



Daily Reporter

VOTER GUIDE

PRIMARY ELECTION 2022



THE FORCE IS WITH HIM!

These Law Enforcement Officers:

John Jester
Brian Pryor
Caleb Freeman
Daniel Zeabart
John Cutler
Kyle Smith
Brandon Pope
Joshua Mullins
Justin Jackson

Isaac Galbraith
Stephen Kalk
Andrew Pfaff
Nichole Gilbert
Tyler Batton
Shawn Brady
Ted York
Joshua Bustin
Daniel Montgomery

Isaiah Ernst
Zachary Petrey
Jeff Dixon
Kyle Vaughn
Jon Anderson
Spencer Case
Jeremiah Carder
Jessica Barnes
Doug Cook

From these Agencies:

- ★ Hancock County Sheriff
- ★ Greenfield Police Dept
- ★ New Palestine Police Dept
- ★ Shirley Police Dept
- ★ And other police agencies in Hancock County

All Endorse

GREY CHANDLER *for* PROSECUTOR

The current prosecutor does not have the public support of a single law enforcement officer.

Doesn't that say it all?



Paid for by Grey Chandler for Prosecutor

IN 3510278



WHO'S RUNNING

- Hancock County Prosecutor**
Brent Eaton (R)
Grey Chandler (R)
- Hancock County Commissioner (District 2)**
Marc Huber (R)
Gary McDaniel (R)
- Hancock County Council (District 1)**
Jeannine Gray (R)
Scott Ruble (R)
- Hancock County Council (District 4)**
Bill Bolander (R)
J. Scott Wooldridge (R)
- Buck Creek Township Trustee**
Jack Negley (R)
Kenny Simmons (R)
Micki Simunek (R)
- Buck Creek Township Board (three seats available)**
Erin Harsin-Jordan (R)
Matthew Kelly (R)
John Martin (R)
Scott Whitehouse (R)
- McCordsville Town Council (at-large, two seats available)**
Bryan Burney (R)
Chad Gooding (R)
Scott Jones (R)
Tom Strayer (R)
- State Representative (District 88)**
Chris Jeter (R)
Chyrstal Sisson (R)
Donna Griffin (D)
Craig Hirsty (D)
- State Representative (District 54)**
Heather Carie (R)
Cory Criswell (R)
Nansi Custer (R)
Joshua Gillmore (R)
Melissa Meltzer (R)
Betsy Mills (R)
Bobbi Plummer (R)
Gayla Taylor (R)

WHERE AND WHEN TO VOTE

2022 Primary Election, May 3

EARLY VOTE CENTERS

- Hancock County Annex**
111 American Legion Place, Greenfield
■ Weekdays, April 5-29: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
■ Saturdays, April 23 and 30: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
■ Monday, May 2: 8 a.m. to noon
- Hancock County Public Libraries**
Greenfield - 900 W. McKenzie Road, Greenfield
Sugar Creek - 5731 W. US 52, New Palestine
■ Weekdays, April 18-29: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
■ Saturdays, April 23 and 30: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
■ Sundays, April 24 and May 1: noon to 3 p.m.

Mt. Vernon School Administration Building

- 1806 W. Ind. 234, Fortville
■ Weekdays, April 18-29: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
■ Saturdays, April 23 and 30: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Buck Creek Fire Department

- 5809 W. Airport Blvd., Greenfield
■ Weekdays, April 18-29: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
■ Saturdays, April 23 and 30: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Brown's Chapel

- 994 N. 600E., Greenfield
■ Weekdays, April 18-29: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
■ Saturdays, April 23 and 30: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

ELECTION DAY VOTE CENTERS

- May 3, 2022
6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
All of the above locations plus:
■ Cross of Grace Church; 3519 S. 600W, Greenfield
■ Fortville Community Center; 400 W. Church St., Fortville
■ Nameless Creek Youth Camp; 2675 S. 600E, Greenfield
■ Ninestar North; 2331 E. 600N, Greenfield
■ McCordsville Town Hall; 6280 W. 800N, McCordsville
■ Wilkinson Church of Christ; 7293 N. Ind. 109, Wilkinson



GLOSSARY OF OFFICES

Voters will be making choices in contested races for a number of important positions in county government. Here is a look at those jobs:

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The county has three commissioners; one of those seats is up in the May 3 primary. The commissioners represent geographic districts, but voters countywide elect them. They serve four-year terms and are responsible for the administration of county business. Those duties include (but are not limited to) receiving bids and authorizing contracts; issuing bonds, along with the county council, for construction projects; supervising construction of and maintenance of roads

and bridges; and maintaining the county courthouse, jail and other offices. Other responsibilities include supervising the county solid-waste management district, appointing a cemetery commission, establishing war memorials and erecting historical markers.

