

I have a vested interest in our community - my children and grandchildren to call Fishers "home" as I have since early childhood. To ensure a bright future for this district, I believe it is extremely important that we support local economic development and our local schools. This can be achieved by returning what is now state control back to the local level. Too many decisions are made too far away from home.

As a young girl, my parents moved the family and small business from the north side of Indy out to the "country" now known as Fishers. It was my father's plan that his children learn the values of hard work that come by running a farm and family business. My involvement in programs such as 4-H taught me the importance of personal responsibility and of being involved in the community I still call home.

Those childhood values led me into community service and built a determination to see that our town "grew up" in such a way that I could later raise my family here.

I remember looking out the kitchen window of our newly built first home 25 years ago and seeing an earthmover run into my children's swing set as they were digging a 25 foot deep ditch 10 feet off my property line.

No safety barriers. No plans for a buffer between my home and the new commercial development.

This sent me into action! I rallied with the neighborhood and started attending every town council meeting. Every Plan Commission and BZA meeting. I met with decision makers and continued to involve the neighborhood in understanding what changes needed to be made for the good of the community and working successfully to effect those changes.

This community activism led me into serving as the Delaware Township Trustee where I could continue working for the residents in the place I call "home".

I decided to run for this new district and ask for your support because I have seen how our state and federal governments have wrongly taken a path toward eroding our local voice and our ability to choose how our schools will operate and our local government is allowed to serve.

I believe in local decision making that will support successful economic development that will create new, clean and good paying jobs.

I cannot support those bureaucrats in big government who want to mandate and micromanage our schools, our local businesses and our local government.

For those who think that local innovation and abilities are inferior, I can only point to my duties as Township Trustee that include caring for residents whose health or circumstances beyond their control cause them to be in need of life's most basic needs.

We did not ask for a handout from state government, but instead established a donation-based food pantry 20 years ago which now serves more than 2000 Fishers residents per year.

It was local government that built the Delaware Township Community Center, which provides a place for groups to come together for the betterment our community - whether they are business meetings, not-for-profit service club gatherings or family reunions.

I have also served as the President of the National Association of Towns and Townships. This work has built upon my experiences of helping run the family business, and later my own, in giving me the insight of what it takes to run a small business.

These experiences have taught me the importance of being responsive and accountable to the people I serve.

You know, I'm still looking out that back window, watching for what I need to be doing to better the place where we learn, work and play.

I hope that you agree in the importance of decisions that affect our daily lives being made locally by people who understand the needs of our community.

It is my commitment to carry this message to the statehouse and act as the "Voice of the Community" in all that I do.