidity is alarming!

McPherson: I strongly believe that this was an unnecessary conflict that could have been settled through diplomacy. While I do not disagree that there are issues with the leadership in Iran, I do not think there was evidence that warranted the military action and there is no clear objective moving forward.

Q *Why should voters cast a ballot for you?*

A **Griesey:** This campaign has been listening to voters and has pledged on Day One to submit legislation to address those concerns. With over 30 years of community development experience in both the public and private sectors, I understand the needs of diverse constituents, not just the well connected.

Mackey: I have worked in the 4th District for a decade. I have served as the Chair of the 4th District Democratic Party. I am no stranger to every corner of our District. I know and understand our District rural, urban and suburban.

McPherson: I am a moderate Democrat that will bring an engineering problem solving approach to the social and economic problems facing our country. I have no problem working with individuals that may have different viewpoints and still working to find a middle ground that will help the American people.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE – DISTRICT 57 – REPUBLICAN CONT.

Family: Widow (married 36 years) with two adult children

General biography: Born and raised in Ohio. Moved to Indiana in 1985, Mooresville in 1996. Raised our family in Mooresville. I was software designer prior to starting our family. Husband co-owned a product development company. I was a stay-at-home mom while raising our children.

QUESTIONS

Q *Why do you want to run for state representative in District 60?*

A **Bennett:** I'm running to provide steady, conservative leadership rooted in service, accountability, and common-sense problem-solving. Our communities deserve a representative who listens, can get things done, strengthens families, supports economic growth, and protects the Hoosier values that make this a great place to live.

Knott: Because the system is rigged. While families paid \$28 more a month – the biggest jump in 20 years – utility companies wrote checks to legislators who mandated expensive coal over cheaper gas. I built a Contract with Hoosiers: six specific, proven reforms, and I am running to deliver them.

Stiles: I'm a Christian husband, father, and grandfather. I have specific goals to accomplish with the determination and discipline to deliver results to make Hoosier lives better. I will take action, not merely hold a seat.

Turner: I want to pass laws that are impactful in positive ways – laws that make Indiana a desirable place to live, work and raise a family.

Q *What do you see as the three most important tasks carried out by a state rep?*

A **Bennett:** To listen to constituents, craft practical policies that strengthen communities, and provide strong oversight of state agencies and spending. The job is about service, problem-solving, and ensuring policies reflect real-world solutions for families, local governments, and taxpayers.

Knott: First, ask whether every bill is constitutional and advances human freedom before voting yes on anything. Second, represent the people of the district honestly, including telling them when the legislature fails them. Third, read every bill and vote on the merits, not on instructions from leadership or pressure from donors.

Stiles: Sponsoring or Co-sponsoring legislation that improves the lives of Hoosiers. Collaborating with other legislators to actually get results for constituents. Getting on committees that specialize in my areas of expertise.

Turner: Learn the issues that restrict Hoosiers' life, liberty and prosperity. Write legislation to remove those barriers. Build coalitions to pass that legislation.

Q *What do you consider the two most important issues facing Hoosiers and if elected, what policies will you push for to address each one?*

A **Bennett:** There are a lot of big issues and projects to tackle, but I would start with affordability and

creating strong local economies, along with more accessible and affordable health care. I will support small businesses, strengthen infrastructure, while protecting essential healthcare services for seniors, families, and vulnerable residents.

Knott: Property taxes and electric bills. On property taxes: end the tax on residential improvements and stop corporate abatements that shift the burden onto homeowners. On electric bills: repeal the laws that mandated expensive coal over cheaper natural gas, restore net metering, and require data centers to fund their own infrastructure.

Stiles: My two highest priorities would be property tax reform and financial literacy school standards. No one should be taxed out of their home or off the family farm. I also support housing affordability incentives and strengthening career and trades education. I'm pro-life and pro-second amendment.

Turner: Inflationary property assessments have made property taxes unaffordable for many. We need to find alternative ways to fund public safety, local governments and infrastructure. Affordability remains a major challenge, with utility rates, health insurance premiums, healthcare costs, and food prices rising much faster than incomes.

Q *Given the impact on local governments, what are your thoughts on Senate Enrolled Act 1 that was passed last year?*

A **Bennett:** SEA 1 restricts local revenue for local governments, which puts pressure on counties, cities, and towns already working to maintain essential services. I am concerned. I support fiscal responsibility, but we need to work on this so as not to hurt public safety, infrastructure, or community stability. Indiana needs a balanced approach that reins in costs while preserving the flexibility local governments rely on to serve residents.

Knott: It did not go far enough. Hoosiers were promised real relief by legislators who caved to local government lobbying and delivered a bill that rearranges the burden without reducing it. Stop taxing residential improvements entirely. End the corporate handouts that force homeowners to carry a larger share. Anything short of that is a broken promise.

Stiles: This was a first step, however it did not go nearly far enough in giving property tax relief. I would push for more transparency and reform to reduce property taxes further. My personal property taxes have doubled in the last four years; that is an unsustainable rate of increase.

Turner: It didn't provide impactful reduction of property taxes for homeowners, and it has caused confusion on how counties, cities, towns, townships, schools, public safety, fire protection and EMS will be funded. There's much work to be done in the upcoming 2027 budget session to clarify and resolve issues SEA1 created.

Q *What is your take on public referendums or similar ballot initiatives that are put before Hoosier voters?*

A **Bennett:** Public referendums give Hoosiers a direct voice on major decisions. They work best

when voters have clear, honest information and the issue has a real community impact. Empowering citizens while ensuring decisions are well-informed and fiscally responsible is a positive approach.

Knott: Constitutional amendments placed on the ballot after passing two consecutive legislative sessions are a legitimate check on legislative overreach, and I support them. Tax-raising referendums that bypass the legislature and drive up property tax bills are a different matter. Voters deserve honest representation in the Statehouse, not end-runs around it.

Stiles: Depending on the issue, I would be open to this option, especially if a critical issue that a large majority of voters want gets bogged down in debate.

Turner: In Hendricks County, several school corporations utilize public referendums to circumvent property tax caps. Indiana should pursue new ways to fund schools and examine current funding limitations so schools do not have to burden property owners with additional taxes. I support the ballot question process to amend the Indiana Constitution.

Q *The state rolled out a slew of tax abatements for data centers, which have quickly become a statewide issue – and a Morgan County issue. Proponents point to the tax revenue they represent while opponents voice concerns over the possible negative repercussions. What are your thoughts on data centers?*

A **Bennett:** Data centers can bring investment, but they also raise real questions about land use, infrastructure strain, and long-term tax fairness. I support responsible growth – projects that strengthen local revenues, protect neighborhoods, and ensure companies pay their fair share. Morgan County deserves development that benefits residents, not just large corporations.

Knott: Data centers should pay their own way. Any requiring new substations or grid upgrades should fund that infrastructure, not pass the cost to ratepayers. No tax incentives. No abatements. Not for anyone. Indiana families are not a subsidy program for trillion-dollar technology companies. One set of rules for every business, large or small.

Stiles: Artificial intelligence is a lucrative industry, and data center companies should pay for their own added electrical and water needs. Hoosier residents and farmers should NOT be saddled with the costs for increased demand for electricity and water for new data centers. The state should closely regulate new power supplies for data centers that balance the needs of the community with new data centers.

Turner: I don't think the wealthiest companies in the world should be given tax abatements and exemptions. Besides the Monrovia data center, another data center was just approved in Camby. A data center was approved in Henry County. In each of these cases, the citizens clearly didn't want these data centers in their neighborhoods or on their farmland. Why the rush? Why Indiana? Why now? Until we know these answers, Indiana should pause additional data centers.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE – DISTRICT 57 – REPUBLICAN CONT.

Q *The state passed a number of significant reforms to Medicaid spending this year. Supporters said spending was out of control and needed to be tightened up, while opponents said it will remove necessary coverage from vulnerable people. What's your take on the Medicaid reforms?*

A **Bennett:** Medicaid must be sustainable, accountable, and fiscally sound. Reforms should not jeopardize vulnerable Hoosiers. I support tightening inefficiencies while protecting essential care for seniors, people with disabilities, and low-income families. Smart oversight and compassion can coexist – and Indiana should strive for both.

Knott: The reforms are directionally right. Able-bodied adults who can work should work. Assistance exists for those who genuinely need it, not as a substitute for employment. Work requirements must be simple and honest, not designed with red tape that cuts off the most vulnerable while appearing to encourage work.

Stiles: Life saving and essential medical services should be maintained. We also should look for ways to have proper safeguards against fraud and abuse.

Turner: Medicaid was created to provide healthcare for children, the disabled and the indigent. The Affordable Care Act changed this focus and coerced states to expand Medicaid coverage to able-bodied adults. Indiana expanded Medicaid coverage resulting in exponential increases in costs, consuming a larger piece the state budget.

Q *The legislature passed a bill this year, looking to begin township consolidation. What's your stance on township government?*

A *Necessary, unnecessary, or needed reform? And why?*

Bennett: Townships still matter, but modernization is overdue. I support thoughtful reform that preserves essential services, reduces duplication, and delivers better value for taxpayers.

Knott: Unnecessary. Indiana has 1,008 township governments duplicating county services. The legislature started the work. I will stand up to special interests and finish it.

Stiles: I believe the closer government is to the people, the better. However, we must balance that against increased costs and good accountability.

Turner: I do not support townships being forced into city, town or county control. I support township mergers when all sides come to an agreement that will still provide township services while saving taxpayer dollars.

Q *If elected, what would be your top legislative priority and why?*

A **Bennett:** When state decisions impact public safety, infrastructure, or essential services, I'll champion practical reforms that protect taxpayers while giving local governments the tools they need to serve residents effectively.



Knott: Property tax reform that actually delivers. End the tax on residential improvements. End the corporate handouts that shift the burden onto homeowners. Every cost-of-living problem facing Hoosiers gets worse when government punishes people for improving their own homes.

Stiles: Education is a major portion of the state budget and a high priority for me. I want taxpayers and students to get the best education opportunities we can provide. Reading fundamentals begin with teaching phonics with teacher competency. We need to ensure that phonics education is happening with excellence.

Turner: Property tax reform. The public is overwhelmingly asking for this.

Q *If ever in conflict, how do you reconcile the desires of constituents with the desires of the GOP at the Statehouse?*

A **Bennett:** I listen first. My district comes first. That's the way our system works. I ground my decisions in facts, local impact, and long-term responsibility. My job is to serve the people of District 57 while working to deliver positive, conservative results.

Knott: I represent the people of House District 57, not party leadership or donors. I am funding my own campaign. When Gov. Holcomb vetoed the bill protecting girls from males in their sports and locker rooms, the right vote was to override it. Constituents come first.

Stiles: My guiding principles are aligned as follows: God, family, others, and with government, they are US Constitution, Indiana Constitution, desires of constituents, desires of GOP at the Statehouse. I'm a

Republican because I'm in alignment with most GOP principles, however I'm a Christian first, family man, and American patriot.

Turner: The desires of the GOP at the Statehouse are not high on my list. I will judge legislation based on my Christian values, the US Constitution, the Indiana Constitution, support voiced from constituents and then consider the desire of the GOP.

Q *Why should voters cast a ballot for you?*

A **Bennett:** I'm a proven private and public-sector leader with decades of fiscal, regulatory, and community experience. I listen first, solve problems, and put people ahead of politics.

District 57 deserves steady, conservative leadership. I'm ready to get to work for our families, our future, and our shared Hoosier values.

Knott: Because I have a specific plan, not vague promises. The Contract with Hoosiers commits to six proven reforms with results from other states. Twenty-six years in the private sector, never on a government payroll. Accountable to voters, not insiders.

Stiles: I love Indiana, and I believe our best days are ahead – if we lead with courage, clarity, and conviction. We need leaders who will take action, not just hold a seat. I'm running because I have a clear set of goals and the determination, experience, and discipline to deliver real results.