COUNTY COUNCIL

The council holds the purse strings of county government and serves as a check on the board of commissioners. For elections, the county is divided into four districts represented by one council member each. Voters also elect three at-large members who run countywide. The three at-large seats are up for election in the May primary. As the fiscal body of

county government, the council adopts the annual budget; fixes the county tax rate; authorizes appropriations; and levies certain taxes.

COUNTY CORONER

The coroner is a constitutional officer and is elected to a four-year term. The chief responsibility of the job is to determine the manner of death in cases involving violence or casualty, or when someone is found dead under unexplained circumstances. The coroner also supervises autopsies. Under the law, the coroner may perform the duties of the sheriff if the sheriff is incapacitated or disqualified and has no chief deputy. The coroner has the

authority to arrest the sheriff when a warrant is issued.

SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE

Hancock County has three courts: the circuit court, which derives its name from the time when judges traveled on horseback from county to county — or “riding circuit” — to hear cases; and two superior courts. The courts are mostly courts of general jurisdiction, meaning they hear most types of cases. In Hancock County, Superior Court 1 hears a variety of criminal and civil matters. The judges are elected to six-year terms.

Source: Excerpted from “This is Your Indiana Government,” which is published by the Indiana Chamber of Commerce.

COUNTY PROSECUTOR

Eaton hopes to continue as Hancock County prosecutor

By KRISTY DEER | DAILY REPORTER
kdeer@greenfieldreporter.com

HANCOCK COUNTY — There is still work to be done, prosecutor Brent Eaton said. The long time county Republican has already announced his intention to seek another term. He officially filed candidacy paperwork in late January.



EATON

Now it's just a matter of staying focused on the task at hand in his office while making sure the community knows he still has the desire to serve.

"I am running for re-election as your prosecutor so we can keep moving forward with the progress we have made," Eaton said in a press

release.

Eaton pointed to his work over the last several years as reason for the community to re-elect him, saying his office has restored support for law enforcement and has earned their trust.

"We continue protecting our communities by winning tough cases, such as sexual assault, murder and other major felonies," Eaton said. "With the help of voters, we can keep moving forward for Hancock County."

Eaton's goal when he first ran is the same as it is now — to make Hancock County one of the safest areas in the state — and he believes his office is continually doing that.

Eaton was first elected in 2014 when he promised to revolutionize the office. He was especially concerned with how drug crimes and

crimes against children were approached.

"We're proactive in both prosecuting these cases and working as a community partner to help prevent crime," he said.

Eaton touts the fact he was a founding board member and former Vice President of Zoey's Place Child Advocacy Center, which came online in late 2020. The child advocacy center has interviewed more than 120 children and worked with multidisciplinary teams to assess cases of potential child abuse or neglect.

Eaton noted he's also helped to establish a Child Fatality Review Team to work with law enforcement, first responders, medical professionals and community leaders to ensure the safety of children in the

community, by reviewing child fatalities and taking steps to prevent them in the future.

Eaton was glad to share information that includes a 100 percent conviction rate for murders, with four convictions totaling more than 200 years in prison. Under his leadership, the prosecutor's office has handled more than 8,000 criminal cases and 10,000 infractions, issued more than 500 search warrants and handled more than 400 juvenile cases, he said.

If re-elected, Eaton says his plan is to keep a strong focus on crime victims.

Eaton acquired funding for a victims' assistance coordinator, which helped victims collect more than \$660,000 in restitution, and his team successfully prosecuted the county's first

rape conviction in nearly 10 years, he said.

Eaton is also proud of the establishment of a Sexual Assault Response Team to establish a formal framework of medical professionals, law enforcement and victim services to ensure the investigation of sexual assault cases is consistent with best practices, and to make sure victims are treated with courtesy, dignity and respect, he said.

Eaton also helped to secure a county grant to help fund an on-call sexual assault nurse examiner at the local hospital.

Eaton obtained his bachelor's degree from Wabash College and earned his juris doctorate from the Indiana University McKinney School of Law in 2001. He and his wife Susan live in Greenfield with their family.

Communication at heart of candidate's platform

By MITCHELL KIRK | DAILY REPORTER
mkirk@greenfieldreporter.com

HANCOCK COUNTY — A McCordsville lawyer hopes to bring his passion for prosecution to an elected county office.



