

2020 GENERAL ELECTION VOTING PRIMER

Editor's note: The City of Huntington's communications office reached out to all of the local candidates who will appear on the upcoming ballot, and the summaries below use the candidates' own words as much as possible. Some edits for length have been made. The City's goal is to provide relevant background information to residents, and a candidate's inclusion on this list should not be considered an endorsement. Information on candidates for statewide offices has been adapted from the website listed.

OFFICE	CANDIDATE	PARTY	WEBSITE AND CONTACT INFORMATION
GOVERNOR	ERIC HOLCOMB is the current governor of Indiana and a U.S. Navy veteran. He is seeking re-election for a second term. His platform includes workforce development for the 21st century, maintaining and building the state's infrastructure and balancing the state's budgets.	REPUBLICAN	Website: https://holcombforindiana.com/
GOVERNOR	WOODROW MYERS is a physician and former Indiana State Health Commissioner. His platform includes improved access to health care and reducing prescription drug costs. He has said he'll work to diversify Indiana's economy and restore education funding.	DEMOCRAT	Website: https://drwoodymyers.com/meet-woody/
GOVERNOR	DONALD RAINWATER II is a U.S. Navy Veteran who has pledged to veto any efforts to increase taxes in Indiana and to abolish the state income tax. He supports Constitutional Carry gun laws and the decriminalization of medical and recreational marijuana.	LIBERTARIAN	Website: https://www.rainwaterforindiana.com/
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR	SUZANNE CROUCH is the current lieutenant governor, a state representative for House District 78 from 2005 to 2014, and the state auditor from 2014 to 2016. In her political career, Crouch has served on the state Public Health and Ways & Means committees.	REPUBLICAN	Website: https://www.facebook.com/LGSuzanneCrouch/
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR	LINDA LAWSON was a state representative for House District 1 from 1998 to 2018. She was the first female officer for the Hammond Police Department, where she later served as police captain. In her political career, Lawson has supported efforts to advance social justice and equality and improve public schools.	DEMOCRAT	Website: https://drwoodymyers.com/meet-linda-lawson/
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR	WILLIAM HENRY is a U.S. Army veteran who served active duty deployments to Afghanistan and Kuwait. His professional background is in communications and public relations, and he currently serves as chairman for the Indiana Chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws. He has said he will work to strengthen ethics and corruption laws, advance care for veterans and reform state cannabis laws.	LIBERTARIAN	Website: https://lpin.org/william-henry-bio/
UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE - DISTRICT 3	JIM BANKS is the current U.S. representative from District 3, and he is seeking re-election to a third term. Banks serves in the U.S. Navy Reserve as a Supply Corps officer, and he was a member of the Indiana State Senate from 2010 to 2016. The Family Research Center has recognized Banks' pro-life voting record, and the National Rifle Association rates him highly on Second Amendment issues. Among his top priorities are strengthening the economy, rebuilding the military and caring for veterans.	REPUBLICAN	Website: https://jimbanks.us/
UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE - DISTRICT 3	CHIP COLDIRON is a public school teacher, U.S. Army veteran and former healthcare worker. He supports health care reform through a "Universal Coverage Guarantee" and increasing the federal minimum wage to \$15 per hour. He has spoken in opposition to privatizing Social Security.	DEMOCRAT	Website: https://www.coldiron4congress.com/
INDIANA ATTORNEY GENERAL	TODD ROKITA is an attorney who has twice been elected Indiana's Secretary of State and was a member of Congress from 2011 to 2019. He helped put Indiana's Voter ID law in place and successfully defended it before the U.S. Supreme Court. He has said he will make upholding the rule of law and supporting law enforcement a priority.	REPUBLICAN	Website: https://toddrokita2020.com/

