

ELECTION GUIDE 2020

Will Tippecanoe County choose Trump again?

ELECTION

Continued from Page 1

Hoffman said he favored Kamala Harris, now the Democratic vice presidential candidate, and Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar in the June primary election.

When Biden selected Harris, then, did Hoffman warm up to the presidential ticket?

He shook his head. "It didn't matter," he added. Whichever Democrat is on the ticket has his vote.

"What I'm hearing a lot of this time is just the total frustration with the current leadership," said Heather Maddox, the chair of the Tippecanoe County Democratic Party, who was born and raised in Lafayette. "The frustration with the lack of decency, decorum. We're definitely in a time where they're not seeing that kind of leadership we're used to in an American president."

A political mirror

About a half-mile south in the neighborhood, there are two blue houses less than the length of a football field apart. Each has a red, white and blue banner tied to two white columns hanging above the front door. One reads "Joe Biden for President 2020," and the other asserts "Trump."

In one house, the resident was moved to tears recollecting Hillary Clinton's loss in 2016. In the other, the tenant said he hasn't doubted Trump since the businessman announced his candidacy.

"Maybe they did it in this neighbor-



78-year-old Andrea Williams, a former professor, said her "Joe Biden For President 2020" sign went up at least a month ago. Three houses away, her neighbor hung a similar Trump sign the night before the Sept. 29 presidential debate.

hood to irritate people," 78-year-old Andrea Williams said, adding that her Biden banner had been up for over a month. "It's their right to do it. And I feel very sorry for them in their beliefs."

Williams, a retired professor, said changing the banner made her uneasy because someone might "egg our house," a historic home built during World War One which she has lived in for nearly three decades.

Trump jeopardizes the nation's democracy, she said, and she fears political violence following the election.

well as his announcement in August of a peace deal between Israel, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, have all impressed the student. The nation has not entered a war since Trump took office, the student noted, another plus.

Regarding immigration from Latin America, the international issue Trump touted during his 2016 run by broadly labeling Mexican migrants "killers and rapists," the student said he finds it normal for leaders to view their countries as superior.

"I've seen racism like you would not believe," he said of his childhood in the Middle East. "I don't think there's no racism in America, but I think that a lot of the racism that gets called out is pretty superfluous stuff."

"There are serious issues that could be addressed, no doubt. But I think the credibility of those serious issues is severely affected by everyone getting upset over name-calling."

To the student, Trump's often crass delivery pales by comparison to the execution of those ideas.

"In terms of delivering promises, in terms of delivering your platform, I'm 100% ideas, 0% presentation," he said. "I think it's much better to present your ideas clearly and maybe offend people than it is to worry about the perception of your ideas to the point where it impedes you from delivering your message."

But from the moment Williams saw Trump berating contestants on "The Apprentice," she said, she was in awe of "what a wretched human being he was." The president draws a stark contrast to Obama's kind and respectful demeanor, she added.

Her disdain for the president extends beyond personality: "I noticed he didn't have a plan for his presidency. He just wanted to destroy the previous administration's programs."

Williams acknowledged the fault in Clinton denouncing a portion of Trump's base as "deplorables" during her 2016 run. And as the former professor ticked off the houses with Purdue affiliations around her own, she described a bubble of support for Democrats in university towns that can seem to distort political realities.

"When you have a university, you



JORDAN SMITH | MANAGING EDITOR

are pretty isolated, and you forget that people grow up differently, have different ideas," she said. "And you tend to think that you're right and everybody else is wrong."

Do opinions translate into votes?

The student who displays the Trump banner is one of 15,093 Purdue students who voted in 2016, though not all in Tippecanoe County, according to data from the National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement.

The Purdue Votes Coalition outlined goals this summer to increase the overall student voting rate from 47.8% in 2016 to 55% this year. Turnout in the county primary was subdued by the coronavirus, County Clerk Julie Roush has said, finishing below 20% among only registered voters.

Around 4,000 new voters have registered in Tippecanoe County since the June primary election, according to Roush, bringing the total to more than 118,000. The county had 113,548 reg-

istered voters during the 2016 presidential election.

The local Democratic Party canceled door-to-door canvassing efforts because of the coronavirus, Maddox said. The party also had to forgo any large political rallies. Fundraising dollars would surely dry up, Maddox thought.

A clear contrast between the two candidates, however, has proven to motivate Democrats and swing voters, she said. People have spontaneously walked into the campaign office to write checks worth hundreds of dollars. Michelle Richardson, the party's treasurer, said small donations from individuals have also increased.

The 250 Biden signs the party initially ordered "flew out of here" after three days, Maddox said, and several hundred people are on a waiting list for the next order.

The Tippecanoe County GOP did not respond to multiple requests for comment about its fundraising efforts or other ways it has gauged excitement leading up to the election.

A record 1,024 early voters cast ballots Tuesday, the first day Indiana voters were able, the county clerk said. Combined with nearly 4,000 absentee ballots that have already been returned, last week's few-thousand early voters indicate a turnout likely to be higher than 57% among those registered in 2016.

Seeing lines of voters outside of polling sites won't help Maddox to relax until she sees which name is earning more check marks, she said.

"Another thing that happens when you've been in it as long as I have is you get a little jaded," she said. "But I've also learned that doesn't always mean what I think it's going to."



JORDAN SMITH | MANAGING EDITOR

Stephen Hoffman, 48, said Republican politicians such as Gov. Eric Holcomb don't bother him as much as President Trump does. "The critical thing to me is getting a president who is not a jerk to people."

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INDIANA GOVERNOR 2016 GENERAL ELECTION

30,141 ERIC VOTES HOLCOMB (R)

30,234 JOHN VOTES GREGG (D)

2,298 REX VOTES BELL (L)

SOURCE: INDIANAVOTERS.IN.GOV

Puerto Ricans can replace a toppled governor or pick a president, but not both

A decision between their island's future and an untenable present

BY JORDAN SMITH
Managing Editor

As a Puerto Rican living in Tippecanoe County while he attends Purdue, Juan Matos said he had to make an intractable choice when he registered to vote.

He could register in the U.S. and vote out the president whom he watched toss — as if shooting a basketball — paper towels into a crowd of Puerto Rican residents devastated by Hurricane Maria. Or, he could maintain his registration in Puerto Rico to choose an elected replacement for former Gov. Ricardo Rosselló, who resigned in 2019 when leaked messages revealed he had encouraged supporters to “beat up that whore,” in reference to a Puerto Rican-born politician.

