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EDITOR'S PICK

Two-thirds of Northwest Indiana candidates sign ethics pledge

Dan Carden

Nov 1, 2024



Dan Carden

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

The Shared Ethics Advisory Commission (SEAC) said 66% of the local government candidates on the ballot Tuesday in Lake, Porter and LaPorte counties signed the pledge, compared to just 43% of candidates in 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.

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Support for the pledge was strongest in Lake County where 86% of general election candidates signed it, followed by 82% of Porter County candidates, and 52% of LaPorte County candidates.

"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," said Courtney Smith, SEAC president.

"We are happy to see this improvement in candidates formally committing to ethics training for municipal employees!"

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 ethics commission also is encouraging the winners in Tuesday's general election to implement the ethics pledge components upon taking office regardless of whether they signed the pledge, as well as to sign it ahead of future elections.

"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.

The locality members of SEAC are Lake, Porter and LaPorte counties; the cities of Crown Point, East Chicago, Gary, Hobart, Lake Station, Portage, Valparaiso and Whiting; and the towns of Burns Harbor, Cedar Lake, Chesterton, Dyer, Hebron, Highland, Lowell, Merrillville, Munster, Ogden Dunes, St. John, and Schererville.

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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%
TOTAL	53	35	66%

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	Eizbietta 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 Kellens
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