



**SHARED ETHICS ADVISORY COMMISSION**  
SERVING NWI SINCE 2005

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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**For Immediate Release**  
**October 30, 2024**

### **2024 General Election Candidates Sign Ethics Pledge**

The Shared Ethics Advisory Commission (SEAC) invited the 2024 general election candidates for all county offices in Lake, LaPorte and Porter Counties to sign its Candidate Ethics Action Pledge.

The Ethics Pledge is very simple; it asks candidates to commit to providing ethics training for all employees whom they are responsible, to support a comprehensive ethics policy with vigorous enforcement, and to support whistleblower protection for employees filing ethics complaints.

SEAC President Courtney Smith said, "We're pleased to report an improved overall response rate this general election with 66% of candidates (35 out of 53) signing the Ethics Pledge compared to a disappointing 43% in 2023. Response rates continue to vary county to county with 86% of Lake County candidates, 52% of LaPorte County candidates and 82% of Porter County candidates signing the Ethics Pledge. We are happy to see this improvement in candidates formally committing to ethics training for municipal employees!"

Julie McElmurry, SEAC Communication Committee chair and responsible for the Ethics Pledge process, noted, "SEAC has been asking candidates to sign the Ethics Pledge for the last 10 years and we will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. This improvement is encouraging, and we hope to reach our goal of 100% signing this simple, straightforward Ethics Pledge very soon!"

Presently the following communities are members of SEAC: Counties: Lake County, LaPorte County, Porter County, Cities: Crown Point, East Chicago, Gary, Hobart, Lake Station, Portage, Valparaiso, Whiting, Towns: Burns Harbor, Cedar Lake, Chesterton, Dyer, Hebron, Highland, Lowell, Merrillville, Munster, Ogden Dunes, St John, and Schererville.

**Bringing Ethics Awareness and Training to NWI Communities**  
Visit us online at [sharedethics.com](http://sharedethics.com)

## 2024 General Election Candidates who have Signed Pledge

as of October 30, 2024

### 2024 GENERAL ELECTION - SEAC CANDIDATE ETHICS PLEDGE STATISTICS

County	Total # of Candidates	# of Candidates who signed the Pledge	% of Candidates who signed the Pledge
Lake County	7	6	86%
LaPorte County	29	15	52%
Porter County	17	14	82%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>66%</b>

### Lake County - 2024 Municipal General Election Candidates

Office	Signed Pledge?	Political Party	Name
Coroner	Y	Dem	David J Pastrick
Recorder	Y	Dem	Regina Pimentel
Surveyor	Y	Dem	Bill Emerson Jr
Commissioner - District 2	Y	Rep	Jerry Tippy
Commissioner - District 3	Y	Dem	Michael C Repay
Commissioner - District 3	Y	Rep	Kimberly Poland

### LaPorte County - 2024 Municipal General Election Candidates

Office	Signed Pledge?	Political Party	Name
Circuit Court Clerk	Y	Dem	Angela Henzman
Auditor	Y	Rep	Mike Rosenbaum
Recorder	Y	Rep	Elzbieta Bilderback
Treasurer	Y	Rep	Dan Barenie
Treasurer	Y	Dem	Joie Winski
Coroner	Y	Rep	Lynn Swanson
Coroner	Y	Dem	Mark P. Baker
Commissioner District 2	Y	Rep	Steve Holifield
Commissioner District 2	Y	Dem	Mike Kellems
Commissioner District 3	Y	Rep	Joe Haney
Commissioner District 3	Y	Dem	Randy Novak
Council At Large	Y	Rep	Brett H. Kessler
Council At Large	Y	Rep	Adam Koronka
Council At Large	Y	Dem	Scott Ford
Council At Large	Y	Dem	Mike Mollenhauer

### Porter County - 2024 Municipal General Election Candidates

Office	Signed Pledge?	Political Party	Name
Treasurer	Y	Rep	Jimmy Albarran
Treasurer	Y	Dem	Laura Shurr Blaney
Surveyor	Y	Dem	Kevin D. Breitzke
Commissioner - District 1-South	Y	Rep	Edward K. Morales
Commissioner - District 1-South	Y	Dem	Dan L. Whitten
Commissioner, District 3-North	Y	Rep	Jim Biggs
Commissioner, District 3-North	Y	Dem	Dane V. Lafata
Council At-Large	Y	Rep	Michelle Harris
Council At-Large	Y	Rep	Mike Brickner
Council At-Large	Y	Rep	Andy Bozak
Council At-Large	Y	Dem	Sylvia Graham
Council At-Large	Y	Dem	Bob DeRuntz
Council At-Large	Y	Dem	Erik Wagner
Ogden Dunes - Council, Ward 2	Y	Dem	Scott J. Kingan