Matos, along with 82 other Puerto Rican students enrolled this fall according to the Purdue Data Digest, cannot do both.

Because Puerto Rico is a U.S. territory and not a state, the more than 3 million American citizens who live on the island cannot vote in federal elections. Puerto Ricans living in the mainland U.S. can register to vote in local, state and federal races, according to political science professor James McCann, but they must forfeit their right to vote absentee in island races.

That distinction does not exist for students from a U.S. state who go else-

where for college. They can remain registered at home to vote absentee for their state's governor as well as the president.

For young Puerto Ricans who one day hope to return to the island and care deeply about the fortunes of family members left behind, the choice is wrenching.

“That is my dilemma. I don't know which problem to assort my attention to, because I really do want for Puerto Rico to have a better government,” said Matos, a junior in the Department of Public Health from San Juan, Puerto Rico. “But I'm also aware that the presidency is also a very important position — especially right now.”

“I'm just in a very difficult spot.” Speaking on Oct. 2, three days before the deadline to register to vote in Indiana, Matos said he leaned toward registering in Tippecanoe County. “Regardless of whether I choose who is going to be the governor,” he

said, “they have a limit. And the limit is the U.S. government. Because we don't have total control of our island.” The Puerto Rican government controls most internal affairs, while the U.S. has jurisdiction over the island's external interactions.

He reasoned a vote for Joe Biden would hold more weight than the candidate he supports for governor of Puerto Rico. But the day after the Oct. 5 deadline passed, Matos said he'd had a change of heart.

The Puerto Rican Independence party candidate, Juan Dalmau, represents a legitimate challenge to the island's well-established two-party system, Matos and five other students interviewed said. And a dismal presidential debate pushed Matos away from the U.S. political scene, he said. Matos plans to vote for Dalmau by absentee ballot. “People are really being fed up with this whole corruption between the two parties,” he said, “and I want to be a part of that.”

Young people like Matos have registered in swaths to vote for Dalmau or another independent candidate, Alexandra Lúgaro, as a rebuke to the binary choice Puerto Ricans have faced for decades, the students said. “The young population is tired of those bipartisan systems,” said Isabel Patiño Mejía, a sophomore in the School of Mechanical Engineering. “Because whatever the party, they have a history of being corrupt in power, of mismanaging the federal funds that are provided to us. They have a history of nepotism.”

Current Gov. Wanda Vázquez Garced was appointed after a de facto replacement for Rosselló was ruled to have assumed office unconstitutionally. Garced is part of the New Progressive Party, a misnomer based on the U.S. definition of progressive; she endorsed President Donald Trump for re-election on Tuesday.

Despite Garced having lost her primary election bid in August to another veteran New Progressive politician, the students fear the election of any establishment candidate will stall progress. Voters 65 and over, which comprise over a fifth of the island's population according to the U.S. Census Bureau, are expected to support the New Progressive Party or the Popular Democratic Party — blue or red.

“I wanna make a statement to old people, basically,” said José Guzmán-Payano, a senior in the School of Mechanical Engineering who plans to vote for Lúgaro in Puerto Rico, where

he's taking classes remotely at his home in Cayey.

The governor's endorsement of Trump raised alarm among younger Puerto Ricans, Guzmán-Payano said.

The likely target is hundreds of thousands of Puerto Ricans who moved to Florida following what Guzmán-Payano and others see as a botched relief effort in the wake of Hurricane Maria. Trump catered to this group on Sept. 18 by announcing that the Federal Emergency Management Agency will direct \$13 billion to aid the island's recovery.

“There's a lot of Puerto Rican support for Donald Trump,” he said, “more than I wish there was.”

Statehood is a quick fix, but an imperfect solution

Patiño Mejía's home city of San Juan, the Puerto Rican capital, was the site of weeks of massive protests outside of the governor's mansion in July following the leak of his derogatory text messages. If not for her summer job in sales for a local marketing company, she said, she would have taken to the streets.

“But I felt like I was at the protest because whenever I drove to a client's house, I just couldn't get there because it was totally blocked,” she said, describing hundreds of cars at a complete standstill on major highways.

“I feel so useless. If you vote in the presidential elections it almost feels like you're abandoning your nationality. We are Puerto Ricans at heart.”

— Isabel Patiño Mejía, sophomore in the College of Engineering

A mass movement among young people and celebrities to obtain voter identification cards, coupled with the surge of support in polls for the independent candidates, had inspired her to vote in Puerto Rico, she said.

That was before she learned her registration in Tippecanoe County stripped her of the ability to select leaders to further her vision of island politics.

The deadline to register in Puerto Rico was Sept. 15, three weeks before the last day in Indiana. She became aware she could not vote both against Trump and for Dalmau, her favored Puerto Rican candidate, after the deadline.

“I feel so useless,” she said. “If you vote in the presidential elections it al-



JORDAN SMITH | MANAGING EDITOR

Juan Matos, a junior in the Department of Public Health, said the contentious debate between President Trump and Democratic candidate Joe Biden dissuaded him from voting in the U.S.

“It's just very frustrating to be part of the mess and yet not being able to make a decision as to what type of mess do you want to be in,” he said. “You just feel a bit powerless.”

most feels like you're abandoning your nationality. We are Puerto Ricans at heart.”

“We should be able to vote in the presidential elections and for the Puerto Rican governor,” Patiño Mejía added. “We're affected by both of these governments.”

She and other students describe the process of applying for a voter registration card as more tedious than signing up to vote in the U.S.

Andrea Gonzalez, the president of

event that garnered national attention.

When he walked into a CVS pharmacy store in October 2019 to buy cold medicine using his Puerto Rican ID, a store clerk refused to make the sale. The clerk denied Guzmán-Payano's identification as an American.

He then showed his U.S. passport, allowing the opportunity to chalk up the mistake to ignorance, he said at the time. The clerk rejected that, too, and demanded he show proof of legal immigration before permitting him to buy the medicine.

Around 40 students gathered outside of CVS in early November to protest the injustice and the University's lack of an official condemnation of the clerk's actions.

“I regret not making some kind of statement at the time of the CVS incident that precipitated the impromptu dialogue and therefore the misunderstanding,” Purdue President Mitch Daniels, under fire for other clumsy remarks perceived as disparaging toward Black students, eventually said. “It would have been possible to express the genuine concern we all felt without condemning prematurely any individual or local business establishment before the facts were known.”

