

GIFT LOCAL, GIVE MORE: LOCAL NEWS FOR ONLY 50¢/WEEK!

GIVE GIFT >

Offer available to new subscribers only. Plus tax where applicable, see payment page for details.

https://nwitimes.com/news/local/government-politics/article_3881658c-0b17-11ef-9597-a361fe1841d6.html

EDITOR'S PICK

Majority of Northwest Indiana candidates sign ethics pledge

Dan Carden

May 5, 2024



Provided

Dan Carden

A Northwest Indiana organization focused on bolstering ethical behavior by local government employees is pleased with the number of primary election candidates who signed its ethics pledge.

The Shared Ethics Advisory Commission (SEAC) said 71% of the local candidates on the ballot Tuesday in Lake, Porter and LaPorte counties signed the pledge, compared to just 36% of candidates during the 2023 municipal elections.

The pledge asks candidates for public office to commit to providing ethics training to all employees in their locality, to favor a comprehensive local government ethics policy with vigorous enforcement, and to support whistleblower protections when local government employees file ethics complaints.

People are also reading...

- 1 **Business Ins and Outs: Sushi restaurant, Cellar Door, Golden Buffet, Hokkaido and Wingstop open; mattress store closes**
 - 2 **Children safe following tense standoff with wanted man threatening violence, cops say**
 - 3 **Six charged in Lake County Jail assault**
 - 4 **New store opens at Southlake Mall**
-

Support for the pledge was strongest in Porter County where 84% of primary election candidates signed it, followed by 73% of LaPorte County candidates and 50% of Lake County candidates.

"We are happy to see this improvement in candidates formally committing to ethics training for municipal employees," said Courtney Smith, SEAC president.

A list of the candidates who signed the ethics pledge in each county is available online at **sharedethics.com** or by visiting **nwi.com**.

The winners in Tuesday's primary election, along with any candidate who didn't participate the first time around, will have another opportunity to sign the ethics pledge prior to the Nov. 5 general election.

"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," said Julie McElmurry, SEAC communications chairwoman.



2024 Primary Election Candidates who have Signed Pledge

2024 PRIMARY ELECTION - SEAC CANDIDATE ETHICS PLEDGE STATISTICS			
County	Total # of Candidates	# of Candidates who signed the Pledge	% of Candidates who signed the Pledge
Lake County	14	7	50%
LaPorte County	30	22	73%
Porter County	19	16	84%
TOTAL	63	45	71%

Lake County - 2024 Municipal Primary Election Candidates

Office	Signed Pledge?	Political Party	Name
Lake County Commissioner - District 2	Y	R	Jerry Tippy
Lake County Commissioner - District 3	Y	R	Kimberly Poland
Lake County Commissioner - District 3	Y	D	Michael C Repay
Lake County Coroner	Y	D	Danielle E Carter
Lake County Coroner	Y	D	David J Pastrick
Lake County Recorder	Y	D	Regina Pimentel
Lake County Surveyor	Y	D	Bill Emerson Jr

LaPorte County - 2024 Municipal Primary Election Candidates

Office	Signed Pledge?	Political Party	Name
LaPorte County Auditor	Y	R	Rhonda Graves
LaPorte County Auditor	Y	R	Mike Rosenbaum
LaPorte County Auditor	Y	--	Qiana Edwards
LaPorte County Circuit Court Clerk	Y	D	Angela Henzman
LaPorte County Commissioner District 2	Y	D	Mike Kellems
LaPorte County Commissioner District 2	Y	R	Steve Holfield
LaPorte County Commissioner District 2	Y	R	Timothy J. Stabosz
LaPorte County Commissioner District 3	Y	R	Joe Haney
LaPorte County Commissioner District 3	Y	D	Randy Novak
LaPorte County Coroner	Y	R	Lynn Swanson
LaPorte County Coroner	Y	D	Mark P. Baker
LaPorte County Council At Large	Y	R	Adam Koronka
LaPorte County Council At Large	Y	R	Brett H. Kessler
LaPorte County Council At Large	Y	D	Anthony Hicks Jr.
LaPorte County Council At Large	Y	D	Scott Ford
LaPorte County Council At Large	Y	D	Mike Mollenhauer
LaPorte County Council At Large	Y	D	Timothy Cavinder
LaPorte County Recorder	Y	R	Elzbieta Bilderback
LaPorte County Recorder	Y	--	Camille Merriweather
LaPorte County Treasurer	Y	R	Dan Barenie
LaPorte County Treasurer	Y	R	Juanita Haney
LaPorte County Treasurer	Y	D	Joie Winski

Porter County - 2024 Municipal Primary Election Candidates

Office	Signed Pledge?	Political Party	Name
Porter County Commissioner, District 1 - South	Y	R	Dean Moreton
Porter County Commissioner, District 1 - South	Y	R	Edward K. Morales
Porter County Commissioner, District 1 - South	Y	R	Corrie Sharp
Porter County Commissioner, District 1 - South	Y	D	Dan L Whitten
Porter County Commissioner, District 3 - North	Y	D	Dane V. Lafata
Porter County Commissioner, District 3 - North	Y	R	Jim Biggs
Porter County Council At-Large	Y	R	Andy Bozak
Porter County Council At-Large	Y	R	Mike Brickner
Porter County Council At-Large	Y	D	Bob DeRuntz
Porter County Council At-Large	Y	D	Sylvia Graham
Porter County Council At-Large	Y	R	Michelle Harris
Porter County Council At-Large	Y	R	Nate Uldricks
Porter County Council At-Large	Y	D	Erik Wagner
Porter County Surveyor	Y	D	Kevin D. Breitzke
Porter County Treasurer	Y	D	Laura Shurr Blaney