INDIANA ATTORNEY GENERAL	JONATHAN WEINZAPFEL was a state representative in the Indiana General Assembly before serving two terms as mayor of Evansville, Ind., from 2004 to 2011. Most recently, he helped lead Ivy Tech Community College as chancellor for six years. Weinzapfel has said he will protect Hoosiers' access to health care, promote the use of body cameras and expand law enforcement training, decriminalize marijuana possession and advocate for public education.	DEMOCRAT	Website: https://www.weinzapfelforag.com/
INDIANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - DISTRICT 50	DANIEL LEONARD has represented Huntington County and parts of Wells and Allen counties in House District 50 since 2002. He formerly owned South Side Furniture in Huntington. He is endorsed by the National Rifle Association and serves on state committees for Rules and Legislative Procedures; Ways and Means; Judiciary; and Employment, Labor and Pensions. Economic development and job creation are among Leonard's top priorities.	REPUBLICAN	Website: https://www.indianahouserepublicans.com/members/general/dan-leonard/
INDIANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - DISTRICT 50	JORGE FERNANDEZ has worked in science education in multiple Fort Wayne public school districts for more than five years, after graduating from Taylor University with a Bachelor's of Science in Chemistry. Fernandez has said he will work to protect education, voting rights and the environment while focusing on ethics and transparency.	DEMOCRAT	Website: https://www.candidatefernandez.com/
JUDGE OF THE HUNTINGTON COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT	JENNIFER NEWTON is a lifelong Huntington resident who is raising her family here, and she said wants to see her hometown continue to grow and prosper. She was selected by then-Gov. Mike Pence in November 2016 to serve the remaining four years of retired Judge Jeff Heffelfinger's term. Previously, Newton had served as magistrate for the Huntington Superior Court for 12 years. She also initiated a Drug Court in January 2016, and in her next term would focus on bringing more substance abuse help for people with addictions problems to Huntington County. Newton earned her law degree from Indiana University's Robert H. McKinney School of Law and has served on the Parkview Regional Corporate Compliance Committee and is a current board member for the Parkview Huntington Hospital Board of Directors.	REPUBLICAN	Email: jennifer.newton@huntington.in.us
HUNTINGTON COUNTY TREASURER	BRENDA HAMILTON is currently a Deputy in the Huntington County Treasurer's Office and has been employed there since 2005. She previously was the County Treasurer from 2009 to 2016. Prior to that, she was employed for 26 years at First National Bank in Huntington. If elected, she said her top priorities would be communicating with taxpayers regarding property taxes, investing tax dollars, following Indiana code and maintaining checks and balances between offices.	REPUBLICAN	Email: brenda.hamilton@huntington.in.us
HUNTINGTON COUNTY CORONER	ROD JACKSON is a retired two-term Huntington County Sheriff and U.S. Navy Veteran. Presently, he is the Chief Deputy Coroner for Huntington County and holds a medical death investigator certification. He is seeking election to the position of Huntington County Coroner, where he says he would focus on assisting residents during times of personal loss and continuing to properly investigate deaths to determine the exact cause and manner of death. He stated his goal is to maintain the highest levels of professionalism in both the Coroner's Office's investigations and personal interactions with Huntington County residents.	REPUBLICAN	Email: rod.jackson@huntington.in.us
HUNTINGTON COUNTY COMMISSIONER - DISTRICT 2	TERRY STOFFEL is a former two-term Huntington County Sheriff and describes himself as a conservative Republican who is willing to listen to both sides. He has lived in Huntington all his life, where he has owned several businesses and worked for the City and County in numerous law enforcement capacities, including patrolman, police chief and D.A.R.E. instructor. He currently teaches the criminal justice program at Huntington North High School's Learning Center. His main goals are working for all Huntington County citizens while bringing together City and County elected officials to best manage tax dollars.	REPUBLICAN	Website: https://www.facebook.com/terry.stoffel.9 Email: terry.stoffel@huntington.in.us