Guzmán-Payano and fellow Puerto Rican students attend classes in a country run by a president who has repeatedly invoked insulting labels for members of the Latinx community, the students noted. Many said that breeds an untenable climate in a conservative state such as Indiana.

Several said the emotional toil has led them to question how long they want to live in the mainland U.S.

“Everything that he stands for, for me, is just despicable,” Patiño Mejía said of Trump.

When asked whom he would vote for if he were registered, Carlos Santiago, a junior in the Polytechnic Institute from Guayama, Puerto Rico, said “Anyone that's not Trump, because of his ideology as a human being.”

Coupling these sentiments compounds the frustration Guzmán-Payano feels at his inability to vote against the president, he said.

“I want him to not be re-elected because of all the division that's been going on,” he said. “We go there to get a good, decent education. And we're paying a lot of money, so we expect to be treated well. And, you know — that happens.”

“I really hope that he doesn't win.”



KATHLEEN MARTINUS
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Isabel Patiño Mejía, a sophomore in the College of Engineering from San Juan, Puerto Rico, plans to vote for Biden because she prefers “anyone that is not Trump.”



PHOTO PROVIDED

Carlos Santiago, a junior in the Polytechnic Institute from Guayama, Puerto Rico, had his soccer practice canceled when protesters crowded outside La Fortaleza, the governor's mansion in San Juan.



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Chosnek

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- Jacquie Chosnek

MEET JACQUE CHOSNEK

- Lifelong resident of Tippecanoe County
- Graduate of Harrison High School, Purdue University and Indiana University McKinney School of Law
- Joined her father, Ed Chosnek, at Chosnek Law PC in 2000
- Lafayette Deputy City Attorney since 2004
- Graduate of Leadership Lafayette Class 28
- Current member of Lafayette Rotary and United Way Community Investment Committee
- Past Board Member of Ivy Tech Foundation (Lafayette Region), Civic Theater of Greater Lafayette and Legal Aid of Tippecanoe County
- Proud mother of two teenage sons, Isaac and Simon
- Enjoys spending time with family and friends, exploring our local trails and reading in her free time

Democratic woman seeks spot on all-male, Republican county commission

BY JOSEPH CHING
Staff Reporter

Long-time Tippecanoe County Commissioner David Byers has received numerous bipartisan endorsements, but Democrat Erica Beumel is vying to unseat him and become the only woman on the three-person commission.

It's not common for a county commissioner seat to be contested, historical data from the Board of Elections shows. Byers represents District 2, which includes Purdue, and ran unchallenged in 2012 and 2016. Thomas Murtaugh, the current commissioner for District 3, has no opponent contesting his re-election this year.

The commissioners form the executive and legislative branch of the county. They oversee county infrastructure, negotiate contracts and make appointments. Commissioners serve four-year terms and represent one of three districts, though county voters can select candidates for all three districts.

The commission wields considerable power, as most regulations and contracts are under their purview, County Councillor Lisa Dullum said.

"I don't know that there's much that goes to the council that the commissioners don't have a (say in)," Dullum said.

Unlike a city council, which drafts and passes legislation, the county council is primarily a fiscal body. Its members oversee the county government's budget, salaries and bond issuances.

The county commissioners are all Republicans. Beumel, a Democrat and caseworker at the Fairfield Township Trustee's Office, was motivated to run to represent her community and bring a new perspective.

"I grew up here so it's really important to me that my com-



ISAAC HUNTINGTON
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

County Commission candidate Erica Beumel has made environmental issues a focal point of her campaign.

munity is supported," Beumel said. "I think it is important that you have a little bit of diversity and equal representation, if you will, on a board, so you might have varying points of view. I think that's healthy for the community because that means your voice is going to be heard."

Beumel graduated from Purdue with a degree in restaurant, hotel and business management. She said her experience opening restaurants at Marriott, managing real estate across the Midwest and launching a catering business has given her a diverse business acumen in finances and planning.

Beumel is running on addressing environmental issues and food insecurity.

"We need to try and get everybody on the same page so that we can work toward this together and we will have a much better impact on our environment," Beumel said. "I think it's important that we clean up our messes for the next generations to handle because it's not going to get better as we can see. We need to make sure that we're (taking) steps to make it better."

Byers has been a county commissioner since 2009 and was a county councillor since

1987. A local dairy farmer, he received the Circle of Corydon Award from Gov. Holcomb for his leadership in the 4-H youth development program. He's running on his track record of driving economic development and working across party lines.

"Since being a county commissioner, we've brought in over \$2 billion worth of new investment from new and existing companies," Byers said. "And by doing that we've created almost 10,000 brand new jobs."

Byers highlighted how he's kept taxes low while maintaining infrastructure and attracting businesses. Tippecanoe County is projected to increase in population by 21.9% from 2010 to 2050, according to a study by the Indiana Business Research Center, an attractive statistic for potential new businesses.

Bringing in these jobs is important, Byers said, citing the "multiplier effect" coined by a study from the Center for Automotive Research. Each automotive job, like those found at the Subaru Lafayette Auto Plant, creates seven new jobs in the community.

A key strategy commissioners have used to encourage companies to move to the county are tax abatements. These multi-year tax breaks were arranged with companies like Saab and General Electric to attract business investment.

Beumel said these property tax breaks have a place in bolstering the economy but must be balanced to avoid pushing out small businesses.

"There are many ways to make our community attractive to other businesses coming in without going overboard on that tax abatement issue," Beumel said, "and realizing that we do need to have some revenues from the busi-



CHARLIE WU | SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

David Byers has earned endorsements from the mayors of both Lafayette and West Lafayette in his reelection bid.

nesses that come in because they do use our resources, and we do have maintenance and (repairs) of roads and infrastructure and so forth, which can be attributed to them doing business here."

Beumel argues businesses should be taxed responsibly to help fund the infrastructure and services they use. Other ways the county can attract businesses is maintaining a safe community, strong schools and sustainable environment, Beumel said.

Beumel is also calling for a reevaluation of the commissioners' decision in 2019 to ban commercial wind turbines in the county.

Byers said the decision took into consideration how the windmills restricted development in a growing county. The proposal was led by a group of residents in the southern area of the county, which had the most suitable land.