Turner: Rooted in my Christian faith, I am unapologetically pro-life. I am committed to defending our Second Amendment rights, supporting law enforcement and first responders, advancing school choice, and preserving the freedoms that make Indiana the best place to raise a family.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE — DISTRICT 60

STATE REPRESENTATIVE — DISTRICT 60

Peggy Mayfield

Occupation:

State legislator; retired from private sector

Education:

IUPUI-Purdue School of Engineering and Technology (program focus: Computer Technology)

Relevant

work experience:

Elected office: County Clerk 2006-2012; State Representative 2012-present; business owner; community volunteer

Community affiliations: Multiple Chambers of Commerce, 22 years as Boy Scout volunteer, American Legion Auxiliary, VFW, St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church

Family: Married to Dean Mayfield 41 years, four grown children, One daughter-in-law, one grandchild and another on the way.

General biography: Wife, mother, grandmother, businesswoman, public servant, coach, and volunteer with a passion for helping others realize their potential. Award-winning legislator in healthcare, education, veterans affairs, transportation, and protection of the unborn.

Mike Moore

Occupation:

Police Lieutenant

Education: Some college

Relevant work experience:

Leadership roles in fraternal organizations and as a law enforcement officer, as well as union president for local law enforcement union

Community affiliations: member of American Legion Post 230, member of Green Township Fire Rescue Board, member of charitable fraternity

Family: I am the father of three boys; two of them made Eagle Scout, and one is a firefighter/EMT, one is in college, one is in high school. I am also the proud grandfather of three.

General biography: I have been a sheet metal worker, firefighter/EMT, corrections officer, and law enforcement officer. I have been in law enforce-



PEGGY MAYFIELD

ment since 1998. I serve as a lieutenant currently. I was awarded the Medal of Valor and Purple Heart in 2006 after being shot in the line of duty.

David W. Waters

Occupation:

Individual Trader on the Chicago Board of Options Exchange

Education: B.S. Business Administration – Accounting (IU, 86); B.S. Pharmacy (Purdue, 93); B.S. Civil Engineering (CU-Denver, 00)

Relevant work

experience: Motor Fuel/Special Fuel Tax Auditor – Indiana Department of Revenue; Licensed Pharmacist, Colorado & Indiana – Multiple retail chains, K-Mart, Walgreens, Kroger, and Temp Agency, fulfilling staffing needs for Safeway, Longs Drugs and other pharmacies; Tuttle – Applegate then became Applegate Group, Inc.; Honda Manufacturing of Indiana

Community affiliations: Boy Scouts of America – Adult Leader, Adult Committee Chairman, Scoutmaster, Treasurer, Venture Crew Adult Leader

Family: Divorced on 12/26/2026 as a result of being sued by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association through my dead aunt's probate in Larimer County, Colo.

General biography: Born and raised in Vincennes, Ind., and taught to approach life as a life-long student so as not to be pigeonholed into one way of making a living

QUESTIONS

Q Why do you want to run for state representative in District 60?

Mayfield: In addition to the answers in Question No. 2, I would use the knowledge and experience gained during my tenure

to continue advocating for the varied interests of District 60. This encompasses modifications to existing policy as well as emerging issues. There is always a new topic on the horizon.

Moore: I want to bring change to our district and be present in the community listening to constituents and making the changes our community wants.

Waters: I witnessed the adoption of IC 3-10-4-6.5 in 2017. I found no legislator aware of the new law being created, including the State Representative who sponsored the bill. The law-making process

in Indiana is broken. The incumbents are clueless about the State's role in shaping the Federal Level of government.

Q What do you see as the three most important tasks carried out by a state rep?

Mayfield: 1. Listen to constituents through civic and community engagement. Several bills I have authored have literally come from encounters with the public in the aisles of Walmart or Kroger. Encourage people to share their ideas and concerns. 2. Support legislation that responsibly provides public services such as education, infrastructure and public safety, promotes economic growth and opportunity, and offers affordability. 3. Provide constituent services that offer assistance or direct people to helpful resources.

Moore: Being a true representative of the district that is served. Finding solutions through collaboration with members of the community and local leaders. Communication with the district not what I did but what is going on and how it affects the community before the vote is taken.

Q What do you consider the two most important issues facing Hoosiers and if elected, what policies will you push for to address each one?

Mayfield: Affordability and public safety (including internet safety for children) consistently rank as top concerns. To help manage the cost of living, government should incentivize cost-saving behavior versus interfering with free markets. We have taken steps to address internet safety, but technology continues to evolve faster than laws can keep up.

Moore: I plan to look for ways to eliminate property taxes on homes and land without a mortgage. Funding education: Since SEA 1 has changed the landscape of how local government gets education funding, I would work with local and state leaders to find creative ways to assist in funding school.

Waters: The wealth tax, which we call the property tax, is strangling our liberties. I will push to eliminate property taxes. The health care community created the current opioid abuse crisis. The health care community thinks they are addressing the issue with maintenance therapy, which is complete hogwash.

SEE DISTRICT 60 | PAGE 11



MIKE MOORE

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE — DISTRICT 60 — CONT.

Q Given the impact on local governments, what are your thoughts on Senate Enrolled Act 1 that was passed last year?

A **Mayfield:** Changes were made this session giving local governments more flexibility and easing some concerns. Most residential parcels will see a reduction in their tax bill next month. Jackson Township is an exception due to the fire territory. Commercial parcels will see an increase. The goal was to redistribute the property tax burden borne by each property class closer to one-third each: residential, agricultural, and commercial. The next area to analyze is assessed values.

Moore: SEA 1 was pushed through too fast and needed to be planned out better allowing local government time to prepare for the loss of funding it created.

Waters: The drive for local control is appealing, but look at the lawlessness of Marion County's local officials. I believe Marion County's UniGov legal structure is ruining Indiana. SB1 did nothing but relieve our elected state-level officials of responsibility. This past session attempted to remedy the defects of SB 1 by authorizing more local control. With Marion County as the example, more local control is dangerous.

Q What is your take on public referendums or similar ballot initiatives that are put before Hoosier voters?

A **Mayfield:** I support Indiana's current policy that allows referendums only in specific limited circumstances. Representative government requires me to be thoughtful and deliberative regarding the priorities of the district, engage at multiple levels in the community, and remain accountable to my constituents. Legislators should not abdicate this responsibility.

Moore: Referendums make Hoosiers aware of the needs of the local government and allow the people to speak and decide.

Waters: For the most part, the electorate is disenfranchised. Our schools seem to teach mistrust of our representative republic. Few seem to pay attention to local issues. Electronic voting opens the door to shenanigans. It matters not how or when you vote; what matters is who counts the vote.

Q The state rolled out a slew of tax abatements for data centers, which have quickly become a statewide issue — and a Morgan County issue. Proponents point to the tax revenue they represent while opponents voice concerns over the possible negative repercussions. What are your thoughts on data centers?

A **Mayfield:** Local governments may offer abatements. The state offers other tax incentives that do not affect local tax revenues when certain parameters are met. This distinction is important to avoid confusion that allows misinformation to cloud factual discussions. NDA's are commonplace in economic development, but additional guardrails may be in order. Data center technology is advancing rapidly, resulting in a marked reduction in water usage, and ratepayer protections are being established to protect residential utility customers.

Moore: Data centers are a necessary evil that need to be planned away from housing districts. The tax abatement needs to be beneficial to the community, which could help with placing funds back in the hands of the local government.

Waters: Data centers are dangerous. They consume way too much electricity. It seems the centers are needed to create more fake news.

Q The state passed a number of significant reforms to Medicaid spending this year. Supporters said spending was out of control and needed to be tightened up, while opponents said it will remove necessary coverage from vulnerable people. What's your take on the Medicaid reforms?

A **Mayfield:** Medicaid is an important safety net for many Hoosiers, but it must also be sustainable. These reforms strengthen accountability, reduce waste and help ensure the program continues serving those who truly need it. Every dollar spent on an unqualified individual is a dollar that is diverted from a needy recipient.

Moore: Medicaid is for people struggling to provide themselves and family with medical insurance. I have seen first hand how some people throttle back work hours in order to keep benefits. Medicaid is not an insurance plan unless you are permanently disabled.

Waters: The state is spending a lot of money on the outcome of maintenance therapy for treating opioid abuse disorder. We are paying for chemical dependence. The healthcare industrial complex sucks money out of our wallets through Medicaid. Healthcare is not an issue for the government to solve.

Q The legislature passed a bill this year, looking to begin township consolidation. What's your stance on township government? Necessary, unnecessary, or needed reform? And why?

A **Mayfield:** Somewhere between reform and elimination. Status quo is inefficient. We must continue to identify efficiencies for delivering

cemetery maintenance, fire protection, and poor relief services.

Moore: Township government is a local issue that can be sorted out at the local level.

Waters: Abolish townships. They made sense in horse and buggy days. Township government needs to go where the horse-and-buggy era went.

Q If elected, what would be your top legislative priority and why?

A **Mayfield:** The FBI has identified property deed fraud as the fastest growing crime in the country. Fraudulent and forged documents are used to steal property title, without the rightful owner ever aware of the transaction. Property is typically the largest asset a person accumulates, and we must protect people's homeownership.

Moore: Elimination of property taxes for land and homes that are paid off. This topic hits close to home for me.

Waters: My mother lost property she inherited to property taxes while she was caring for my father who had dementia.

Moore: Eliminate property tax and replace it with an expanded sales tax base.

Q If ever in conflict, how do you reconcile the desires of constituents with the desires of the GOP at the Statehouse?

A **Mayfield:** It depends. In matters of policy, when I dislike the approach, I focus on whether it achieves the long-term goal and vote accordingly. In matters of conscience (which differs from faith or religious practice), I vote my conscience.

Moore: I would use good judgment and remember who sent me to the statehouse. The GOP works as a team to come up with topics and issues to address, they work for the people of this state and will do what is in the best interest of Hoosiers.

Waters: The GOP, as currently constructed, can go pound sand.

Q Why should voters cast a ballot for you?

A **Mayfield:** My experience as a small business owner offers common sense guidance as I consider the ramifications of public policy. Multiple points of view on bills under consideration are welcomed and valued. I strive to be accessible and responsive. I would be honored to continue serving as your representative.

Moore: I believe in term limits. It is time for a change. I still work full time to support my family and invest in my future. I am not a politician, nor do I have the desire to make this a career.

Waters: You won't be getting the same old same old.



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COUNTY



MORGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Kevin Collier

**not actively campaigning, and instead, recommending support for Mike Kirsch*

Carl Gilbert**Occupation:**

President/Owner of Midway Auction Company

Education:

Bachelor's in business management with HR Concentration Community affiliations: Indiana Auctioneers Association, Masonic Lodge, VFW, American Legion

Family: My beautiful partner in life Stephanie Fraker, and five beautiful children, Katlyn (29), Benjamin (18), AJ (13), Dawson (6) and Rebecca (5)

General biography: Lifelong county resident, second-generation business owner carrying on a 40-year family legacy, and a retired U.S. Army Sergeant Major. Service has always guided my life. I believe strongly in giving back to the community that shaped me and working to ensure it remains a strong place for families and future generations.

Mike Kirsch**Occupation:**

Retired from M. T. Kirsch Construction Inc.

Education: BHSN High school, Ivy Tech - Architectural design and estimating

Community

affiliations: Central Indiana Bicycle Association (Risk management director) Hoosier Eggheads, Bloomington Classical Guitar Society

Family: Wife Sandy, two children Evan and Regan, both married

General biography: I've lived in Morgan County for 40 years with my wife and two kids. For over three decades, I've run my own construction business, a job that taught me the value of a hard day's work and community service through local civic groups.



CARL GILBERT



MIKE KIRSCH

Bethaney Latham**Occupation:**

Financial Management and Community Development

Education:

Martinsville High School graduate

Community affiliations: Morgan County Leadership Academy; Execu-

tive Director, 2016 graduate, past board president; Morgan County Republican Convention Delegate; Elected official; Martinsville Rotary Club since 2021: past president, Vice President; Porch Time: Executive Leadership Team member; Morgan County Parks & Recreation Board: Secretary; MeCAP: Project Manager; Community Foundation of Morgan County: Grants Committee Member; MSD of Martinsville: Building Corp. member; Bobby Helms Jingle Bell Rock Christmas Music Spectacular: organizing committee member; Women Inspiring Women: organizing committee member

Family: Married with four children and four grandchildren

General biography: Bethaney Latham a community-focused leader with 35 years of financial management experience. Background is in civic engagement, leadership development, and volunteer service. She is committed to strengthening local communities. As candidate, she is committed to responsible decision and growth, and putting Morgan County first – every decision, every day.