HUNTINGTON COUNTY COMMISSIONER - DISTRICT 3	<p>TOM WALL was first elected to this role in 2008 and now serves as the Huntington County Commission President. He describes himself as dedicated to welcoming citizens with open conversations and positive solutions, and he strives to find the most effective and cost-efficient practices to serves taxpayers. Wall says he will continue job-creation efforts and capital investment to attract and retain business in Huntington County; maintain county buildings and roads in the best condition possible; and work with the courts and Sheriff's Department to increase available mental health and addiction recovery services. Wall is a lifelong resident of Huntington County and the president of T.D. Wall Inc. since 1985. He represents the Huntington County Commission on the Lime City Development Committee and serves on the Region 3A Development & Regional Planning Commission (president), Indiana Association of County Commissioners (vice president), Huntington County Redevelopment Commission (vice president), Huntington County Solid Waste District Board (president), Huntington County Drainage Board (member) and Community Corrections Board (member).</p>	REPUBLICAN	<p>Website: www.facebook.com/TomWallHCC Email: tom.wall@huntington.in.us Phone: (260) 358-4822</p>
HUNTINGTON COUNTY COUNCIL AT LARGE (vote for 3)	<p>SHANE BICKEL is a lifelong Huntington resident and retired Huntington Police officer of 35 years. He first won election to the Huntington County Council in 2008 and is seeking a fourth term. In his time as a County Councilman, Bickel has worked to support and grow the Huntington County Sheriff's Department and responsibly spend tax dollars to save taxpayers money. In the next four years, Bickel says he will work to ensure Huntington County has ample police and fire protection, maintain roads and retain county employees.</p>	REPUBLICAN	<p>Email: shane.bickel103@gmail.com Phone: (260) 358-7110</p>
HUNTINGTON COUNTY COUNCIL AT LARGE (vote for 3)	<p>RON KLINE is a lifelong Huntington County resident who describes himself as a conservative Republican. He is the current County Council president and is running for a second term. His priorities include saving tax dollars wherever possible and holding local government officials accountable for spending. Previously, he was employed at Bendix in Huntington for 10 years and operated "Handyman Service by Ron Kline" for 13 years.</p>	REPUBLICAN	<p>Email: ron.kline@huntington.in.us</p>
HUNTINGTON COUNTY COUNCIL AT LARGE (vote for 3)	<p>TERRY MILLER is running for a second term on the Huntington County Council. Previously, he served as a Huntington Township Board Member. His priorities remain making sure the County provides important services to Huntington County taxpayers while keeping taxes as low as possible. An area Realtor and member of the Huntington Planning Commission, Huntington Development Plan Commission and Huntington County Redevelopment Commission, Miller says he strives to represent Huntington with honesty and integrity. He describes himself as a lifelong Huntington resident who wants to give back to the community he loves. Miller attended Huntington North High School and graduated from Huntington University.</p>	REPUBLICAN	<p>Website: Terry.Miller.ISellHomes@gmail.com Email: terry.miller@huntington.in.us Phone: (260) 519-3777</p>
SCHOOL BOARD - DISTRICT 1	<p>JASON CONWELL has lived in Huntington County for the past 16 years and with his wife, Cara, has three children in the Huntington County school system. Conwell is actively involved in the community as an assist scout master for Boy Scout Troop 130 in Huntington. He has worked in the field of engineering for 17 years and is currently employed in Albion, Ind., as an engineering manager. He says his primary goal is to bring a renewed voice for fiscal responsibility to the School Board that he believes has been missing the past several years. He will strive to create a positive and safe learning environment for students while operating within the limitations of the budget to achieve short- and long-term targets that are reasonable to the taxpayers of Huntington County.</p>	NON-PARTISAN	<p>Email: j_conwell@yahoo.com</p>