"The vast majority of the land owners in that area were opposed," Byers said. "I am not opposed to (windmills) for their value to our energy's health, just location and setting must be weighed."

"I think that there must be a way that we can work together and work this through such that if you want to have windmills for that diversified income for our farmers, you can," Beumel said. "To me it is a crisis that needs to be attended to as soon as possible. But with me there as commissioner, I have a passion for this, I'm a driving force for this and I'd be a leader in Tippecanoe County about this topic."

There are many projects Byers hopes to continue as commissioner, including developing mental health and substance abuse services at the Tippecanoe County Jail, instead of expanding the size of the jail.

The commissioners are also talking with companies interested in converting the old landfill into a solar field.

Both the Democratic mayor of Lafayette and the Republican mayor of West Lafayette have endorsed Byers, which Byers attributes to his ability to work in a bipartisan fashion.

"I listened to the citizens, we work with everybody," Byers said. "It's a job that I truly question anyone who has

zero experience about the job and try to come in and really get a good grasp of it."

Beumel ran for county council in 2018 and said despite losing, she focused her efforts on listening to the concerns of community members.

"What I found through being very aggressive with my engagement is that people are interested ... but up until that point they really have not seen that engagement — in some cases (ever)," Beumel said. "If you don't take that time to talk to the voter you're going to represent, you're not going to know what to say or what their needs are in the community."

Both candidates stressed the importance of local politics and its effect on people's daily lives. Byers added that on a local level, partisanship is less important than any candidate's policy history.

"My biggest hope is that students don't just go in and punch a straight D or R or whichever (you identify as)," Byers said, "and really study the candidates, know who's who and choose hopefully the correct person."

Can elected officials make birth control more accessible?

Rep pushes for law to allow pharmacists to prescribe self-administered contraceptive

BY ALISA REYNYA
Special Projects Reporter

A bill Democratic representatives strive to bring before the Indiana House of Representatives in January would allow Purdue students to receive birth control from the Purdue Pharmacy without first seeing a doctor.

The pharmacy began offering birth control consultations for the first time this semester. But students can only sign up for one if they've visited the Purdue University Student Health Center at least once previously.

The rule allows the pharmacy to work around Indiana law, which requires medical providers to prescribe birth control.

If the bill passes, Indiana will join 13 other states and Washington, D.C., in allowing pharmacists to do so. The bill aims to make contraception more accessible, prevent unintended pregnancies and lower maternal and infant mortality rates.

"(A lot) can be helped by increasing access to contraception," said Ashley Meredith, a Purdue professor and clinical pharmacist. "If you're preventing pregnancies, then No. 1: they're not unwanted. And No. 2: there are less women and babies to have complications."

Unintended pregnancies are detrimental to entire families, according to Rita Fleming, the Democratic representative in Southern Indiana who's authoring the bill. As a former obstetrician-gynecologist, Fleming said the pregnancies lead to delays in critical prenatal care, and greater social and educational challenges for the children who are ultimately born.

Fleming also worries the state's birth rate will increase as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to limit activities and drive couples indoors. She's waiting to receive numbers of unintended pregnancies from the Medicaid office

to see if her suspicions are true.

"We know that when we have a blackout, and people are home for two or three days, the birth rate goes up," she said. "Well, this is a lot more than the typical blackout."

Moreover, busy work schedules and physical distance from providers can make it difficult for women to visit a doctor, and the pandemic further complicates in-person visits. Pharmacies exist within two miles of almost every person in Indiana, Fleming said.

"We point fingers at women and blame them for being careless or unprepared when for many women, it's an access problem," Fleming said. "They can't get the birth control that they want and need."

The nonprofit group United Health Foundation finds in its research on unintended pregnancy rates that about 95% occur because women use contraception inconsistently, incorrectly or not at all.

"Women's right to access reproductive care should be a basic right that they have, it shouldn't be something that is really difficult to access," Meredith said. "This is one more way to make access to that care a little bit more convenient."

"If you're a male and you want medication for erectile dysfunction or balding, you just need to go to this website and you can essentially order it online. So why can't women do the same thing for birth control?"

Companies like Nurx do prescribe birth control online without an in-person doctor's visit, but the safety of their services has come into question in recent years because telemedicine is not yet subject to the same regulations as traditional regulations.

Republican Rep. Cindy Kirchhofer, who chairs the state's Public Health Committee, chose not to hear an earlier version of the bill last

The bill could:

- Limit available contraception to certain self-administered methods (pills, patches, rings, some injections)
- Limit services to women 18 and older
- Include a

- requirement that a woman see a doctor every certain number of years
- Include a requirement that pharmacists must complete a certain number of hours of training

year. Meredith said advocates of the policy weren't informed why, but she wasn't surprised given the majority-Republican makeup of the House.

"It didn't go through because of politics," she said.

In a 2018 press release from the Indiana House Republicans announcing Kirchhofer's reappointment as committee chair, Kirchhofer said the health committee plans to "continue working to make Indiana a healthier state and ensure Hoosiers have better access to the health-care services they need."

Kirchhofer, who represents part of Marion County, is running against Democrat Mitch Gore in District 89. She was unavailable for comment last week.

Democratic Rep. Chris Campbell, who represents West Lafayette, said she has the impression that helping women avoid unwanted pregnancies is not a top priority for the Republican-majority House.

But Fleming is confident the bill will receive a hearing this year.

"There's always people who are opposed to contraception of any sort," Fleming said. "And I certainly respect their own personal beliefs. But we're here to establish good public policy, and this is good public policy."

Meredith said the group is in discussion with an experienced Republican state senator who might be willing to support the bill. They are also seeking the support of the Indiana State Medical Association, whose opinions legislators trust, according to Meredith.

completed the same form. The two responses were compared for accuracy, and the researchers found that the majority of young women were able to accurately identify their own medical history.

One major exception was that women were not able to describe migraines as accurately as their providers, which could be dangerous because hormonal birth control can exacerbate certain types of migraines.

The researchers also led 60 women through a simulated birth-control-prescribing scenario to see how the women could apply general information provided to their personal circumstances. Meredith said scores in this section were high.

"That is probably the bigger piece of what will likely drive legislative change," she said. "We show that they can accurately understand what it means for them."

Campbell said the bill will call attention to an issue becoming vital as access to reproductive measures and affordable health care in the state dwindle. The number of Planned Parenthood locations has decreased in recent

years, and Campbell said the Franciscan Health network does not allow its providers to prescribe birth control.