QUESTIONS**Q Why do you want to run for county commissioner?**

A **Gilbert:** I'm running for County Commissioner to bring responsible leadership, transparency, and practical decision-making to our county. As a local business owner and retired Army Sergeant Major, I understand budgets, accountability, and service. I want to protect property rights, support smart growth, and ensure our county remains strong for future generations.

Kirsch: My decision to run was to give the voters a choice in the election. I have developed business and planning experience over the last 4 decades that no other candidate can offer. We're at the pivot point in our county's history, and I'm ready to put that experience to work.

Latham: We are on the cusp of growth in this county, and I have witnessed the lack of support



BETHANEY LATHAM

for and from the public. I want to provide steady, responsible leadership. I am committed to ensuring every action puts our communities first – today and in the future.

Q What relevant experience do you have to be a commissioner?

A **Gilbert:** I bring leadership, budgeting, and decision-making experience from both the military and private sector. As a retired Army Sergeant Major and second generation business owner, I've managed people, budgets, and complex operations. I understand fiscal responsibility, collaboration, and making tough decisions that serve the best interests of the community.

Kirsch: With 35 years of business experience managing contracts and budgets, plus 20 years navigating land use and community development, I offer proven expertise. I've served on numerous boards to support local initiatives and dedicated decades to volunteering, giving back to the community that has given so much to my family.

Latham: I am a community leader and a community organizer. I am the candidate most willing to listen to county residents. I will ask the hard questions, and I will stand up for what is right.

Q What do you see as the three most important tasks carried out by the county commissioners?

A **Gilbert:** Commissioners have three critical responsibilities. First is responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars, ensuring budgets are balanced, spending is transparent, and resources are used wisely. Second is managing responsible growth and infrastructure, including roads, public facilities, and development while protecting property rights and the character of our communities. Third is working collaboratively with towns, townships, and county departments to provide effective services such as public safety, economic development, and community support. Commissioners must balance growth with the needs of current residents while planning for the future. Strong leadership, communication, and accountability are essential to ensuring county government works for the people.

Kirsch: • Fiscal Stewardship & Business Management: Overseeing the county government as the seventh-largest local business, applying Contract Precision to a multi-million dollar budget to ensure maximum ROI for every taxpayer dollar.

• Strategic Growth & Planning: Utilizing decades of zoning expertise to enforce Infrastructure-First standards, ensuring development is responsible, pays for itself, and preserves our county's rural character.

• Proactive Leadership: Building coalitions to

navigate state mandates, specifically SEA 1 and Township Consolidation, ensuring our community remains stable and locally controlled during these mandatory transitions.

Latham: 1. Making sure roads are clear and safe. 2. Overseeing, funding, and maintaining public safety. 3. Approving contracts and being fiscally responsible when spending the budget set by the county council.

Q What do you see as the commissioner's role when it comes to economic development?

A **Gilbert:** The commissioner's role in economic development is to create a balanced strategy that encourages responsible growth while protecting the interests of residents. This means supporting local businesses, attracting new opportunities, improving infrastructure, and working with communities to ensure development strengthens our economy without sacrificing property rights or quality of life.

Kirsch: I want to attract quality industry along the interstate corridors by partnering with economic development corporations. Through strategic planning, we'll promote desirable lifestyles for families and diversify our tax base, ensuring industrial growth shifts the property tax burden away from homeowners while keeping Morgan County an attractive place to live.

Latham: The commissioners' role in economic development is to make sure the county supports the EDC by having a good, knowledgeable EDC Executive Director leading that charge to go after the projects that are most beneficial and responsible to our communities' needs.

Q With one data center already under construction and commissioners paving the way for more, what's your take on data centers in general, and the possibility of more?

A **Gilbert:** While data centers can bring investment, the project already under construction has shown why strong oversight and transparency are critical. Promises made to residents must be honored, and when projects begin to deviate from those commitments, it erodes public trust. Because of these concerns, I would not support additional data centers in Morgan County. Before anything else, the county must address the impacts of the current project and ensure accountability. Our priority should be protecting residents, property rights, and the long-term interests of Morgan County – not approving more large-scale developments that could further strain our infrastructure and communities.

MORGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONER — CONTINUED

Kirsch: While the state has limited local authority through SEA 1007, we must adapt. If Morgan County is to host data centers, SMRs or solar farms, we must leverage our assets to fight for the best possible compensation for the resources we lose. Indiana has opened the door for this type of growth. Local government must ensure the developers pay their fair share to diversify our tax base and shield homeowners. By working together, we can ensure these mandates are turned into strategic wins that fund our schools and infrastructure while preserving our county's long-term quality of life.

Latham: I am unaware of the possibility of more. Data centers bring infrastructure investment, but concerns include land use and environmental impact. Balancing the economic benefit while protecting residents' quality of life is imperative.

Q **What role, if any, should commissioners play in light of the inevitable growth coming to Morgan County?**

A **Gilbert:** County commissioners should guide growth, not simply react to it. Their role is to ensure development is responsible, protects property rights, and reflects the needs of current residents. Commissioners must work with towns and townships to plan infrastructure, manage zoning responsibly, and ensure growth strengthens our communities, not overwhelm them.

Kirsch: Commissioners must lead growth by streamlining our planning process. Like Boone County in the early 2000s, we must adapt to modern pressures by aligning the county and cities under a unified vision. This ensures "smart growth" along the I-70 and I-69 corridors, protects our rural land, and lowers homeowner taxes.

Latham: The commissioners need to be good partners and establish working relationships with all community leaders throughout the county. Many from across the county currently feel unheard and disrespected.

Q **Senate Enrolled Act 1 from 2025 has many in local government concerned about the grassroots effect. What is the county's best path forward when navigating the impact of SEA1?**

A **Gilbert:** The county must respond to SEA 1 by focusing on responsible budgeting and long-term planning. Commissioners should work closely with the county council, departments, and local communities to prioritize essential services, control spending, and find efficiencies while protecting taxpayers and maintaining the services residents depend on.

Kirsch: Our best path is ensuring county government runs as lean as possible without compromising services. We must work closely with state officials to secure all available state and federal funding while pursuing interlocal agreements and consolidating redundant departments to find savings — protecting our taxpayers during these

mandatory state transitions.

Latham: The best path forward is to communicate with our local legislatures about how drastic SEA1 is going to hurt the residents of Morgan County. It needs to be phased in over multiple years instead of hitting us all in one year.

Q **What is your stance on non-disclosure agreements signed by local officials?**

A **Gilbert:** Local officials should prioritize transparency and accountability. Non-disclosure agreements should be used sparingly and only when legally necessary, ensuring the public's right to know is not compromised.

Kirsch: NDAs are a part of business in the 21st century but are not a tool that should be used by elected officials.

Latham: NDAs should not continue after a project is deemed viable. The public should always be heard prior to any final decisions being made.

Q **What are the three biggest challenges facing Morgan County and why?**

A **Gilbert:** Morgan County faces three major challenges. First is managing growth responsibly so development does not outpace infrastructure or negatively impact existing residents. Second is maintaining strong fiscal responsibility, ensuring tight budgets, reducing taxpayer burden, and prioritizing essential services. Third is restoring trust and transparency in county government. Residents deserve open communication and accountability when major decisions are made. Addressing these challenges requires careful planning, collaboration with towns and townships, and leadership willing to make tough but responsible decisions. By focusing on responsible growth, disciplined spending, and transparency, we can protect the character of Morgan County while preparing for the future.

Kirsch: • Environmental & Resource Defense: Under SEA 1007, the state has more power to approve massive industrial projects. My priority is protecting our farmland, aquifers, and waterways, ensuring these state-mandated projects don't ruin our local environment.

• Fiscal Viability: SEA 1 significantly changes how local government is funded. To prevent a budget crisis or tax hikes, we must run a lean operation, cut redundant spending, and maximize state and federal grants.

• Modernizing Local Governance: SEA 270 mandates the consolidation of townships. We must navigate these changes carefully to streamline departments and use interlocal agreements without losing the local representation and services.

Latham: 1. The looming loss of LIT Levy Freeze and Property Tax Replacement due to SEA 1. These have kept Morgan County property taxes low. Without these, we can all expect our property taxes to go up 40 to 50 percent. 2. Housing shortage — This has increased housing costs

and caused many to end up unhoused. This is a crisis that needs immediate attention. 3. Transportation — There is a great need for transportation within our county.

Q **What do you see as the most pressing needs for infrastructure or capital projects in the county?**

A **Gilbert:** The most pressing infrastructure need is maintaining and improving our roads while planning for growth as new businesses come into the county. Development must be balanced with infrastructure planning so our roads, bridges, and drainage systems can handle increased traffic without burdening residents or taxpayers.

Kirsch: How we move forward with our aging jail, which is reaching the end of its functional life, and securing sustainable funding for county roads. We must address these by running a lean government, utilizing interlocal agreements for efficiency, and leveraging corridor growth to fund these capital projects without overtaxing residents.

Latham: Need a new location for a highway garage barn due to flooding. The jail is going to need improvements soon. Major renovations are in order.

Q **The county's population is approx. 74,000 people. The county, meanwhile, employs about 430 people, making the ratio about 1 employee per 172 citizens. Too many, too few, or about right — and why?**

A **Gilbert:** The number alone doesn't tell the full story. The focus should be on efficiency and accountability, not just headcount. County government should ensure every position serves a clear purpose and delivers value to taxpayers. If elected, I would review staffing levels carefully to ensure departments are properly staffed while avoiding unnecessary growth in government.

Kirsch: Morgan County has many departments that provide services across a large spectrum. Departments already share staff and operate reasonably well. Is there room for improvement? Most likely, yes. We're close to the right amount of employees; however SEA-1 will force a lot of difficult staffing decisions to be made.

Latham: I see no correlation between the number of employees and population. Having the right number of employees for the services that we are providing is most important. We are running a countywide ambulance service which has drastically increased the number of employees we have.

Q **What's one part of county government that would receive more attention if you were elected and why?**

A **Gilbert:** One area that would receive more attention is transparency and accountability in county government. Residents deserve clear communication and honest information about decisions that affect their communities. By increasing transparency and strengthening communication with the public, we can rebuild trust and ensure

county government is truly serving the people.

Kirsch: I will prioritize unifying our planning process to eliminate "border blight." By working with our municipalities, we can implement smart growth strategies that protect community entrances. This shift ensures our cities and county share a single, modern vision — securing a higher quality of life and stable property values for everyone.

Latham: Public Safety. We must make sure we don't lose service due to the potential loss of tax revenue. We must find savings in other areas.

Q **What is your view concerning the county's current level of public debt?**

A **Gilbert:** Our county must focus on tighter budgets and responsible spending. The current level of debt and burden placed on taxpayers needs to be reduced. Commissioners should prioritize essential services, cut unnecessary spending, and ensure every dollar is used wisely while working toward lowering long-term debt and protecting taxpayers.

Kirsch: While our total debt is lower than neighbors like Hendricks, our capacity to repay it is shrinking due to state revenue cuts. We need to ensure we only borrow for growth that pays for itself, protecting our credit rating without increasing the burden on homeowners.

Latham: Much debt has recently been taken out to renovate the courthouse and construct our Judicial Center. It's unfortunate that these needs were put off for years. Now the responsibility has fallen on us. It's imperative that voters choose candidates such as me who bring forward-thinking leadership and want public input.

Q **Why should voters cast a ballot for you?**

A **Gilbert:** I'm running to bring common-sense leadership, transparency, and accountability to our county. As a veteran and small business owner, I understand hard work and fiscal responsibility. I'll fight for smart growth, support public safety, and ensure your tax dollars are spent wisely — always putting our community and families first.