SCHOOL BOARD - DISTRICT 1	MATTHEW MELCHER was first elected to the HCCSC School Board in 2016. Melcher has worked as a dispatcher for Stephan DRP Trucking in Roanoke, and he said before the 2016 election that he would bring a common sense approach to the School Board. Before his first term, Melcher said he would work to ensure students receive a comprehensive curriculum capable of preparing them for today's job market. Melcher also has stood for fiscal responsibility in his role the School Board, saying that being a steward of taxpayer's hard-earned money is a top priority. <i>(We were unable to reach Melcher and the information included comes from a 2016 Huntington County Tab news article.)</i>	NON-PARTISAN	Email: mmelcher1@hccsc.k12.in.us
SCHOOL BOARD - DISTRICT 4	TIMOTHY ALLEN is a lifelong Huntington resident and the current District 4 school board member. Allen and his wife, Penny, have three grown children who attended HCCSC, and one of their grandchildren currently attends. Allen says HCCSC teachers and faculty deserve recognition for how they have handled the challenges of the past four years, in particular 2020, and he feels a responsibility and desire to continue serving on the School Board to help and support them. Keeping students and staff safe, providing a quality education and addressing infrastructure concerns are his top priorities. Allen has served in leadership roles with numerous organizations in the county, first as a volunteer at the YMCA, the Red Cross, Trinity United Methodist Church and the City of Huntington Parks & Recreation Department, then as YMCA sports director for 15 years. He previously worked for the Public Safety Dispatch for the City of Huntington and is now Director of Public Safety Dispatch for Huntington County.	NON-PARTISAN	Website: www.facebook.com/thefirsttoolman/ Email: tim.allen@huntington.in.us
SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 4	REED CHRISTIANSEN was appointed and then re-elected to the District 7 seat in 2016. He is now seeking election to the seat for District 4, where he currently resides. He has focused on lowering textbook fees, responsible acquisition and use of 1:1 technology, and increased compensation for teachers and staff during his term. A Huntington University alum (2010) and current Huntington University MBA candidate (2021), Christiansen works as a global product manager in extremity orthopedics.	NON-PARTISAN	Website: www.facebook.com/reedchristiansenboardmember Email: rchristiansen@hccsc.k12.in.us
SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 6	KEVIN YARGER is the current District 6 school board member and co-owner of Huntington Nursery & Florist. He is seeking re-election for a second term. He describes himself as a firm believer in and supporter of public education. In his first term Yarger has worked to raise wages for teachers and staff, right-size the district, improve district facilities and lower textbook rental fees.	NON-PARTISAN	Email: kyarger@hccsc.k12.in.us
SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 7	JAMES "RYAN" WALL is a lifetime resident of Huntington County and a graduate of HCCSC and Purdue University at West Lafayette. Wall has served on many boards throughout the community, including Huntington County Boys & Girls Club, Huntington City Historic Review Board, Huntington County Community Corrections and the Pathfinder Foundation Board. Wall says he will apply the leadership, long-term strategic planning and fiscal management skills he has learned by serving on these boards to help the Huntington County Community School Board.	NON-PARTISAN	Email: jryanwall@gmail.com
RETENTION OF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIANA	CHRISTOPHER GOFF was appointed to the Indiana Supreme Court by Gov. Eric Holcomb and took the oath of office as Indiana's 110th justice on July 24, 2017. He previously served as a Huntington County public defender, president of the Huntington County Police Merit Board and vice president of the Huntington County Bar Association. He then served as a judge on the Wabash County Superior Court from 2005 until his appointment to the Indiana Supreme Court.		Website: https://www.in.gov/judiciary/supreme/2583.htm

COURT OF APPEALS JUDICIAL RETENTION SECOND DISTRICT	CALE BRADFORD was appointed to the Court of Appeals by Gov. Mitch Daniels and has held the seat since Aug. 1, 2007. Previously he was a judge on the Marion Superior Court for 10 years. In that role, he chaired the Marion County Criminal Justice Planning Council, which explored ways to improve the county's response to criminal justice problems, including jail overcrowding. He also served in the Marion County Prosecutor's Office for two years and Assistant United States Attorney for the South District of Indiana for five years.		Website: https://www.in.gov/judiciary/appeals/2458.htm
COURT OF APPEALS JUDICIAL RETENTION FIFTH DISTRICT	ELAINE BROWN was appointed to the Court of Appeals by Gov. Mitch Daniels in May 2008 and won a statewide vote to retain the seat in 2010. Previously she was a trial court judge for more than 15 years, where she focused on substance abuse issues and initiated the DuBois County Alcohol and Drug Program. She is the recipient of the 2020 Indiana Lawyer Distinguished Barrister Award.		Website: https://www.in.gov/judiciary/appeals/2449.htm
COURT OF APPEALS JUDICIAL RETENTION FOURTH DISTRICT	MELISSA MAY was appointed to the Court of Appeals by Gov. Frank O'Bannon in April 1998. She had previously practiced law for 14 years with a focus on insurance defense and personal injury litigation. May has served on a number of associations and committees, most recently becoming a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates in 2015. She retained her Court of Appeals seat in a 2010 statewide vote.		Website: https://www.in.gov/judiciary/appeals/2451.htm
COURT OF APPEALS JUDICIAL RETENTION FIFTH DISTRICT	MARGRET ROBB is the first woman elected Chief Judge in the history of the Indiana Court of Appeals. She was first appointed in July 1998 by Gov. Frank O'Bannon. She had more than 20 years' experience practicing law at the time of her appointment. She also has been an officer for the Indiana State Bar Association, among many others. Robb was retained on the Court of Appeals in votes in 2000 and 2010.		Website: https://www.in.gov/judiciary/appeals/2448.htm