



2018 Indiana State Official Candidate Questionnaire

1) Please state your name, office you are seeking, and current position/employment.

Name: John Hurley

Office Sought: State Representative, Indiana District 75

Current Employment: Career and Technical Educator

2) Please give us some information about your background and why that would enhance your ability to represent citizens of Indiana and specifically, Southwest Indiana.

I am in my ninth year as a Career and Technical Educator having experience in both Henderson County, Kentucky and Spencer County, Indiana. Prior to that, I worked with Superior Ag in Boonville, IN and the Spencer County Soil and Water Conservation District. All the above positions have allowed travel across much of Southwest Indiana as a portion of the job requirement or commute. Specifically, as an educator, I see the impacts of the Indiana Legislature on our schools, our communities, and our citizens. This position offers a connection to the surrounding community and the concerns of the residents. The people of Southwest Indiana often feel ignored by the Statehouse and I will do everything in my power to highlight the concerns and successes of our home in Indianapolis.

3) The I-69 Bridge over the Ohio River is the key to unlocking the final key transportation corridor through Indiana. How will you demonstrate your support of this project?

I have demonstrated my support of the I-69 Bridge and accompanying corridor by attending several of the ORX meetings in the Evansville area. I have submitted and asked questions as to the impact of the bridge and the several possible routes on the surrounding counties. I will continue to attend these meetings as possible and obtain pertinent information. To be truly successful, this project needs the support of the entire southern portion of the state.

4) Building the I-69 Bridge will require a funding plan. What will your position be on user fees: (tolls)?

In order to complete the I-69 Bridge, tolling will unfortunately be required. These rates should be as low as possible for the regular commuters while still being able to pay for the project in a reasonable timeframe. If either of the U.S. 41 bridges are left in service, I would encourage leaving this route free of tolls to better serve local commuters. Indiana recently raised the gas tax and many in my area would question the validity of tolls after the fuel tax increase. There must also be a provision in the funding contract to remove the tolls once the project has been paid.

- 5) In years past, central Indiana was referred to as *Indianowhere*. Today, Indianapolis is “on the map”, and attracting young residents thanks to deliberate and continued state investment in amenities that are widely credited with transforming the Quality of Place in our state capitol. White River State Park, IUPUI and numerous other “destinations” have had the support of our Statewide elected officials. How can we expect you to support strategic Quality of Place investments similar to Regional Cities for the entire State of Indiana?

In order to most effectively create Quality of Place investments, local city and county officials must be involved when appropriate. Funding for these initiatives can most efficiently be done by creating programs that retain tax payer dollars at the local level rather than sending them to the Statehouse. Yes, state funding is needed for certain projects, but incentivizing local municipalities to create quality investments by keeping dollars within those areas is a better method to promote these projects.

- 6) How would you recommend Southwest Indiana increase the effectiveness of collaborating with other officials?

Southwest Indiana can increase the collaboration with other officials by continuing to make its presence known in Indianapolis and the rest of the state. This portion of Indiana has a great deal of industry and attractions and these must be promoted. Local and state officials must also take it upon themselves to work with their counterparts in other counties and regions of the state.

- 7) Now that Indiana enjoys the benefits of digital connectivity, would you consider regionalizing state government offices to better distribute the economic impact of our state government infrastructure? For example, most of Indiana’s state forests are in Southern Indiana so Indiana Department of Natural Resources facilities might be an opportunity.

I have no issue with regionalizing offices that would benefit from such a process once adequate digital infrastructure is present. However, I would disagree with the statement implying Indiana is completely digitally connected. The area in which I live and a great deal of District 75 is rural and does not have reliable internet connectivity. In order to benefit all Hoosiers, reasonably priced broadband internet must be run to every last mile before regionalization efforts should take place. Many residents, including myself, rely upon local public libraries to take advantage of the internet. This situation does not lend itself to video conferencing or load data uploads and downloads that would be necessary if working with departments across the state.

- 8) What do you consider the top transportation and infrastructure priorities for Southwest Indiana?

The top infrastructure and transportation priorities of Southwest Indiana would include: timely completion of the Interstate 69 highway and bridge, maintenance and repair of local roads, and small-town revitalization. In order to completely connect Southwest Indiana to the rest of the state and region, a reliable interstate must be present and usable on a regular basis. Local county roads are often in need of repair and are the most often used by the residents of rural areas. Many of the small towns in the area are in need of support to attract businesses and residents.

9) What else would you like to share about your vision and priorities for the state if you have the opportunity to serve?

My priorities for Indiana include fully supporting public education, crafting policies to create good-paying careers, and creating an environment where all Hoosiers can exercise their Constitutional Rights.