Kirsch: Voters should choose me because I combine 35 years of business experience with 20 years of planning expertise. No other candidates can make that claim. I will proactively manage growth, ensuring development pays for itself, protecting our resources, and running a lean government that shifts the tax burden off homeowners.

Latham: Voters should choose me for my proven financial experience and commitment to service. I listen, make thoughtful decisions, and focus on what truly benefits residents of Morgan County. I'm not driven by politics, but by people, accountability and doing the job right every day.

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MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL — DISTRICT 2

Trudy Ellis

Occupation: Retired

Education: I have a degree in Accounting and Computer Programming.

Community affiliations: I have been the treasurer for a local soccer league and the treasurer for the Community Taxpayer Association.

Family: I am married and we have three wonderful daughters along with three wonderful sons-in-law and five grandchildren, with more grandchildren coming this year.

General biography: I grew up on a farm in Indiana. I am a Sunday School teacher. I have lived in Morgan County for over 30 years and have worked as an accountant for over 40 years.



TRUDY ELLIS

Melissa Greene

Occupation: Pharmaceutical Sales Executive

Education: Martinsville High School 1984, BA Indiana University

Community affiliations: Mount Pleasant Christian Church, Casas Por Cristo Mission, MPCC Impact Center, Morgan County JRAC Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council

Family: Married to Kevin Greene, Martinsville City Fire Chief, four adult children: Hannah Ka, Braden Greene, Lauren Ka, Emma Greene

General biography: Born and raised in Martinsville, I am a 1984 graduate of Martinsville High School. In college I studied radio/television communication, interning at WISH-TV Indianapolis. My husband and I own local eatery, Gather Around BBQ. I am a pharmaceutical sales manager in the mental health therapeutic area.



MELISSA GREENE

QUESTIONS

Q A Why do you want to run for county council?

Ellis: I feel the concerns of the public are not even considered by our current elected officials. I am frustrated with the large increase in my county property taxes, which have nearly doubled in three years. I feel that it is important that the public has a choice on the ballot.

Greene: I love my community and the people who live here. I want to make sure sound decisions are made for our county to responsibly grow and develop. I am grateful for my upbringing here and want to give back to my community.

Q A What relevant experience do you have to be a council member?

Ellis: I have worked for many years as a township clerk, and I have worked as an accountant for 40-plus years, working with budgets, financial statements, payroll and controlling spending. I enjoy working with numbers and feel that my attention to detail would be another benefit as a council member.

Greene: I was selected by GOP caucus to serve on the council in October 2021 and then elected again in the 2022 general election. I have been serving our county since then and would love to continue. Also, I have over 20 years' experience in the pharmaceutical industry.

Q A What do you see as the three most important tasks carried out by the county council?

Ellis: Communicating with taxpayers and representing them at the council meetings is a very important and overlooked task by the current council. Other important tasks are working on budgets, controlling finances, determining the tax rate and eliminating waste. I will need to decipher "needs versus wants" to spend taxpayer dollars wisely.

Greene: We must ensure the county fully funds the essential services that Indiana requires counties to provide: including public safety, the judicial system, elections, public health and emergency preparedness. We must pass a balanced budget and protect the county's long-term financial health. We must respect the taxpayer by insisting on efficiency, accountability and responsible spending so we deliver those services well without placing any more tax burden on residents than necessary.

Q A What do you see as the council's role when it comes to economic development?

Ellis: Morgan County has a comprehensive plan that is clearly not being followed by the county council or the commissioners. I would desire the public's input foremost and would want details of what is being proposed. I would not vote for "Project Louie" where details are hidden from taxpayers.

Greene: We are not included in planning process but are made aware when it is time to offer abatements and incentives. We have one council member on the local EDC board.

Q A With the completion of I-69, how do you feel about the anticipated growth in the county?

Ellis: Growth should be slow, steady and benefit residents. When I-69 came in, many businesses were closed, and many others were hurt financially. I-69 has caused residents to travel more miles to arrive at the same destination. It is harder to maneuver around because we have very few interchanges to access.

Greene: I feel cautiously optimistic. Morgan County can grow while maintaining the local charm and character. Growth is often considered negative, but it is inevitable. That's why it is important to educate ourselves on opportunities and make the best decisions possible for our county.

Q A Morgan County has one of the highest income tax rates and one of the lowest property tax rates in the state. What adjustments, if any, should be made to the county's approach?

Ellis: We have the seventh-highest income tax rate, but we don't have one of the lowest property tax rates. In 2026, there were 35 counties out of 92 counties with lower tax rates than ours. Our tax rate increased by 51.89 percent in four years, which is unreasonable and needs changing.

Greene: I believe this is a good balance. This makes Morgan County attractive for people to buy a home here. The heavier burden falls on the higher-income earners because income tax rates adjust with earnings. Additionally, we give 1 percent of our LIT to property tax credits as tax burden relief.

Q A Senate Enrolled Act 1 from 2025 has many in local government concerned about the grass-roots effect. What is the county's best path forward when navigating the impact of SEA1?

Ellis: There should have been some preplanning done. We need to be cautious, be informed and get input/advice from the state. We should not be taxing people in other ways outside of the budget but need to tighten the reins. Some of the changes will be "learn as we go."

Greene: SEA1 is a moving target. It's hard to plan because it is still being adjusted. The state deferred the local income tax rate until 2029. Our financial advisors give us professional advice. Sadly, funding for all local government is shrinking. We will have to learn to do more with less.

Q A What is your stance on non-disclosure agreements signed by local officials?

Ellis: I am against non-disclosure agreements unlike the current council. Taxpayers have a right to know.

Greene: Non-disclosure agreements are standard business practice in economic develop-

ment projects. However, I would like to see it change for more transparency.

Q A What are the three biggest challenges facing Morgan County?

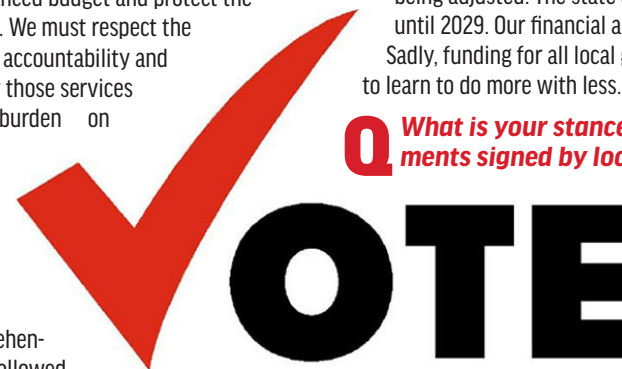
Ellis: Leadership not listening to the public. We need transparency in our government. Spending taxpayer dollars wisely. Our infrastructure, especially our roads, needs updating if we are going to draw in businesses.

Greene: 1. Not increasing taxes while maintaining a balanced budget. 2. Responsibly managing growth that is coming. We have designated commercial development around I-70, which is isolated to intentionally protect the rural and agricultural nature of the rest of county. This has been included in our comprehensive plan. If we don't strategically increase our commercial and industrial tax base, it will increase burden on residential tax base. 3. Maintaining fiscally conservative and efficiently functioning county departments.

Q A Why should voters cast a ballot for you?

Ellis: I want to hear from and represent the taxpayers. I have worked many years as an accountant, which I feel would benefit the taxpayers in my district. I have also worked as a township clerk in government accounting. I have conservative values in life and in spending.

Greene: I am a sixth-generation Morgan County resident. I am invested in my community. My extensive professional experience offers global insight but local perspective, communications skills, and successful budgeting strategies. I would be honored to continue to serve our county as your District 2 Council Representative.



MORGAN COUNTY JUDGE — SUPERIOR COURT I

Jerry E. Smith

Occupation:

Deputy Attorney General

Education:

Law Degree from IU McKinney School of Law; Accounting Degree from IU Kelley School of Business at Indianapolis (graduated 6th in class with High Distinction and awarded membership in Beta Gamma Sigma Business Honor Society)

Relevant work experience: Deputy Attorney General at Office of Indiana Attorney General; Deputy Prosecutor at Morgan County Prosecutor, Child Support Division, Attorney at Jerry E. Smith, Attorney CPA, PC; Attorney at Redman Ludwig, PC.

Community affiliations: Member at Mt. Gilead Church (4 years), Treasurer and Board Member at Foxcliff Estates Community Association Board (7 years, resident 19 years), Member and Former Officer at Martinsville Elks Lodge (17 years), Former Member at Martinsville Rotary (2 years), Member and Former Treasurer and Member at Morgan County Bar Association (20 years)

Family: Widowed, 8-year-old son

General biography: Ana's husband for 12 years until cancer took her away and Vladimir's Dad. Grew up on a farm in Boone County and worked since I was 9. Attorney for 17 years and licensed CPA (inactive). Resident of Morgan County for over 18 years. Real estate investor and small



JERRY E. SMITH

business owner.

Dakota R. VanLeeuwen

Occupation:

Judge, Morgan County Superior Court 1

Education: B.A. Criminal Justice and Psychology & J.D. from Indiana University Maurer School of Law, Judicial Graduate Degree from Indiana Supreme Court

Relevant work experience: Four-year term as Judge, was a Private Practice Attorney running my own firm, a Prosecutor, a Public Defender, and a Police Officer and Undercover Narcotics Officer

Community affiliations: Board Member of Martinsville Rotary and Agape Therapeutic Riding Center, Member of Martinsville Chamber, 100 Women Who Care, Local Opioid Settlement Fund Group, Court Security Committee, Lunch Buddies, Serve Meals at community tables, Morgan County Bar Associations of Lawyers, Morgan County Leadership Academy 2023, Indiana Judges Association, American Inns of Court, Morgan County Farmer's Market Sponsor

Family: Married with four children. Garth and I are going on 15 years together. Our oldest is in the Indiana National Guard, one is studying to be a nurse, one is finishing high school, and one is just starting school.

General biography: I am a highly driven individ-



DAKOTA R. VANLEEUWEN

ual committed to serving my community. I live, work and volunteer in every corner of Morgan County. I believe being a judge is about more than wearing a black robe — it's about being a visible, engaged and a trusted pillar of the community.

QUESTIONS

Q What qualifies you to be a judge beyond a law degree?

A Smith: I am a licensed CPA (inactive). I have practiced law as a general practitioner, bankruptcy attorney, child support prosecutor, and licensing enforcement prosecutor. I have an extensive business background, from working for large multinational corporations to being a real estate investor and small business owner. I have handled multi-million dollar estates and real estate transactions. I am honest and fair and have an even temperament.

VanLeeuwen: I bring experience handling all cases within jurisdiction of Superior Court 1. I have served in multiple roles giving me a well-rounded perspective on how cases impact all parties involved. I live my profes-

sional and personal life with integrity and an emphasis on community involvement. I know what a judge can and cannot do or say; for instance, respond to some of these questions due to ethical rules all judges and judicial candidates shall follow.

Q Can you explain your judicial philosophy in plain English?

A Smith: Judges should be good listeners. Judges should be tough on crime when the facts warrant it. Judges should always be fair and impartial. I believe in protecting victims. I believe justice delayed is justice denied. Judges should fix issues and be accountable. Judges should move cases quickly.

VanLeeuwen: Treat every case with dignity and respect. I strive to carefully balance the rights of all parties while making thoughtful, fair decisions. At the same time, I remain mindful of my responsibility to be a good steward of county resources and taxpayer dollars.

SEE JUDGE | PAGE 17

District 4 – U.S. House of Representatives

Democratic Candidate



PAUL MCPHERSON

Congress

2

6

New Approaches, New Solutions!



Cassie
MELLADY

PROSECUTOR

- Current Chief Deputy Prosecutor for Morgan County
- Over 12 years of prosecutorial experience
- Specialized experience prosecuting violent offenders and crimes against children

Truth. Toughness. Fairness.