CHANDLER

Grey Chandler, a Republican, is running for Hancock County prosecutor in the upcoming primary election. He faces incumbent Brent Eaton, who's finishing his second term after defeating Chandler four years ago.

Chandler has worked in prosecution for 17 years, the last seven of which as a deputy prosecutor in Madison County, a position he stepped

down from in January.

He was also a deputy prosecutor in Hancock County from 2007 through 2014, serving under two prosecutors before going to Madison County. The 42-year-old now runs a private law practice in McCordsville, where he lives with his wife, Anne, and their three children.

Chandler said he's gained a lot of trial experience throughout this career. Last year alone, he had three murder cases that went to trial along with a Level 1-felony rape case, Level 1-felony child molesting case and a case involving a violent felon with guns and drugs, all of which he achieved convictions for.

"I have a passion for prosecution," Chandler said.

"To me, it's the only lawyer whose job is to do what's right, what's just for everybody. And they don't have one individual or one corporation that they have to represent, at the expense of other people sometimes."

Prosecutors get to make decisions based on what's best for everyone in the community, he continued.

"And that includes the accused sometimes, and the victims and their families and everybody involved," he said. "It's nice to make decisions based on what's right. Not that you always get it right, but if that's your guiding light, then it's kind of a luxury compared to other lawyers who have to just do what's in the best interest of one person."

Chandler believes there's a need for a leadership change at the county prosecutor's office. He wants to improve what he sees as a lack of communication between the prosecutor's office and law enforcement.

He said that when he screens cases, he keeps in contact with law enforcement officers to explain why he doesn't file a charge, get more information that may affect his approach to a case, or to prepare for charges that are filed.

"And invariably we're on the same page when we file the case or plea negotiations," he continued, adding he'd maintain that approach to case screening if elected in Hancock County.

Chandler's criticisms of

the county prosecutor's office include what he believes is high turnover among deputy prosecutors in Hancock County lately.

"I think that's a real problem," he said. "You have to be able to hire and keep good, qualified, experienced prosecutors."

He also said that the prosecutor's office has been filing about the same amount of cases per year as 20 years ago despite growing in staff.

"Where does all that extra work go to?" Chandler said. "There's no reason for falling short in any of these other areas. I would think with that amount of space and money available, it would be very easy to attract highly qualified deputies, and keep them."

Marc Huber

- ✓ Investing in public safety
- ✓ Improving our roads
- ✓ Holding the line on taxes

MARC HUBER COMMISSIONER

Paid for by Friends of Marc Huber.

COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT 1

Gray faces challenge from Ruble for District 1 seat

By **SHELLEY SWIFT** | DAILY REPORTER
sswift@greenfieldreporter.com

HANCOCK COUNTY — Jeannine Gray first dipped her toe into grassroots politics in 2017, when she was tapped by caucus to fill the District 1 spot on the Hancock County Council after outgoing councilman John Jessup was elected county commissioner.

The following year, she put her name on the ballot and successfully retained her position.

This year, however, she's facing competition from another political newcomer — Scott Ruble, who is running against Gray in this year's Republican primary.

Ruble feels his experience as a longtime local business owner can help him make sound fiscal decisions for the county.

If elected, "I'd like to better understand the business aspect of the county and see the county operate more efficiently," said Ruble, who owns Ruble Outdoor Concepts, Inc., a commercial landscape company.

The Wilkinson man was inspired to run after dealing with county government in 2019 when he was acquiring land for his business along Mt. Comfort Road and starting to build there.

"All the procedures and



GRAY

processes and government work that we had to go through to get this project to come to fruition — some of it was fun, and some of it was discouraging. Some of it was frustrating," he recalled.

"From that point forward, I've had an interest in what's going on in the county with how things operate when decisions are being made and who is helping make those decisions," he said.

As far as Gray's concerned, she said she's proud of the job she's done so far and is looking forward to continue serving her community in the seat she's held the past five years.

"There's a lot of unfinished business to do, and the current council is doing a great job," she said. "We've done a lot of good things in the past several years, and I just want to continue that."

Gray said focusing on infrastructure and public safety services would



RUBLE

continue to be two of her biggest priorities.

"Taking care of public safety like police and fire are always a priority, making sure they have all the stuff they need. This county is growing at an alarming rate, and we have to make sure they have the staff and equipment and training to take care of our growth," she said.

The incumbent said she's also focused on the county's infrastructure, particularly on the county's west side.