She's working on a related bill that would require the state to provide birth control if an employer refuses to for moral or religious reasons. She was also part of a summer study committee that seeks to redefine the terms "consent" and "rape" in the Indiana rape statute.

As a conservative U.S. Supreme Court majority looms, Campbell said access to birth control is even more critical. She fears a world where women can't legally control their reproductive health.

The freedoms women now experience in the workplace rest heavily on access to reproductive measures, Campbell said.

"I went to school in the '80s. ... One of my first jobs, I got asked what my family situation was — which it's supposed to be illegal to even ask that question — and this was the '90s," she said. "They wanted to know if I had children or was going to have children because this was going to interfere with my life as a woman in the workforce."

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2. Go to leaguelfayette.org or scan the QR code to create your online reimbursement request.
3. We'll review your request and send money back to you via PayPal.

County council candidates discuss local economy, pandemic



PHOTO PROVIDED
Monica Casanova, Democrat

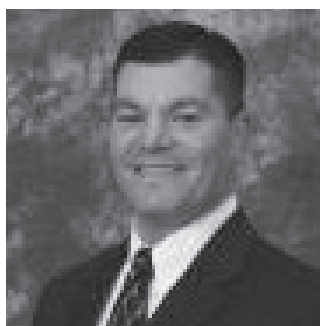


PHOTO PROVIDED
Kevin Underwood, Republican



PHOTO PROVIDED
Susan Schechter, Democrat



PHOTO PROVIDED
Barry Richard, Republican



PHOTO PROVIDED
Margaret Hass, Democrat



PHOTO PROVIDED
John Basham, Republican

BY MARCO RIVERO
Staff Reporter

Six candidates are running for Tippecanoe County Council this November. The Democratic candidates are: Margaret Hass, an educator and Purdue lecturer; Monica Casanova, a former librarian; and Susan Schechter, a former scientist. The Republican candidates are: Barry Richard, a former sheriff; John Basham, a business owner and landlord; and Kevin Underwood, the president of the county council.

"The county council is responsible for the county's budget and financial well-being of the county government," Underwood said. "The county council is not a policy development body, we are the fiscal body of the county government."

Voters will have to select all three of their preferred candidates for the Council at-large election. Voting straight-ticket will not include this race, so voters will have to make sure that they vote for their preferred choices when filling out their ballots.

All candidates were sent identical questions and given a 100-word limit for their responses.

Basham and Hass did not respond.

Responses have been edited for clarity and style.

In what ways will you use your role as a county councilor to advocate for Purdue students and faculty?

Richard: Purdue students and faculty are a very important part of our community's

makeup. We must be aware of the challenges and needs for this segment of the population and this can be accomplished by being a good listener and discussion with students and faculty. Once I become more knowledgeable of the challenges I will be able to advocate for the services and needs to be provided.

Schechter: Purdue is the largest employer in Tippecanoe County. I will actively support the Protect Purdue policies to maximize the success of in-person classes. I will promote expansion of situation response options so that mental health, substance misuse and interpersonal interactions can be resolved, not criminalized. I support building codes that minimize energy bills.

Casanova: Purdue is the county's largest employer and there has to be a collaborative relationship between the county and a 150+ year university that has shaped and defined this community. Though many see students as transitory residents, there are students who after they graduate select Tippecanoe County as their home. As such, I believe we should integrate students, faculty and staff into the greater community because they are assets.

Underwood: Purdue's financial well being is directly tied to our Indiana State budgeting process debated and voted on by the State Legislature. Tippecanoe County's budget has little bearing upon Purdue directly but is an important ingredient in our county's continued success economically and partnerships with Purdue to help work to-

ward proper funding for important infrastructure projects that are important to both the University and the county.

What one policy area will be your priority if you're elected, and why?

Richard: Public safety! I have nearly four decades of law enforcement experience. In order for all of us to have a safe environment to live in and a high quality of life, we must have a great amount of public safety. The critical component is training. We must make sure that all our public servants not only have the resources but as much training as possible to succeed in their duties.

Schechter: My focus is climate response and resilience. The economic impact of wildfire, extreme weather and sea level rise affects all of us. Transitioning to renewable energy sources is an opportunity to lower costs and bring good paying to our community. Distributed energy production keeps more dollars in our local economy. I support programs to promote regen-

erative farming, tree planting, conservation, improved building standards, microgrids, cooling attractions and keeping our eyes open to be aware of threats and opportunities as they arise.

Casanova: Public health and safety will be my priority. Coronavirus has destroyed many families and businesses in our community and we need to allocate as many resources as the county council can apportion to those most affected. As a fiscal body, we can redistribute funds to best meet this crisis.

Underwood: I will work to provide proper funding and support needed to the county government to provide for the infrastructure, public safety, other business functions of our county's government while maintaining affordable tax rates for the residents and business owners of our community.

The pandemic this year has led to closures for small businesses, including several which were considered Purdue staples. What actions would you take to rebuild the local economy following the pandemic?

Richard: Unfortunately, not only in our county, however, throughout the nation, we have suffered huge losses of many small businesses. We as elected officials must seek state and federal grants to help ensure that as much assistance as possible is given to small business owners to get back on their feet. I am confident once we have conquered this horrible disease, we as a nation will come back stronger than ever!

Schechter: The pandemic is far from over. Even when a vaccine has passed regula-

tory review and has become widely available, COVID-19 will not just go away. Science-based best practices to limit the spread of disease should continue. The market for student-focused business will lure businesses to meet the demand. The county should support new businesses with consultations and provide tax increment financing to small local businesses startups.

Casanova: I would support any kind of grant dollars to provide relief for local businesses.

Underwood: The county council will need to continue providing support for maintaining and improving our county infrastructure so that businesses can grow and prosper as the local economy gets back into full gear. Keeping county taxes at an affordable level for individuals who live and work in our county along with those businesses that employ our county residents will be vital for allowing small businesses to get back onto their feet financially in a quicker fashion.

Race has become a focal point in both the national and local conversation. With so many people from different backgrounds coming to Purdue, what commitments can you make to make sure that minorities can feel represented and respected in Tippecanoe County?