✓ Stand up for victims' rights to ensure their voices are heard

✓ Fight back against reckless pretrial release policies

✓ Secure long sentences for violent and repeat offenders

✓ Assign a dedicated prosecutor to drug enforcement

Vote Republican Cassie Mellady for Prosecutor!

melladyforprosecutor.com | Paid for by Cassie Mellady for Prosecutor 2026

MORGAN COUNTY JUDGE — SUPERIOR COURT I — CONTINUED

Q *What is a legal, political, social or moral position you previously advocated for that you no longer believe to be correct?*

A **Smith:** I maintain a consistent commitment to the principles I have championed throughout my career. I continue to advocate for the conservative Christian values upon which our great nation was founded, as I remain convinced of their enduring validity and importance. My perspective on these foundational beliefs has remained steadfast, and I have found no reason to depart from them.

VanLeeuwen: Pursuant to the Code of Judicial Conduct Rules 1.2 and 4.1, as a judicial officer, my duty is to apply and enforce the law as written, fairly and impartially and shall avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety, and keep an open mind. A judge shall not make commitments that are inconsistent with the impartial performance. When change is needed, that responsibility lies with the legislature, and the judiciary can work collaboratively within its proper role to support that process.

Q *Name a policy/law/regulation that you oppose as a matter of policy but agree is constitutional under current precedent.*

A **Smith:** I believe that any property tax over 1 percent is confiscatory and should be capped at no more than 1 percent. Real estate is historically the greatest wealth creation investment, but small businesses paying 3 percent steals income that could be used to repair properties or expand the business and create more jobs.

VanLeeuwen: Rule 2.10 Rather than making decisions on expressed views or preferences of the electorate, a judge makes decisions on the law and the facts of every case. Public confidence in the independence and impartiality of the judiciary is eroded if judges/judicial candidates are perceived to be influenced.

Q *What is one thing you would seek to change about the court where you seek to serve?*

A **Smith:** I would improve efficiency by encouraging attorneys on both sides of a case to either reach an agreement or get to trial quicker. I would limit continuances whenever possible. Court cases are stressful for all parties and should be resolved as quickly as reasonably possible.

VanLeeuwen: I am in the unique position to effectuate change currently. I have streamlined how criminal pretrials are handled, audited the entire docket and increased case closure rate by 178 percent since 2023, created forms for pro se litigants, and translated documents to increase access to justice for non-English speakers.

Q *What is a bias/prejudice that you currently struggle with? How do you work to overcome that prejudice?*

A **Smith:** I honestly cannot think of one. As an attorney, sometimes I have to represent a position I don't believe in order to try to protect my client's rights. As a judge, if I have a bias or have prejudged an issue, I will recuse myself from the case.

VanLeeuwen: Pursuant to Rules 2.2 and 2.3, A judge shall not, in the performance of judicial duties, by words or conduct manifest bias or prejudice, or engage in harassment, including but not limited to bias, prejudice, or harassment based upon race, sex, gender, religion, national origin, ethnicity, disability, age, sexual orientation, marital status, socioeconomic status, or political affiliation, and shall not permit court staff, court officials, or others subject to the judge's direction and control to do so.



Q *What is a quality you have seen in a judge that you would seek NOT to emulate on the bench and why?*

A **Smith:** I don't like it when some judges talk down to people. I believe in treating people at least a little better than they deserve. When I was a Child Support Prosecutor, I received many compliments because I treated people with respect, even when I needed to be tough on them.

VanLeeuwen: Rule 2.2 Sexism or any form of bias is not to be tolerated. People often come to court on their worst days, and that must always be remembered. A judge serves 24/7/365, and consistent professionalism, fairness, and respect are essential to building trust and maintaining public confidence in the judiciary.

Q *What is the biggest mistake you have made in your career? How would you seek to avoid it on the bench?*

A **Smith:** My most significant professional oversight was when representing a close friend in a legal matter. My friend refused to provide necessary information and I lacked the professional leverage to compel his cooperation. Had we not been close friends, I would've dropped him as a client if he withheld information needed for his case. Based on this experience, I will strictly recuse myself from any matters involving friends to maintain judicial impartiality and avoid any conflicts of interest.

VanLeeuwen: As a police officer, I encountered many situations that were extremely dangerous — circumstances that don't fully translate on paper probable cause affidavits. Having firsthand experience provides important context and helps guard against oversimplifying decisions through hindsight. It allows for a more informed, fair evaluation of what an officer reasonably could and should have done in the moment.

Q *What's your approach to reading the law? Do you follow a strict definition of a law's text or do you believe the meaning can change with the times?*

A **Smith:** I am an originalist. The law should be read in the context of when it was passed. The law should not be able to change with the times. Changes to laws should be made by legislatures with approval by the executive and not by changing times or by judicial override.

VanLeeuwen: Rule 1.1 reminds us that judicial officers are to apply and enforce the law as written, while the responsibility for change rests with the legislature. As society evolves, so too will the law, making change inevitable — but it must occur through the proper legislative process, not solely from the bench.

Q *What qualities do you believe are most important for a judge to possess in the courtroom?*

A **Smith:** Judges should be good listeners. Judges should be honest, fair and have an even temperament. Judges should be tough on crime when appropriate. Judges should be humble servants of their

constituents. Judges should ensure those who cannot afford an attorney are treated fairly. Judges should protect the rights of everyone.

VanLeeuwen: Integrity, impartiality, treat all individuals with respect, listen carefully, and apply the law fairly. Patience, professionalism, and a commitment to justice are essential to ensuring confidence in the judiciary and maintaining the trust of the community. Overall, be a role model the county would be proud of.

Q *What is the most complex legal issue you have handled, and how did you resolve it?*

A **Smith:** When a small business owner faced a predatory lawsuit from a large competitor seeking to seize his home and business assets, I took decisive action to protect his livelihood. Recognizing the threat to his family's stability, I navigated a complex bankruptcy reorganization to shield his property from aggressive liens. Despite fierce opposition from the competitor, I successfully advocated for a court-approved reorganization plan. This strategy not only neutralized the legal threat, but also structured a sustainable 5-year repayment plan including back taxes and debts, ensuring my client could emerge with his business intact and his future secured.

VanLeeuwen: Civil cases involving related estates become legally complex when business structures don't align with the decedent's wishes, leading to conflicting documents. The Court of Appeals and the Indiana Supreme Court must clarify case law, while trial courts balance those precedents (sometimes competing precedents) to determine the best outcome for each case.

Q *One of the most critical jobs for a judge is managing complicated civil cases. What is the most complex piece of litigation in which you have been involved?*

A **Smith:** I was involved with a \$7 million estate with property in Indiana and Louisiana. The heirs were fighting with each other over every decision. The case took more than five years to complete. In the end, we successfully sold the real estate and divided the proceeds and the personal property among the heirs. Even the heirs that disagreed with every decision said they were happy with the results.

VanLeeuwen: Pursuant to Rule 2.10, I am not allowed to name or talk about a specific litigation I am assigned to Rule 2.10 pending or impending in any court.

Q *What is your philosophy on recusal, especially in situations in which lawyer-legislators, former associates, or law partners are to appear before you?*

A **Smith:** A judge should disqualify himself without waiting on a motion from a party whenever the judge's impartiality might reasonably be questioned, regardless of whether any of the specific provisions of the Code of Judicial Ethics require it.

VanLeeuwen: Recusal is covered by Judicial Cannon Rule 2.11 and 1.2. A judge shall act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary, and shall avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety.

Q *Why should voters cast a ballot for you?*

A **Smith:** I am deeply committed to serving the people of Morgan County. As a humble servant of our community, I will provide excellent service by ensuring that every ruling is consistent, predictable, and firmly grounded in the law. I will be tough on crime where appropriate and always fair and impartial.

VanLeeuwen: I am not afraid to recognize when something isn't working and take steps to improve it. Maintaining the status quo does not advance efficiency or access to justice. You deserve a judge who reads, understands, and faithfully follows the rules they are sworn to uphold for this office.

MORGAN COUNTY PROSECUTOR

Joseph D. Gaunt

Occupation:

Attorney-Owner,
The Gaunt Law
Office

Education: Anderson University 1997 – BA in Criminal Justice with Accounting Minor; Indiana University Maurer School of Law 2001 – Juris Doctorate

Relevant work experience: Marion County Prosecutor's Office Legal Intern, 1999-2000, Johnson County Prosecutor's Office, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney 2001-2015 (Child Support Division Supervisor 2001-2008), The Gaunt Law Office, Attorney-Owner 2015-present, doing mainly criminal defense work as public defender and privately-hired counsel.

Community affiliations: Mt. Gilead Church, 2000-present (past Sunday School Teacher and youth leader, current assistant Bible Bowl Team coach); Martinsville Noon Lions Club, 2015-present (President 2020-2021); Morgan County Justice Reinvestment Advisory Committee (JRAC), 2020-present; Morgan County Community Corrections Advisory Board, 2020-present; Martinsville Youth and Development Center, Board member 2015-2019

Family: Wife – Christen, daughter – Reilly (22), and son – Ben (19)

General biography: I was born and raised in Anderson. I moved to Martinsville in 1999 while still in law school and came to love the community pretty quickly. Christen and I decided to stay and raise our family here – Morgan County is such a wonderful place; we plan to stay forever.

Cassie Mellady

Occupation:

Morgan County's
Chief Deputy
Prosecutor

Education: JD IU Maurer School of Law & Bachelor of Arts from Indiana University

Relevant work experience:

12 years as a Prosecutor in Morgan County, 1-year private practice family law



JOSEPH D. GAUNT



CASSIE MELLADY

Community affiliations: Martinsville Rotary, Treasurer; Mooresville Chamber of Commerce, Member; Morgan County Republican Woman, Member; Major Crimes Task Force Member; Morgan County Child Protection Team Member; 10 years as Court Appointed Special Advocate for Children (CASA)

Family: I am engaged to Nathaniel Teeters with our wedding date set for Dec. 5, 2026. Together, we have four children, Emmett (10), Georgia (8), Claire (8), and Helen (6). My entire family lives in Martinsville including my parents, Gary and Vicki Mellady, and my sisters, Jenna Bennett and Alexis Fabert.

General biography: I was born and raised in Martinsville. As a child, I was a long-distance swimmer and runner. I attended Indiana University for undergrad and law school. After college, I returned to Martinsville to live near my extended family. I am a conservative Republican, mother and prosecutor.

QUESTIONS

Q Describe the qualifications and experiences that make you the best candidate for the prosecutor's office.

A **Gaunt:** I have been practicing criminal law for my entire 25-plus-year career. I have been a prosecutor, and I have been a defender, which gives me unique insight into how best to resolve a case. I can see the strategies, strengths, and weaknesses from both sides. I have also seen how criminal acts affect everyone involved – victims, families, and the community. I also want to reduce the chance of anyone being re-victimized through repeat offenses.

Mellady: I have secured convictions in Morgan County for Murder, Conspiracy to Commit Murder, Neglect Resulting in Death, Rape, Child Molesting, OWI, Domestic Battery, and Burglary. I understand our community values, victims' rights and public safety, and I will keep those priorities at the forefront of the Prosecutor's Office. I have earned the trust of local law enforcement and office staff, and for the past eight years, I have helped lead and manage the office effectively.

Q Explain what you believe are the most significant issues in the race?

A **Gaunt:** First, I am the outside candidate, not running from within the office. I want to bring some fresh perspectives and ideas. Current administration has been in place for over 30 years, and some ruts surely have formed, intentionally or not. Second, I have experience from both sides – prosecution and defense, and child support enforcement experience. That, combined with over a decade more practicing law, gives me a better view of how to best prosecute cases.

Mellady: A prosecutor must be firm yet fair, always prioritizing community safety and victims' rights. This requires a strong focus on accountability and appropriate convictions, while recognizing when treatment is warranted. Morgan County needs a prosecutor who exercises sound judgment – knowing when to take a case to trial and when resolution is appropriate.

Q What differentiates you from your opponent?

A **Gaunt:** The biggest difference is experience. Not only have I been practicing law longer, but I have also worked on both sides. I plan to use that experience to assist my decision-making going forward. I also believe success is measured in more ways than just a conviction.