"The roads are a complete mess out there," she said. "I know there is a plan to get them all fixed, and I want to make sure that we have the ability to do that."

Neither Gray nor Ruble were born in Indiana, but they've each called Hancock County home for years.

Gray was born and raised in Nebraska but has been a Hoosier since 1989 and has lived in Hancock County since 1995.

She's become a familiar face to many through her work at Stillinger Family Funeral Services, where she's worked in family services for the past 15 years, assisting throughout the planning and funeral process.

Gray said she loves Hancock County and the small-town life of living in Shirley.

"The people here are wonderful. It is a bedroom community that's close enough to Indianapolis, yet it's got a hometown feel," she said.

Ruble feels the same way about living in Wilkinson.

"There's a small-community atmosphere with down-to-earth people," he said.

Ruble was born in Reading, Penn., but was raised in Hancock County. He graduated from New Palestine High School in 1986.

He and his wife, Tracey, have two grown children and one at home — a 15-year-old son named Kayden, a freshman at Eastern Hancock High School.

Ruble purchased his company — formerly known as Estes Grounds Maintenance, Inc. — in 1995.

He thinks his 27 years experience as a business owner could benefit the county council.

"I feel like I can bring some leadership and the ability to research rather than just assuming knowledge," he said.

"I think we need to have some advisors that can help guide us in making our decisions for the county. I've surrounded myself and my business with numerous accountants, attorneys and advisors who can help me (as a business owner) do that."

If elected, Ruble plans to donate his small salary as a county councilman to local charitable causes.

"I just feel like I've been blessed with my company, so I'd like to give back to the county," he said.

Gray has been giving back to the community for years, based on a lengthy list of boards and committees on which she's served, including the Boys and Girls Clubs of Hancock County, Meals on Wheels of Hancock County, Rotary Club of Greenfield, Kenneth Butler Memorial Soup Kitchen and Eastern Hancock Athletic Boosters.

She's also served on the Hancock County Plan Commission and currently serves on the county's community corrections advisory board.

She enjoys spending time with her family, including her two sons — Keaton, 23, and Peyton, 21.

COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT 4

Longtime incumbent facing challenger in primary

By **KRISTY DEER** | DAILY REPORTER
kdeer@greenfieldreporter.com

HANCOCK COUNTY — Incumbent Bill Bolander is no stranger to politics. The longtime county Republican is making his seventh and what he called his final campaign bid to retain his seat on the Hancock County Council, a position he's held through the past six elections.

Bolander represents District 4 and said he wants one more term to finish up some of the major decisions county officials are mulling over.

"These are pivotal times we're living in now, and I think my past experience will help with that," Bolander said.

If Bolander is to win another four-year term on the county council, he'll have to get past Republican challenger Scott Wooldridge in the primary this spring. Wooldridge said he's running because it's time for change and to have someone on the council who represents the will of the community.

"A lot of people have come forward and asked me to run for county council, so the support is there," Wooldridge said.

While he noted it's not always easy to run and beat an incumbent, someone whose been around as long as Bolander, he feels the county needs to get some new voices on the council.

"I did pause before entering the race because it is tough to run against an incumbent, and this was a tough decision to make, but



WOOLDRIDGE

in the end I had so much support from people asking me to run that I decided to go ahead and run," Wooldridge said.

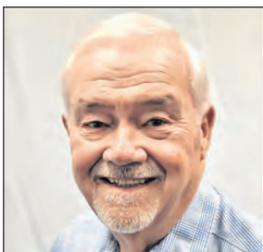
Wooldridge ran for political office before, including the Hancock County Circuit Judge seat in 2018 as well as a county council seat — an 11-person, at-large opening in 2016 — and lost both bids. Still, he wants to serve to make sure the people in the county have someone who will listen to their issues.

Wooldridge noted it's not always easy to throw your hat into the ring and not get enough votes in the end, but he feels now is the time to try again because he believes the county needs good decision makers.

With a background in law and finance, from the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University, Wooldridge feels not having success in his previous two political bids were great learning experiences.

"I know a lot more now than I did back then," he said.

Bolander hopes his record will speak for itself as voters gear up for the May 3 primary election and said while he understands Wooldridge's



BOLANDER

desire to serve, he thinks the county needs an experienced politician in the seat.

Bolander describes the county's growth spurt as one of the major reasons residents need an experienced council member to return and handle the changes he said the council has been preparing for.

"We've been working on those economic development deals so we can start getting some more funding in here for our fire and police," Bolander said. "If the county doesn't grow and we don't get that money, there will be things we can't do down the road."