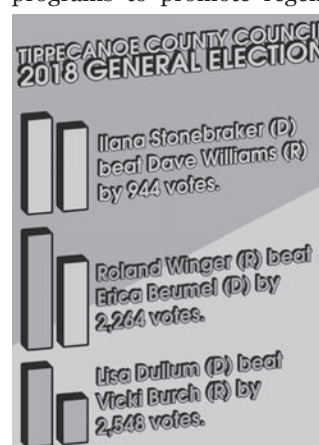
Robert: Education, training, opportunities, programs and transparency. These are the areas I will focus on in making sure each and every citizen of our community truly feels that this is their home and they are part of our community family. Our commu-

nity is phenomenal. I have always said "There is no place like home."

Schechter: Tippecanoe County has a long history of attracting immigrant populations, working through inter-cultural friction and then assimilating and benefiting from cultural diversity. Irish settlement along Wabash Avenue and German settlement in the Historic Jefferson neighborhood worked through difficult periods of nativist sentiment. We need to share this history proudly and actively welcome new immigrants to enrich our community. The West Lafayette Global Fest is one example of a local immigration-welcoming event. I will promote an active, countywide celebration of our diverse community. As past president of the Greater Lafayette Chapter of the ACLU of Indiana, I have defended civil liberties in our community.

Casanova: First, as a Mexican immigrant, I understand the feeling of being a stranger in one's own country. I would ensure that all members of the community feel welcomed anywhere in the community and in particular in local government. I would also encourage and build a succession of BIPOC to run for office.

Underwood: All individuals in the county are assessed and pay taxes within the county regardless of race or any other individual characteristics. As a county council member my main focus is making sure that the people of our county do not pay more than is necessary for county government in taxes, while at the same time, making sure that the needs of our county are well-served to provide for the safety, health and infrastructure needs of our residents.



Nothing Changes if You Don't Vote

Vote Wed, Oct 14
from 11:00AM - 6:00PM
at Mackey arena.



- ✓ **Confirm your voter registration** (www.indianavoters.com)
- ✓ **Find out who is on your ballot** (www.vote411.org)
- ✓ **Hustle down to Mackey and VOTE!**

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GREATER LAFAYETTE

www.vote411.org

Paid for by the League of Women Voters of Indiana Education Fund.

District 4 candidates talk COVID-19

BY CARSON BAILEY
City Editor

The U.S. House of Representatives race for Indiana District 4 is a contest between incumbent Rep. Jim Baird, a Republican, and Democrat Joe Mackey, a retired machinist who lives in Lafayette.

Baird, a Purdue alumnus, is the owner of Baird Family Farms and Indiana Home Care Plus. He previously served as the representative from the 44th district to the Indiana State House of Representatives from 2010 to 2018.

Mackey worked for Caterpillar Inc. for 27 years, and is also the founder of the Claire E. and Patrick G. Mackey Children's Cancer Foundation, which focuses on financing pediatric cancer research.

Both candidates gave their perspectives on 2020 issues in a League of Women Voters Vote411 Q&A, an in-person interview and an email exchange.

Health care

Baird said while he opposes a universal health-care plan, medical costs are too high for many Americans.

"Democrats want to implement a top-down approach with 'Medicare for All,' which will require higher taxes and create a bureaucratic nightmare for those seeking health care," Baird said in a Vote411 Q&A. "Right now, the greatest barrier to people receiving access to health care is the high and unknown costs. If we can address those issues that can go a long way into solving the problem."

Mackey supports a government health-care plan and noted the acute lack of adequate care in rural areas of District 4.

"These are counties where even the basic health-care needs of women and children are not being met. Our infant mortality rates are among the worst in the country," Mackey said. "These are deaths that are medically treatable illnesses."

He also criticizes the employer-centric, market-based approach to health care in the U.S.

"The issue with 'free market'-based healthcare is the insatiable pursuit of profit which creates predatory behaviors from far too many players," Mackey said via Vote411. "We must follow the actions of all the other developed nations and create a health-care system for all Americans."

Coronavirus

Baird conveyed optimism for the government's current response plan.

"Throughout this pandemic, Congress has provided funds and resources to first responders, health-care workers, businesses and the development of treatments and a vaccine," he said via Vote411. "If needed, Congress can provide additional resources to hospitals."

He also said that finding a vaccine and helping businesses in need should be top priorities. "Congress will continue to provide resources

for vaccine development. In the meantime, Congress should focus its efforts on those still in need," Baird said via email. "The next COVID-19 relief bill should be targeted toward businesses and schools still in need."

Mackey stressed the need for personal responsibility, especially among college students.

"I ask that you take COVID-19 seriously. Wear your mask. Don't do it for yourself, do it for your peers, those around you," he said. "This isn't a matter of civil rights, it's a matter of civil health and being responsible for yourself."

Mackey said Congress should pass legislation to revamp infrastructure and create jobs in the wake of the economic recession caused by the pandemic.

"Investing in renewable energies, greening our infrastructure and environmental remediation are three areas of the economy in which Congress could have an immediate positive economic impact," he said via Vote 411.

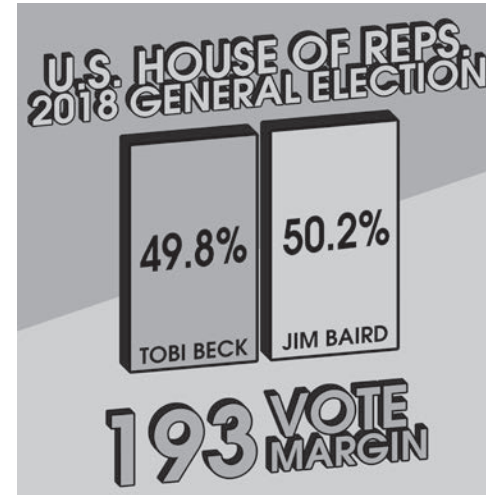
Internet access in rural areas

Mackey noted the destructive impact the lack of internet had on rural areas.

"During the pandemic shutdown, the more urban and suburban areas were able to pivot right away to e-learning. But there was no e-learning available in the rural areas because there is no internet," he said. "We now have entire graduating classes of high school seniors here in the fourth district where not one student is going to college."

Baird said he will continue to bring internet to rural areas, as he has with a recent \$1 million grant covering costs for broadband internet access.

"I was proud to recently announce with USDA a ReConnect grant which will help expand rural broadband access for the Fountain County area," Baird said in an email. "There are still plenty of rural areas across our district that need attention and we are partnering with the state to help provide resources to keep this issue a focal point."