Mellady: I am the only candidate with prosecutorial experience in Morgan County and have earned the endorsement of the Morgan County FOP and numerous law enforcement officers. As Chief Deputy Prosecutor for eight years, I understand the cases, systems, budget and staff, and will be ready to lead effectively.

Q In your opinion, what is the biggest challenge facing the prosecutor's office and how do you plan to address it?

A **Gaunt:** Doing more with less will be a challenge. Paying staff what they are worth is a priority, as we do not want to lose good people based on pay. With county revenue going down, I plan to increase the use of programs that will keep more funds in the county, and have offenders pay more of the costs associated with their prosecution. I would rather criminals pay more than taxpayers.

Mellady: One of the greatest challenges is addressing lenient laws and policies that allow violent offenders to be released prematurely. I will meet this challenge by prioritizing the prosecution of violent crimes and advocating for accountability. Additionally, public perception is often shaped by limited or negative coverage. I will enhance transparency and communication so Morgan County residents can better understand the work of the Prosecutor's Office and the positive impact it has on community safety.

Q Substance abuse is an issue in Morgan County. How, if at all, can the county prosecutor's office help address the issue?

A **Gaunt:** Addiction-related issues exist in almost every case. If we can catch the issue early, and attempt to help those struggling, then we lower the chance of seeing them again in the criminal system. That includes working with the courts and rehab facilities and giving the choice of jail or rehab.

Mellady: Recovery begins with acceptance and accountability. The Prosecutor's Office can support this by promoting accountability as a foundation for treatment and long-term recovery. I will collaborate with locally operated treatment providers to ensure individuals have access to effective programs that encourage responsibility while supporting rehabilitation and safer communities.

Q How do you approach plea-bargaining, and what is your philosophy on it?

A **Gaunt:** Plea-bargaining is a necessary part of the system. We do not have the capacity to take every case to trial, and most cases do not need a trial. Many defendants are willing to admit guilt; the question is generally about the consequences. Plea-bargaining is finding a just outcome.

A plea agreement should consider many factors, including victim input. Any plea agreement should result in justice, and if not accepted, the case should go to trial. I am not afraid to go to trial where a judge might sentence more harshly than if a person took responsibility and accepted guilt.

Mellady: I evaluate plea agreements based on the strength of the evidence and the defendant's criminal history. I also consider victim input and the broader impact on the community. Additional factors, such as the defendant's age and attitude toward the offense, may be relevant depending on the circumstances. Sound judgment and common sense are essential to achieving an appropriate balance of justice for the victim, the community, and the defendant in each case.

Q What are your thoughts on the constitutional amendment being put to voters expanding authority for judges to deny bail?

A **Gaunt:** I have mixed feelings about this. While I like judges being able to have more power to hold dangerous individuals in jail, I am concerned that the language of the amendment will be interpreted broadly and inconsistently throughout the State, which may result in unneeded additional litigation and court hearings.

Mellady: This amendment has been necessary for some time, and I fully support it.

Q What, if any, additional resources would you want for the prosecutor's office from the county government?

A **Gaunt:** For now, nothing. Pending the office move to the Judicial Campus and any future budget cuts, that answer may change.

MORGAN COUNTY PROSECUTOR — CONTINUED

Mellady: Ideally, the office would benefit from three additional attorneys and another investigator. However, in light of county budget constraints, I do not plan to request additional positions at this time and will instead focus on reorganizing case assignments to improve efficiency and maximize existing resources.

Q **What is the relationship between the prosecutor's office and the local law enforcement and probation? What steps, if any, are needed to ensure continued success or improvement?**

A **Gaunt:** I believe those relationships are good, and I hope to maintain that positivity. If any ill will currently exists between the office and any department or officer, I want to repair it. Communication regarding why cases are prosecuted or resolved the way they are is key, and I want to keep those lines of communication open. Prosecutors, police, and probation are all on the same team, just in different roles.

Mellady: I am proud that the Morgan County Prosecutor's Office maintains strong, positive relationships with local law enforcement and the probation department. Continued open communication, flexibility, and collaboration are essential to preserving these partnerships and ensuring they remain effective in promoting public safety and the fair administration of justice.

Q **Explain a situation where you had to make a difficult legal decision. How did you handle it and what was the outcome?**

A **Gaunt:** Most legal decisions are difficult because they directly affect people's lives. Recommending going to trial or pleading guilty affects lives. The same is true on the prosecution side – filing charges and prosecuting a case affects lives. None of these decisions should be taken lightly. Practicing law is all about holding people accountable – prosecutors hold citizens accountable to the law. Defense attorneys hold police and the government accountable in following rules and procedures. Both sides face difficult decisions: should charges be filed? Should a person admit guilt? Those questions should never be easy to answer.

Mellady: As a prosecutor, I make difficult legal decisions every day, knowing each one can significantly impact the lives of others. I approach these decisions with reason, common sense, and a careful application of the law to the facts. The most challenging aspect of this role is ensuring that victims are not further harmed by the very justice system intended to protect them and deliver accountability for the crimes they have endured.

Q **Share an experience where you led a team in a high-profile case. How did you manage the team and the stress?**

A **Gaunt:** Currently, I am a solo practitioner with two part-time assistants. With big cases, I brainstorm the issues with my team, as well as occasionally consult with other attorneys. Ultimately, I make the decisions on how to move forward. The buck stops with me. To manage the stress, I try to leave work at the office and not bring it home. I also work on separating my personal life from my cases. I read books, and I

take hikes with my family. Spending time in God's creation helps keep me grounded and clear-headed.

Mellady: As a current prosecutor, I am bound by strict ethical rules that prohibit commenting on the facts or evidence of specific cases, so I will not reference any particular matter. However, I have handled several high-profile cases requiring media interaction. In those situations, I approach them as I would any case—with professionalism and a steadfast focus on the evidence and achieving a just outcome, without regard to media attention.

Q **How would you handle a situation where a high-profile case you are prosecuting is drawing significant media attention?**

A **Gaunt:** No defendant deserves to have his or her case tried by the media, and victims should not be re-victimized by having their experiences exposed. Legal ethics prohibit a prosecutor from talking about much more than charges filed and the basis for the charges. The Court will decide the rest.

Mellady: I would communicate with the media as transparently as ethical obligations permit, while maintaining professionalism and a clear focus on my responsibilities. As a prosecutor, this work requires a disciplined, long-term approach – prioritizing consistency, integrity, and thoughtful reasoning over short-term reactions.

Q **How would you address a situation where you suspect prosecutorial misconduct within your team?**

A **Gaunt:** I would investigate it, confront the individual(s)

A involved, and take appropriate action. No one is above the law, and our system will fail if those of us tasked with enforcing the law don't follow it ourselves.

Mellady: Allegations of prosecutorial misconduct are addressed by the Supreme Court through the Disciplinary Commission. If such conduct occurred within our office, I would report it in accordance with my ethical obligations, ensuring the matter is reviewed and handled appropriately.

Q **Why should voters cast a ballot for you?**

A **Gaunt:** I promise to uphold the law and do my best to protect Morgan County by working for the betterment of all citizens, both in the short and long term. Morgan County is growing and its needs are changing. I want to make sure we stay safe and secure as we move forward. I have dedicated my life to public service, and I humbly ask for your vote to serve as the next Morgan County Prosecutor.

Mellady: I bring the strength, conviction, and commitment to justice that Morgan County deserves. Prosecution is in my heart and soul. My dedication to prosecution is rooted in perseverance and a long-term perspective. As a community-focused prosecutor, I will protect victims' rights, ensure accountability and transparency, work to reduce reoffending, and support appropriate treatment options to enhance public safety. Additionally, I bring to the table 10 years of experience prosecuting individuals who harm children.

MORGAN COUNTY SHERIFF

Dan J. Downing
Occupation:

Captain, Morgan County Sheriff's Office

Education: Monrovia High School, Ivy Tech State College, Indiana Law Enforcement Academy Graduate



DAN J. DOWNING

Relevant work experience:

Three years as a Dispatcher/Jail Officer, two and a half years as a deputy town marshal, Morgantown Police Department, thirty years as a Merit Deputy with the Morgan County Sheriff's Office.

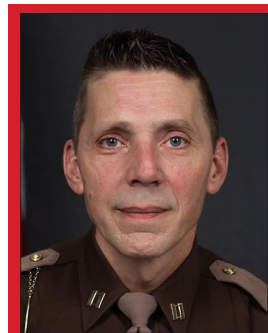
Community affiliations: St. Martin's Catholic Church, Morgan County Fraternal Order of Police, Morgan County Gun Owners 2A Group, Martinsville Sons of the American Legion, Monrovia Masonic Lodge, Martinsville Elks Lodge, Mooresville Eagle Lodge, Morgan County Shrine Club
Family: My wife, Michele, and I have been

together 22 years; we have five children, four daughters, and a son. We are also blessed with nine grandchildren, five grandsons and three granddaughters.

General biography: My name is Dan Downing, and I currently serve as Captain of the Morgan County Sheriff's Office. As a lifelong resident of Morgan County, I have dedicated over 30 years to the Sheriff's Office, steadily advancing through the ranks and holding a variety of key leadership positions.

Brent Worth
Occupation:

Chief Executive Administrator
Education: Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice with a Minor in Psychology, Indiana University (High Distinction); Indiana Law Enforcement Academy (Honors Graduate)



BRENT WORTH

Relevant work experience: 22-plus years at the Morgan County Sheriff's Office rising from Reserve Deputy to Captain; 12 years of command staff experience in public safety; shift Lieutenant; Detective Sergeant in the Criminal Investigations Division specializing in crimes against people and property; Certified Crime Scene Investigator; Certified Hostage/Crisis Negotiator; trained in Medico Legal Death Investigations, domestic related homicides, online child exploitation investigations, cellular technology and data recovery; previous member of the Sexual Abuse Response Team, Morgan County Child Advocacy Team, and Death Investigation Team

Community affiliations: Indiana Sheriff's Association, Morgan County Local Emergency Planning Commission, Morgan County Leadership Academy, Martinsville Crime Watch, Morgan County Philanthropy Award recipient (2016), United Way of Central Indiana 100th Anniversary Hero (2018)

Family: I live in Martinsville with my wife, a 9-year-old son and three French Bulldogs. I have two adult children, and my stepson is currently serving on active duty in the United States Navy.

General biography: I grew up in a military family as one of seven children. My father served in the U.S. Navy, instilling a deep respect for service and

community. A county resident for over 30 years, I enjoy being active in the community, taking on home projects, and spending time with family.

QUESTIONS

Q **What are your qualifications to be sheriff?**

A **Downing:** With over 30 years of experience in law enforcement, I am a proud graduate of the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy. Throughout my career, I have served in a variety of roles, including in the Jail Division, as a Patrol Deputy, Training Officer, Detective Sergeant, and Chief of Investigations. In addition, I have spent 20 years as SWAT Commander and have led the Major Crimes Task Force, the Drug Task Force, and the Sheriff's Honor Guard.

Worth: I have nearly 40 years of public safety experience, including 22 years at the Morgan County Sheriff's Office and 12 years of command staff leadership. I have worked almost every position within the department, including Detective Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Captain. I've managed multimillion-dollar budgets, overseen department operations, developed policy, and led personnel. Over decades of service, I have built strong relationships with county government, local agencies, and the community I serve.

MORGAN COUNTY SHERIFF — CONTINUED

Q Why do you want to become sheriff?

A Downing: Our county is experiencing a rise in violent crime at levels we have never faced before. Now, more than ever, the Sheriff's Office requires strong, experienced leaders who can foster effective collaboration with surrounding agencies while also cultivating a positive and supportive work environment within our own ranks.

Worth: I've dedicated my career to serving Morgan County. I want to build on a foundation of accountability, professionalism, and fiscal responsibility within the Sheriff's Office. This community has supported me for over 30 years, and I want to ensure it becomes even stronger, safer, and better prepared for the future.

Q What do you plan to accomplish in your first 30 days? In your first 90 days?

