

Questions for State House Candidates

1. What from your professional and personal resume would indicate you are the best candidate to represent the Tea Party of Hamilton Counties Mission Statement? (Restore limited government, fiscal responsibility, and accountable representation through citizen activism and education, in order to preserve the Constitution for the United States of America.)

First, I understand the challenges of small business owners since I helped run our family business for many years and later established my own.

Secondly, I have served as the Delaware Township Trustee for 21 years and understand what it means to be accessible, responsive and accountable to the people I serve. Delaware Township is the most conservative of the “developed” townships in Hamilton County, with a low tax rate throughout my years of administering the budget.

I have also served as the Executive Director for the Indiana Township Association, which has taken me to the statehouse on a regular basis over the past 8 years. All the while, building relationships with lawmakers and working to preserve local government.

It is my belief, and a value that I hold dear, that citizens must exercise personal responsibility in the choices they make. It is not government’s job to “take care of us”; but rather to defend our rights and safety.

It is sad that only 14% of the electorate educate themselves before voting. 14%! We must do more to educate and encourage to the importance of being engaged with whom our officials are and what they are doing! We really need a “shift” in the way government leaders are perceived and a restoration of the public trust.

Furthermore, I am a member of the Hamilton County Tea Party.

2. Paul Ryan said recently when explaining key aspects of the House Budget, “That the best government is government that is closest to home.” What is your position on township governance? What is the most efficient and cost effective way to deliver services to citizens?

I couldn’t agree more with Paul Ryan on that statement! I believe as many decisions as possible should be made **locally** by people who understand our community and who are accessible on a daily basis for contact with their constituents. I believe that too many decisions are made too far from home.

Township government is the only local government for a good part of our Hoosiers. If they lose their township, they lose all direct representation close to home!

Communities, including the townships, need to study ways in which to be most efficient and adhere to best practices to achieve that end. All that we can do on the state level to educate and encourage efficiencies in ALL levels of government, the better!

3. There has been major legislative reform in education the last two years at the state level. Which changes do you think are wise and which ones if any do you think are misguided? What educational initiatives would you take a leadership position on if elected?

First, I would work to reign in the “state takeover mentality” that is penalizing many local schools with a grading system that is punitive and not reflecting the excellence of our community school system. I would work to see that teacher evaluations are fair and that our outstanding performers are recognized. Finally, I would fight to preserve local decision making as opposed to a state level bureaucracy charting our children’s future.

4. What was your involvement (citizen or legislator) on the recent Health Care Compact legislation? What was positive/negative about this legislation?

The only positive that I can find is that there is an attempt, though I believe misguided, to lower the health care costs for all users. I agree with trying to discover ways in which the delivery system is not responsible to provide triage and emergency room care for minor illnesses while moving the cost of that care to those who pay directly or carry insurance.

The negatives are too immense to list, but overall – it is an outright government overreach!

5. One of the arguments for the ‘Smoking Ban’ legislation is the well being and overall health of the employees. According to its advocates this concern should trump the individual property owner’s rights. Give us your view on property rights and its limitations if any?

Property rights are only trumped when what I’m doing on the property is illegal or moves from my property to another’s in such a way to infringe upon their rights.

I think the smoking ban totally infringes upon those rights – especially as it even bans smoking in the areas of a home-based business! The law needs repealed.

6. On May 12, 2011, the Indiana Supreme Court ruling, *Barnes v. Indiana*, overturned the common law provision known as the Castle Doctrine. Writing the majority opinion, Justice Steven David declared, “We hold that there is no right to

reasonably resist *unlawful* entry by police officers” (emphasis added). Hoosiers were shocked by this apparent disregard of the Castle Doctrine. More importantly, they understood this as a denial of the 4th Amendment protection from unlawful search and seizure. In March, 2012, Governor Daniels signed Senate Bill 1, which stated in part, “A person may use force...to prevent or terminate a law enforcement officer’s *unlawful* entry into the person’s dwelling...”(emphasis added). What is your position on the 4th Amendment as it relates to the May 2011 Indiana Supreme Court Decision, and to Senate Bill 1?

It was disappointing that we needed a state law to protect our 4th Amendment rights. Senate Bill 1 was made necessary by the ruling.

7. What is your position on the taxation of internet sales?

First of all, I believe that we must support our local businesses that create the jobs and support our community. Not collecting sales taxes gives Internet retailers a competitive price advantage over small businesses and even large big-box retailers that have a presence in the state. That’s not fair. Creating a level playing field for small businesses is especially important in difficult economic times. But, this is a complex issue driven by a law enacted by Congress and until Congress changes current law, online sales taxes for companies that don’t have a physical presence in the state are prohibited. Currently the state is faced with the even more difficult decision to collect tax on the large internet retailers that have located in Indiana and employ thousands of workers -- putting them at a disadvantage against other online retailers who don’t have a physical presence in Indiana. Internet Sales are not exempt from sales taxes in Indiana. The purchaser of a product online has the responsibility to report the sale and pay the tax as part of the annual tax return if it wasn’t paid as part of the original transaction. The reality is, however, that consumers typically don't pay to the state if online merchants don't charge them (only about 3,000 taxpayers reported such transactions last year.) The bottom line is that leadership is needed on this issue to resolve it with fairness to our local retailers and our Hoosier internet retailers as well. Sales tax should be blind to the nature of the transaction if the product is taxed regardless of where the sale originated. That is a fair solution and one that would level the playing field.

8. How will you protect the taxpayers’ interest when government agencies negotiate with public sector unions?

I believe that public employees have the right to demand fair treatment, but they may not obstruct or prevent the normal operations of government. The one party that does not have any representation during a public employee negotiation process is the taxpayer who is ultimately footing the bill. It is a fiscal conflict of interest to have elected officials who are supported by public employee unions to determine the outcome of negotiations. I believe that where public employee unions exist, we must find a way to protect taxpayer interests in the negotiations.