Board of Elections discusses traveling boards for sick voters

BY MAGGIE PIERCY
Staff Reporter

In a time where buildings functioning as vote centers often post signs forbidding people with a fever, cough or sore throat to enter, a fixture of absentee voting might play a pronounced role.

Traveling boards are one of many ways to vote without physically going to the polls. In the past, traveling boards have been used to ease the voting process for those who are sick, confined or have disabilities or the elderly in nursing homes.

If a voter is approved to vote by a traveling board, a bipartisan team will come to their house, help them to fill out their ballot if they are unable to do so on their own and return it to the election office.

Applications for voting by traveling board can be found at indianavoters.com. The forms ask voters to justify why they qualify to vote by traveling board.

"A real travel board goes to the home and lets somebody vote, and then we take the ballot back with us," said Julie Roush, the Tippecanoe

County clerk.

But this year the traveling boards could be used as a way for individuals with the coronavirus to vote safely, according to Roush.

"We would have on hand what's called a ballot for travel boards and (COVID-19) might be one of the instances where the board would allow a sick person to fill out a travel board, send a team to that person's home and we will let them vote," Roush said.

"(The voters) have the opportunity to call us and say 'I have gotten sick, I really want a travel board to come to the home.'"

This year the county will use the traveling boards to help the elderly in nursing homes to vote in the election, as they are especially at risk of suffering from the coronavirus. According to Germany Harris, member of the Board of Elections staff, the traveling boards will be sent to nursing homes, as opposed to setting up vote centers at the homes.

"We have travel boards at the nursing homes themselves," Roush said. "We used to vote in nursing homes, because of COVID we're

not. So we've devised this, and we've found people both Republicans and Democrats to work together to help the residents of that nursing home."

But for those that will still vote in person this election, voting centers such as Mackey Arena have implemented numerous safety measures to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

Those planning to vote at Mackey Arena will be required to queue outside of the building, with building occupancy measured by Purdue Athletics staff and Purdue Votes volunteers, said Melissa Gruver, associate director of civic engagement and leadership development at Purdue. Poll workers will also clean styluses, pens, voting booths, touch screens, tables and any other materials used during the voting process. Hand sanitizer will be placed at the entrances and near the restrooms.

In the case of a poll employee contracting the coronavirus, Roush is confident that there are plenty of backup poll workers. But it would prove difficult if a supervisor got sick.

"The supervisors are the head of



RYAN CHEN | SPECIAL PROJECTS REPORT

Tippecanoe County clerk Julie Roush addressed the participants in an Oct. 2 public test of voting machines.

everybody," Roush said.

Employees in election offices have not only been doing their best to keep the public safe when voting, but are also working to prevent an outbreak in the county election offices. The employees have been vigilant in wearing masks and staying 6 feet away from one another, Roush reported. She also em-

phasized how important it is that workers in the county building stay healthy because "we have to run the election."

Roush largely recommends voting early, if healthy, due to the unpredictable nature of the coronavirus's spread.

"Don't wait until Election Day," she said, "because by Election Day you could get sick."

The week of Oct. 12 **WHERE CAN I VOTE?**

Tippecanoe County Office Building (Conference Room C) 1.2 miles
10/13 - 10/16 | 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Faith West Community Center 1.4 miles
10/17 | 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

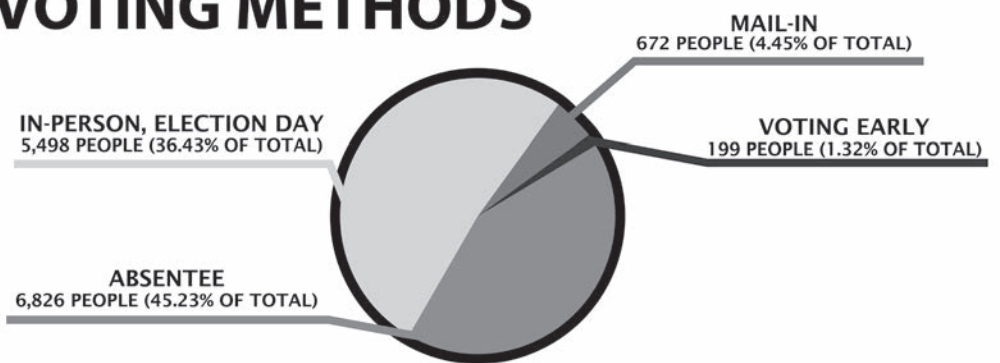
St. Thomas Aquinas Church 0.2 miles
10/17 | 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Mackey Arena 0 miles
10/14 | 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

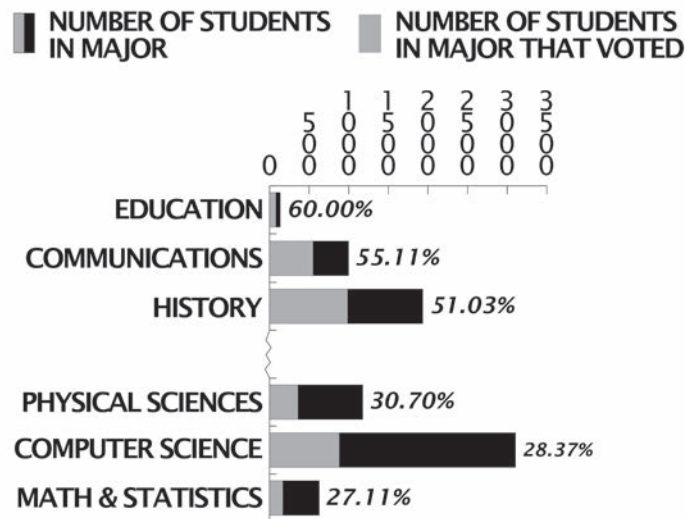
SOURCE: TIPPECANOE.IN.GOV
BODHI SCOTT | GRAPHIC ARTIST

2016 Election: by the numbers

BREAKDOWN OF VOTING METHODS



TURNOUT BY MAJOR



The National Study of Voting, Learning and Engagement documented voting rates in the 2016 election among Purdue students. Data collected includes voter turnout by academic major and voting method.

BODHI SCOTT | GRAPHIC ARTIST

Postal service, Board of Elections affirm security of mail-in ballots

BY NOAH HENSON
Staff Reporter

More than 10,500 Tippecanoe County residents have applied for mail-in absentee ballots. The expected influx places a new focus on the United States Postal Service and raises questions regarding the efficiency and security of the process.