A Downing: With change comes the expectation of progress. Our priority will be to establish clear expectations, including that deputies interact with everyone in a professional and respectful manner, and set standards for response times and service protocols that best serve our community while respecting the rights of all individuals, whether residents or visitors.

Once these foundations are established, we will begin updating our policies and procedures and further refining our focused approach to reducing budget needs. This focus will encompass not only the agency's service and enforcement functions but also the jail division, the investigations division, and all other operational areas.

Worth: In the first 30 days, I will set the tone for the department by establishing clear expectations for conduct, responsive service, and how we interact with the public. I'll meet with deputies, jail staff, and county leadership to open lines of communication and review all existing policies and contracts. Within 90 days, I will reevaluate the budget to ensure taxpayer dollars are being used efficiently. I will strengthen partnerships with courts, behavioral health providers, and local agencies to address issues like mental health and substance abuse more effectively. Every decision will be guided by responsible spending and delivering real results.

Q What kind of leadership will you bring to the MCSO?

A Downing: As Sheriff, I will embody an open-door leadership approach, remaining accessible and engaged as a working Sheriff. My leadership style is rooted in open-mindedness, decisiveness, and commitment to fairness and balance. I firmly believe in leading by example—never asking anyone to do something I wouldn't do myself—and I am dedicated to leading from the front, not from behind a desk.

Worth: I will bring proven leadership rooted in putting the community first. With 12 years of command staff experience, I know how to lead people, manage resources, and make difficult decisions. Deputies will be held to

high standards and promotions will be based on merit and performance. Every decision will reflect what is best for the residents of Morgan County. I will be accessible, transparent, and accountable to the public and my staff every single day.

Q Can you provide examples of your ability to handle high-pressure situations?

A Downing: Throughout my law enforcement career, I have been entrusted with numerous high-pressure situations. I have overseen and conducted complex investigations, responded to countless tragic scenes, managed police action shootings, and led hundreds of SWAT operations. Notably, I commanded a challenging 32-hour hostage rescue operation that resulted in the safe recovery of a mother and her children. For this effort, the Morgan County SWAT Team received the Medal of Valor.

Worth: In 2018, I was awarded the Medal of Valor for my role as a crisis negotiator during a hostage rescue. That situation required calm decision-making under extreme pressure with lives on the line. Throughout my career, I've managed critical incidents, led death investigations, and navigated complex cases involving crimes against children. As a command staff leader, I've also managed department operations during budget shortfalls, staffing challenges, and organizational change.

Q What do you think is the No. 1 thing that needs to change at the MCSO and how would you change it?

A Downing: I believe the Sheriff's Office should play a more active role in the community, particularly through education and outreach. Increased community involvement fosters trust, encourages open communication, and strengthens mutual understanding and working relationships. Our community is our greatest asset, and we must remain dedicated, engaged stakeholders. By hosting educational events that empower citizens to maintain personal safety in all aspects of their lives, we can achieve this important goal.

Worth: Preparing the department for what's ahead. Law enforcement is changing and the Sheriff's Office must be ready. Tightening budgets under new legislation mean we must be smarter with resources while still delivering the services this community expects. At the same time, mental health and substance abuse crises continue to impact our community and require a different approach. I will ensure the department is equipped, trained, and supported to meet these challenges head on.

Q How do you plan to handle interactions with the media and public information dissemination? Said another way, how do you ensure transparency?

A Downing: Transparency is essential to building strong relationships with the community. I plan to publish the agency's activities monthly to highlight our team's daily

efforts. Additionally, a trained public information officer will be available on each shift to ensure open lines of communication with both the public and the news media.

Worth: Transparency starts with being accessible and honest. I have served as the department's public information officer and understand the role communication plays in building public trust. I will maintain open communication with local media and provide timely, accurate information. Residents deserve to know what their Sheriff's Office is doing.

Q How will you approach budget cuts or financial constraints in the department?

A Downing: Everyone feels the impact of taxes, and the current spending levels are unsustainable. To address this, we will implement a focused budgeting approach by allocating funds by division rather than a single unit. This strategy will help us prioritize funding, eliminate unnecessary spending, and explore opportunities to offset program costs.

Worth: With over 12 years of experience managing public safety budgets, I understand how to do more with less. I will balance resources, eliminate wasteful spending, and protect core services through smarter management, not higher taxes. Morgan County families are living within their means, the Sheriff's Office should be no different.

Q How do you plan to handle internal investigations and potential corruption?

A Downing: Corruption will not be tolerated. To ensure complete objectivity, internal investigations will be assigned to our neighboring law enforcement partners. This approach eliminates conflicts of interest and guarantees that every investigation is conducted in an unbiased and thorough manner. Investigations and any resulting disciplinary actions will be prompt and impartial.

Worth: Zero tolerance for corruption. As Captain, I was directly responsible for conducting internal investigations, so I understand the process and the weight it carries. I will ensure every complaint is taken seriously, investigated thoroughly, and handled fairly. The people of Morgan County deserve nothing less. Integrity is not negotiable.

Q How do you ensure the "good ol' boy" club that so often plagues is minimized in your daily operations and ongoing mission?

A Downing: We will promote, assign tasks, and allocate resources strictly based on merit, accomplishments, and qualifications, rather than personal connections or relationships. This approach will foster morale, uphold integrity, and minimize the risk of a "good ol' boy" system developing, thereby supporting retention and professional growth.

Worth: I will take office without owing anyone a

promised position. Positions will not be handed out in exchange for campaign support. Promotions will be earned through merit, not favoritism, and the merit process will be balanced and fair. Every position in this department exists to serve the citizens.

Q What are your views on mental health support for law enforcement officers?

A Downing: Mental health for first responders is a top priority. As chairman of the Critical Incident Stress Management Team expansion board, I have helped broaden resources to benefit all first responders in our county. This peer support group plays a vital role in fostering positive mental health throughout the first responder community.

Worth: It's essential and personal to me. I have seen firsthand what this job does to good people. Deputies face things most will never understand. I will ensure officers have access to mental health resources without stigma. This is not a talking point, it is a priority I have lived.

Q How do you plan to foster a culture of continuous learning and professional development in the department?

A Downing: Law enforcement is an ever-evolving field. During my tenure as Captain, we implemented a quarterly career growth program in collaboration with our shift sergeants. The sergeants work with deputies to develop 2-, 5-, and 10-year career plans, which are then paired with targeted training to support their professional development.

Worth: I earned my degree while working at the Sheriff's Office, so I understand the value of professional growth. I will prioritize in-service training, leadership development, and advanced certifications to ensure deputies are well prepared and confident in the field. Developing our people is not an expense, it is an investment.

Q Why are you the best person for the job?

A Downing: For over thirty years, I have proudly served Morgan County. Although I have received many offers to leave in pursuit of greater financial gain, my commitment to our community has never wavered. Throughout my career, I have faced and overcome nearly every challenge in law enforcement, gaining invaluable experience in making difficult and split-second decisions. I bring a wealth of operational and practical knowledge to every aspect of law enforcement in Morgan County.

Worth: I am the most qualified candidate. The modern Sheriff is the chief executive of a major public safety agency responsible for managing millions of taxpayer dollars, leading personnel, and navigating complex legislative and fiscal challenges. I have the command experience, the education, and over a decade of executive leadership. My relationship with this community did not start with a campaign, it started over 30 years ago. I am ready to lead on day one.

Elect

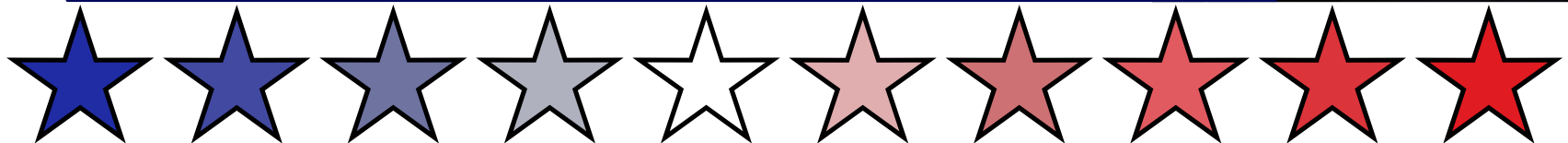
Jerry



SMITH



FOR JUDGE



- ➔ Acting with **INTEGRITY** to uphold the public trust by ensuring justice, not personal or political interest.
- ➔ Focused on criminal **ACCOUNTABILITY** and restoring public safety for every neighborhood.
- ➔ Bringing **COMPASSION** to the bench to ensure victims are supported, heard, and respected throughout the legal process.

Paid for by the Jerry Smith for Judge Campaign



PRIMARY ELECTION BALLOT



REPUBLICAN PARTY PRIMARY CANDIDATES

<i>Candidate name, address location</i>	<i>Office sought</i>
Jim Baird , Greencastle	U.S. Representative, Fourth District
Craig Haggard , Mooresville	U.S. Representative, Fourth District
John Piper , Camby	U.S. Representative, Fourth District
Wes Bennett , Plainfield	State Representative, District 57
Greg (No Bull) Knott , Camby	State Representative, District 57
Rob Stiles , Greenwood	State Representative, District 57
Tina Turner , Mooresville	State Representative, District 57
Peggy Mayfield , Martinsville	State Representative, District 60
Mike Moore , Martinsville	State Representative, District 60
David W. Waters , Greenwood	State Representative, District 60
Jerry E. Smith , Martinsville	Judge, Superior Court I
Dakota R. VanLeeuwen , Martinsville	Judge, Superior Court I
Sara A. Dungan , Martinsville	Judge, Superior Court III
Joseph D. Gaunt , Martinsville	Morgan County Prosecutor
Cassie Mellady , Martinsville	Morgan County Prosecutor
Tammy Parker , Martinsville	Morgan County Circuit Court Clerk
Linda A. Pruitt , Martinsville	Morgan County Auditor
Dan J. Downing , Martinsville	Morgan County Sheriff
Brent Worth , Mooresville	Morgan County Sheriff
Reva M. Brummett , Martinsville	Morgan County Assessor
Kevin Collier , Monrovia	Morgan County Commissioner, District 2
Carl Gilbert , Mooresville	Morgan County Commissioner, District 2
Mike Kirsch , Martinsville	Morgan County Commissioner, District 2
Bethaney Latham , Martinsville	Morgan County Commissioner, District 2
Chip R. Keller , Martinsville	Morgan County Council, District 1
Trudy Ellis , Mooresville	Morgan County Council, District 2
Melissa Greene , Martinsville	Morgan County Council, District 2
Brian Culp , Mooresville	Morgan County Council, District 3
Troy Sprinkle , Paragon	Morgan County Council, District 4
Laura Simkins , Martinsville	Adams Township Trustee
Nick Teeters , Martinsville	Ashland Township Trustee
David Hermann , Martinsville	Baker Township Trustee
Mark D. Harris , Mooresville	Brown Township Trustee
Jacob A. Thacker , Martinsville	Clay Township Trustee
Jon Fletcher , Martinsville	Green Township Trustee
Bryan Thompson , Martinsville	Gregg Township Trustee
Mike Jackson , Martinsville	Harrison Township Trustee
Matt Davidson , Morgantown	Jackson Township Trustee
Daniel Eberle , Martinsville	Jackson Township Trustee
Jim Lankford , Martinsville	Jefferson Township Trustee
Larry Ellis , Mooresville	Madison Township Trustee
Jordan Russell , Camby	Madison Township Trustee
Rikki Lyn Woodlock , Mooresville	Madison Township Trustee
Michael Gene Marsh , Monrovia	Monroe Township Trustee
Tessa Pfaff , Paragon	Ray Township Trustee
Kathy Taylor , Martinsville	Washington Township Trustee
Eric Campbell , Martinsville	Adams Township Board
Sue Cox , Martinsville	Adams Township Board
Fred Glover , Stilesville	Adams Township Board

