

## Area Candidates Sign Ethics Pledge

The Shared Ethics Advisory Commission (SEAC) recently invited 2026 primary election candidates for all county offices in Lake, LaPorte, and Porter counties to sign its Candidate Ethics Action Pledge. The pledge asks candidates to commit to providing ethics training for all employees, supporting comprehensive ethics policies with vigorous enforcement, and protecting whistleblowers who file ethics complaints.

SEAC President Courtney Smith reported that the overall response rate for this primary election was 58%, with 69 out of 119 candidates signing the pledge. Participation varied by county, with LaPorte County leading at

a 62% response rate, followed by Porter County at 59% and Lake County at 57%.

LaPorte County signers include Barbara Huston (Assessor); Angela Henzman and Jody Slabaugh (Commissioner District 1); Olga Pothorski and Gautama Goot Logwood (Council District 1); Julian Watson (Council District 1, Republican); Jennifer Heath and Timothy Cavinder (Council District 2); Ray Maloney (Council District 2, Republican); Tyler Brownlee and Timothy Stabosz (Council District 4); John Lake (Prosecutor); and Ron Heeg (Sheriff).

Porter County signers include Scott Kingan and Sue Neff (Assessor); Karen Martin (Audi-

tor); Barbara Domer and Jackie Haney (Clerk); Kyle Nelson, Mike Brickner, and Cyndi Dykes (Commissioner District 2); Julie Wiencken-Smith, Jeff Beach, and Jerame Simpson (Coroner); Brian M. Gulley and Spencer Lemmons (Council District 2); Andy Vasquez (Council District 4); Leslie Nuss Bamesberger and Jon Miller (Recorder); and Jeffrey A. Balon (Sheriff).

SEAC has been requesting these pledges for 11 years and plans to offer candidates another opportunity to sign during the general election process later this year. Candidates interested in signing the pledge can do so by visiting the commission's website at [sharedethics.com](http://sharedethics.com).