In an email to the press, Tippecanoe County Clerk Julie Roush wrote, "With the election a month away, we do not perceive any mail issues at this time. The USPS is working hard to deliver ballots."

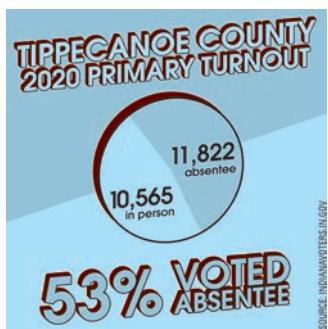
Roush noted that although the county will accept mail-in ballot applications until Oct. 22, USPS prefers that voters apply at least fifteen days before Election Day, which means applying by Oct. 19. Any ballots that are post-marked by Election Day and arrive on or before Nov. 13 must be counted, according to a federal ruling in the U.S. Southern District of Indiana.

Roush also disclosed the security measures that Tippecanoe County and USPS are taking to ensure that ballots are legitimate.

"The voter's original signature must be signed in the red box on the outside of the envelope," she said. "We are verifying that the voter who requested the ballot is the one who voted. Voters and household members of the voter may drop off ballots during regular business hours, and are required to fill out an affidavit."

Mary Dando, the strategic communications specialist for USPS's Greater Indiana District, said the postal service has more than enough capacity to mail the volume of ballots expected this fall.

"The Postal Service delivers 433 million pieces of mail a day," she wrote. "Even if all Americans were to vote by mail this year, 330 million ballots over the course of the election would be only three-quar-



ADRIAN GAETA | GRAPHICS EDITOR

ters of what the Postal Service delivers in a single day."

As an extra precaution, the Tippecanoe County Board of Elections designated a drop-off site for ballots at Edgelea Elementary School in Lafayette. This site allows voters to deliver their ballots in person rather than using the postal service. Voters can drop off their ballots at 2910 S. 18th St. on Oct. 25 from noon to 4 p.m.

Even so, Dando wrote, "the Postal Service has ample capacity - including high-speed mail processing machines and dedicated personnel - to process and deliver an expected surge in mail-in ballots."

This comes in the wake of Postmaster General Louis DeJoy's decision to freeze hiring of management positions at the postal service and remove hundreds of sorting machines from the streets in August.

"The post office has been in debt for decades," said one postal worker who chose not to be identified by name because he's not authorized to speak to the media. "(DeJoy's) just trying to save the post office money ... It's a business and we have to make money."

Faith Camire, a freshman in Exploratory Studies who also plans to vote by mail, expressed her confidence in the system.

"(USPS) makes it as secure as possible, so I feel safe," she said.

Numbers from the county clerk's office as of Oct. 4 showed that out of 10,500 mail-in ballot applications, more than 3,800 ballots had been returned.

Your Vote Matters

The Tippecanoe County Democratic Party encourages you to let your voice be heard! To find early voting and Election Day locations, visit www.tippdemparty.com.

Tippecanoe County Democratic Party

Paid for by the Tippecanoe County Democratic Party Central Committee

RE-ELECT DAVID BYERS
Tippecanoe County Commissioner
Proven Leader

- Cooperates across party lines and is endorsed by:
 - Local NAACP President Sadie Harper-Scott
 - Lafayette Mayor Tony Roswarski
 - West Lafayette Mayor John Dennis
 - Senator Ron Altling
 - Multiple small, local businesses
- Collaborates with businesses, local officials, and Purdue University

Working to Keep Tippecanoe County *Moving Forward*

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Paid by the committee to elect David Byers, Chair, Andrew Gutwein, Treasurer, Vicki Pearl

SAMPLE BALLOT

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, INDIANA

ALL CONTESTED RACES IN WABASH PRECINCTS

EXCLUDING SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

STRAIGHT PARTY

REPUBLICAN

DEMOCRATIC

LIBERTARIAN

FEDERAL AND STATE

ATTORNEY GENERAL

TODD ROKITA
REPUBLICAN

JONATHAN WEINZAPFEL
DEMOCRATIC

JUDICIAL

TIPPECANOE COUNTY JUDGE
SUPERIOR COURT NO. 7

DAN MOORE
REPUBLICAN

JACQUE CHOSNEK
DEMOCRATIC

FEDERAL AND STATE

PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT
OF THE UNITED STATES

DONALD J. TRUMP
MICHAEL R. PENCE
REPUBLICAN

JOSEPH R. BIDEN
KAMALA D. HARRIS
DEMOCRATIC

JO JORGENSEN
JEREMY COHEN
LIBERTARIAN

WRITE-IN

LEGISLATIVE

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 4

JIM BAIRD
REPUBLICAN

JOE MACKEY
DEMOCRATIC

WRITE-IN

COUNTY

COUNTY COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT 2

DAVID BYERS
REPUBLICAN

ERICA BEUMEL
DEMOCRATIC

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 27

JAMES T. HASS
REPUBLICAN

SHEILA A. KLINKER
DEMOCRATIC

COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER
AT LARGE

JOHN BASHAM
REPUBLICAN

BARRY RICHARD
REPUBLICAN

KEVIN L. UNDERWOOD
REPUBLICAN

MONICA CASANOVA
DEMOCRATIC

MARGARET HASS
DEMOCRATIC

SUSAN SCHECHTER
DEMOCRATIC

GOVERNOR AND LT. GOVERNOR
OF INDIANA

ERIC HOLCOMB
SUZANNE CROUCH
REPUBLICAN

WOODROW MYERS
LINDA C. LAWSON
DEMOCRATIC

DONALD G. RAINWATER II
WILLIAM E. HENRY
LIBERTARIAN

JUDICIAL

TIPPECANOE COUNTY JUDGE
SUPERIOR COURT NO. 1

RANDY J. WILLIAMS
REPUBLICAN

BRYAN K. COULTER
DEMOCRATIC

TIPPECANOE COUNTY JUDGE
SUPERIOR COURT NO. 4

MATT SANDY
REPUBLICAN

MATTHEW D. BOULAC
DEMOCRATIC

THE HYPERLINKS ON CANDIDATES' NAMES
REPRESENT PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT.

ADRIAN GAETA | GRAPHICS EDITOR
SOURCE: TIPPECANOE.IN.GOV