<i>Candidate name, address location</i>	<i>Office sought</i>
Jennifer L. Bales , Paragon	Ashland Township Board
Patrick J. Farhar , Martinsville	Ashland Township Board
Gary Wagner , Martinsville	Ashland Township Board
Kevin J. Broyer , Martinsville	Baker Township Board
Jerry F. Hodges , Martinsville	Baker Township Board
Gordon Patton Redwine Surber , Martinsville	Baker Township Board
Eric Roberts , Mooresville	Brown Township Board
Billy Snyder , Mooresville	Brown Township Board
Marcia Trusty , Mooresville	Brown Township Board
Tony Burns , Mooresville	Clay Township Board
Sharon Greene , Martinsville	Clay Township Board
Billy Abraham , Martinsville	Green Township Board
Don Clark , Martinsville	Green Township Board
George Bart Coffey , Martinsville	Green Township Board
Dana Lee Dill-Coffey , Martinsville	Green Township Board
Kimberly Pond , Martinsville	Green Township Board
Christopher Roberts , Monrovia	Gregg Township Board
Jena Smith , Monrovia	Gregg Township Board
Angela Vaughn-Frederick , Monrovia	Gregg Township Board
Terri L. White , Martinsville	Harrison Township Board
Rena Whiteleather , Martinsville	Harrison Township Board
Marcus D. Billings , Morgantown	Jackson Township Board
Chad Butts , Morgantown	Jackson Township Board
Eric Enk , Martinsville	Jackson Township Board
Jay Marks , Morgantown	Jackson Township Board
Alan R. Olsen , Morgantown	Jackson Township Board
Dewey E. Goss , Martinsville	Jefferson Township Board
Steve Myers , Martinsville	Jefferson Township Board
Andrew S. Endicott , Mooresville	Madison Township Board
Nelson Hoggatt , Mooresville	Madison Township Board
Dawn Horock , Mooresville	Madison Township Board
Denise M. McClure , Camby	Madison Township Board
Don E. Martin , Mooresville	Monroe Township Board
Gregg William Shields , Monrovia	Monroe Township Board
Alec Willis , Monrovia	Monroe Township Board
Ron Burnett , Paragon	Ray Township Board
Dwight Jeffrey Schneck , Paragon	Ray Township Board
Francie Zoller-Teeters , Paragon	Ray Township Board
Mae Cooper , Martinsville	Washington Township Board
John Lillywhite , Martinsville	Washington Township Board
Scotty Manley , Martinsville	Washington Township Board
Lori Vandiver , Mooresville	Brooklyn Clerk-Treasurer
Holli S. Armstrong , Monrovia	Monrovia Clerk-Treasurer
Penny Anderson , Morgantown	Morgantown Clerk-Treasurer
Sharon McIntosh , Morgantown	Morgantown Clerk-Treasurer
Heather L. Spicer , Morgantown	Morgantown Clerk-Treasurer
Angie Roberts , Paragon	Paragon Clerk-Treasurer
Melissa A. Bryant , Brooklyn	Brooklyn Town Council
Mark Woolf , Mooresville	Brooklyn Town Council
Loren Moore , Monrovia	Monrovia Town Council, D2
Doug Kenipe , Monrovia	Monrovia Town Council, D4
Greg Swinney , Mooresville	Mooresville Town Council, D1
Joshua Brown , Mooresville	Mooresville Town Council, D5
Jeremy Baker , Morgantown	Morgantown Town Council, at large (3 seats)



PRIMARY ELECTION BALLOT



<i>Candidate name, address location</i>	<i>Office sought</i>
Joe Blevins, Morgantown	Morgantown Town Council, at large (3 seats)
Joseph A. Clephane, Morgantown	Morgantown Town Council, at large (3 seats)
Jeff Downey, Morgantown	Morgantown Town Council, at large (3 seats)
Larry Lloyd, Morgantown	Morgantown Town Council, at large (3 seats)
Jason Martin, Paragon	Paragon Town Council
Kristi Dunigan, Mooresville	Convention Delegate, D4
Dawn Horock, Mooresville	Convention Delegate, D4
Greg (No BULL) Knott, Camby	Convention Delegate, D4
Bethaney Latham, Martinsville	Convention Delegate, D4
Blake Mayo, Camby	Convention Delegate, D4
Brian Mayo, Camby	Convention Delegate, D4
Denise M. McClure, Camby	Convention Delegate, D4
John Phillips, Mooresville	Convention Delegate, D4
Jake Thacker, Martinsville	Convention Delegate, D4
Angie Turley, Mooresville	Convention Delegate, D4
Tina Turner, Mooresville	Convention Delegate, D4
Rodric D. Bray, Martinsville	Convention Delegate, D1
Taylor E. Bryant, Martinsville	Convention Delegate, D1
Terry Clelland, Martinsville	Convention Delegate, D1
Dan Conway, Martinsville	Convention Delegate, D1
Kimberly Conway, Martinsville	Convention Delegate, D1
Kenny Costin, Martinsville	Convention Delegate, D1
Rick Durnal, Martinsville	Convention Delegate, D1
Shannon Kohl, Martinsville	Convention Delegate, D1
Dean Mayfield, Martinsville	Convention Delegate, D1
Peggy Mayfield, Martinsville	Convention Delegate, D1
Ann Miller, Martinsville	Convention Delegate, D1
Tammy Parker, Martinsville	Convention Delegate, D1
Kathy Taylor, Martinsville	Convention Delegate, D1
Carole Snyder, Monrovia	Convention Delegate, D2
Chris Snyder, Monrovia	Convention Delegate, D2
Kelly Alcalá, Mooresville	Convention Delegate, D3
Brian Culp, Mooresville	Convention Delegate, D3
Craig Haggard, Mooresville	Convention Delegate, D3
Loren Moore, Monrovia	Convention Delegate, D3
Carol Youngblood, Monrovia	Convention Delegate, D3
Susan D. Brubeck, Martinsville	Convention Delegate, D5
Shelley Campbell, Martinsville	Convention Delegate, D5
George Bart Coffey, Martinsville	Convention Delegate, D5
Dana Lee Dill-Coffey, Martinsville	Convention Delegate, D5
Daniel Elliott, Martinsville	Convention Delegate, D5
Laura Elliott, Martinsville	Convention Delegate, D5
Kalib (Marty) Martindale, Martinsville	Convention Delegate, D5
Mike Moore, Martinsville	Convention Delegate, D5
Daniel Pond, Martinsville	Convention Delegate, D5
Kimberly Pond, Martinsville	Convention Delegate, D5

DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRIMARY CANDIDATES

<i>Candidate name, address location</i>	<i>Office sought</i>
Drew Cox, Lafayette	U.S. Representative, Fourth District
Roger D. Day, Avon	U.S. Representative, Fourth District
Darin Patrick Griesey, Monticello	U.S. Representative, Fourth District
Thomas D. Hall Jr., Martinsville	U.S. Representative, Fourth District
Joe Mackey, Lafayette	U.S. Representative, Fourth District
Jayden McCash, Brownsburg	U.S. Representative, Fourth District
Paul McPherson, Otterbein	U.S. Representative, Fourth District
John Phillip Whetstone, Crawfordsville	U.S. Representative, Fourth District
Suzanne Fortenberry, Greenwood	State Representative, District 57
Carrie L. Syczylo, Martinsville	State Representative, District 57
Charlea M. Thrawley, Paragon	Ashland Township Board
Danny Drake, Martinsville	Clay Township Board
Philip Fowler, Monrovia	Monrovia Town Council, D4
Jean Ambrose, Martinsville	Convention Delegate
Stanley S. Diamond, Martinsville	Convention Delegate
Dale Drake, Martinsville	Convention Delegate
Danny Drake, Martinsville	Convention Delegate
Philip Fowler, Monrovia	Convention Delegate
Brandy Garland, Morgantown	Convention Delegate
Robert Garland, Morgantown	Convention Delegate
Melissa Gilliland, Martinsville	Convention Delegate
Thomas D. Hall Jr, Martinsville	Convention Delegate
Derrick Holder, Martinsville	Convention Delegate
Cara C. Meadows, Martinsville	Convention Delegate
Elizabeth Ann Sarchet, Martinsville	Convention Delegate
Ann Smock, Mooresville	Convention Delegate
Carrie L. Syczylo, Martinsville	Convention Delegate
Michael A. Syczylo, Martinsville	Convention Delegate
Charles M. Thrawley, Paragon	Convention Delegate
Michael Weaver, Martinsville	Convention Delegate
Michelle L. White, Martinsville	Convention Delegate
Charles M. Thrawley, Paragon	Ashland 01 Precinct Committeeman
LuMar Griggs, Mooresville	Clay 02 Precinct Committeeman
Michael Weaver, Martinsville	Jackson 01 Precinct Committeeman
Brandi Garland, Morgantown	Jackson 02 Precinct Committeeman
Derrick Holder, Martinsville	Jackson 02 Precinct Committeeman
Tom Wallace, Martinsville	Jefferson 01 Precinct Committeeman
Michelle L. White, Martinsville	Jefferson 02 Precinct Committeeman
Ann Smock, Mooresville	Monroe 01 Precinct Committeeman
Philip Fowler, Monrovia	Monroe 02 Precinct Committeeman
Stanley S. Diamond, Martinsville	Washington 08 Precinct Committeeman
Dianna Jennings, Martinsville	Washington 09 Precinct Committeeman

VOTE CENTERS

EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS

**BEGINS APRIL 7
GO TO ANY LOCATION BELOW**

- **MORGANTOWN FIRE DEPT.,**
269 N. HIGHLAND ST.
MAY 2: 8 A.M. TO 3 P.M.
- **MOORESVILLE FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH,**
525 N. INDIANA ST.
APRIL 21-24: 8 A.M. TO 4 P.M.
APRIL 25: 8 A.M. TO 3 P.M.
APRIL 27-MAY 1: 8 A.M. TO 4 P.M.
MAY 2: 8 A.M. TO 3 P.M.
MAY 4: 8 A.M. TO NOON
- **MORGAN COUNTY ELECTION OFFICE,**
180 S. MAIN ST., MARTINSVILLE
APRIL 7-10: 8 A.M. TO 4 P.M.
APRIL 13-17: 8 A.M. TO 4 P.M.
APRIL 20-24: 8 A.M. TO 4 P.M.
APRIL 25: 8 A.M. TO 3 P.M.
APRIL 27-MAY 1: 8 A.M. TO 4 P.M.
MAY 2: 8 A.M. TO 3 P.M.
MAY 4: 8 A.M. TO NOON
- **MONROVIA CHRISTIAN CHURCH,**
710 GORDON ROAD
APRIL 25: 8 A.M. TO 3 P.M.
MAY 2: 8 A.M. TO 3 P.M.

**THE PRIMARY ELECTION DETERMINES
WHICH CANDIDATES REMAIN ON YOUR
GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT.**

GET OUT AND VOTE!

ELECTION DAY VOTE CENTERS

You can vote at any vote center, and all vote centers are open May 5 from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Election Day.

- **ZION BAPTIST CHURCH,** 7520 Ind. 142, Martinsville
- **PARAGON COMMUNITY CENTER,** 381 N. Main St.
- **MONROVIA CHRISTIAN CHURCH,** 710 Gordon Road
- **SPRING HILL CHURCH,** 12150 N. Rooker Road, Mooresville
- **FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH,** 525 N. Indiana St., Mooresville
- **MT. GILEAD CHURCH,** 6019 E. St. Rd. 144, Mooresville
- **LIFELINE BAPTIST CHURCH,** 13387 N. Slideoff Road, Camby
- **LIBERTY CHRISTIAN CHURCH,** 2010 Liberty Church Road, Martinsville
- **RIVER VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH,** 4295 Egbert Road, Martinsville
- **MORGANTOWN FIRE DEPT.,** 269 N. Highland St.
- **MORGAN COUNTY JUDICIAL CAMPUS,** 180 S. Main St., Martinsville
- **HOOSIER HARVEST CHURCH,** 4085 Leonard Road, Martinsville
- **MARTINSVILLE SENIOR CENTER,** 1369 Blue Bluff Road
- **BROOKLYN KIDS PARK SHELTER HOUSE,** 3277 E. Centenary Road



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