He noted the major septic problems in some of the smaller county areas such as Charlottesville and Mohawk in Buck Creek Township.

"If we can get some extra money, we might be able to do something for those areas," Bolander said.

Bolander said he's proud of the fact he helped with getting the Sheriff's pension fund on good footing, making it more sustainable, and had a hand in the decision to build the new Justice Center (new jail) so there will be room for specialized

programs for helping people with addictions and mental health issues.

"Before, in the old jail, we couldn't do that because you'd put those people in a program, but at night they'd go back to the guys who had no desire to get help or be in a program," Bolander said.

Wooldridge, who said he is in favor of responsible growth, is running on a list of major issues that include upgrading the county roads, enhancing public safety for the county fire and Sheriff's departments, responsible land usage (referring to planning commission decisions), listening to and working for the people, and making sure tax abatements work well for the county as well as they do incoming businesses.

"My opponent is on the planning commission with a vote there, and many times he does not go with what most of the community members want," Wooldridge said.

Wooldridge note he is the president of the Sheriff's Merit Board and worked with county council officials for pay raises for officers.

"We're way behind with comparable counties," Wooldridge said.

For Bolander, it's about keeping what he believes are positive strides officials have made in the county moving forward and, if re-elected, he said he plans to do that.

Bolander noted county officials have a salary committee looking into the pay of county employees to make sure they can hire and keep top talent.

"If we don't pay people

well, we will not get and keep quality employees," Bolander said. "When you hire quality people, you don't have to hire as many because they get the job done."

Bolander recalls the first race he ever ran for came about when a retiring council member approached him decades ago and asked him to replace him. He's been a county official ever since.

"I've never had the desire to run for commissioner or any kind of state position," Bolander said.

Bolander says that being a council member gives him the opportunity to have a say in local decisions while also being able to work in the insurance industry and spend time with his family.

Wooldridge, who is married with children, said he enjoys working in the field of law but wants to be a part of making decisions that affect the community he lives in and making sure votes are cast with the majority of the community, particularly when it comes to growth.

"I'm concerned about all the speculation warehouses going in and the tax abatements," Wooldridge said. "My guess is that 80-90 percent of the population in Hancock County are against speculation warehouse."

The council consists of four members elected from specific districts and three members elected at-large. They have responsibility for the county's finances and act as a check on the power of the commissioners. They set tax rates, adopt an annual budget, and more.



BUCK CREEK TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

3-way race for Township trustee



NEGLEY



SIMMONS



SIMUNEK

STAFF REPORTS

BUCK CREEK TOWNSHIP — Three Republicans are running for Buck Creek Township trustee.

The township's 36 square miles include Indianapolis Regional Airport and a booming stretch of the Mt. Comfort Corridor. One of the township's main responsibilities is providing fire protection and emergency medical services, which it does through the Buck Creek Township Fire Department.

Incumbent Jack Negley faces challengers Kenny Simmons and Micki Simunek. Negley, a former Buck Creek Township

Board member, was caucused into the trustee position last year following the death of longtime trustee Melvin Branson.

Simmons, who was born and raised in Hancock County, formerly served on the county sheriff's department and now works as general sales manager of Stanley Chevrolet in McCordsville.

Simunek grew up in a firefighter family on Indianapolis' east side, has a bachelor's degree in political science, has worked for Indianapolis city government and has worked on multiple Republican political campaigns in the state and Hancock County.

BUCK CREEK TOWNSHIP BOARD

4 Republicans seek 3 township board seats



HARSIN-JORDAN



KELLY



WHITEHOUSE

STAFF REPORTS

BUCK CREEK TOWNSHIP — Four Republicans are running for three seats on the Buck Creek Township Board.

Erin Harsin-Jordan, Matthew Kelly, John Martin and Scott Whitehouse seek the positions.

Harsin-Jordan, a nurse at McCordsville Elementary School and a former firefighter, looks to reclaim a seat on the board after serving a term between 2015 and 2018.

Kelly, who was recently caucused onto the board to fill a vacancy, is a deputy with the Hancock County Sheriff's Department and has served as a 911 telecommunicator

for Marion and Hancock counties.

Whitehouse, who was caucused onto the board several months ago to also fill a vacancy, has over 20 years in management experience at Ford Motor Company and Keihin Corporation, now Hitachi Automotive Systems, Ltd. He currently owns and operates Whitehouse Automotive, an automotive repair business.

Martin did not return requests for information.

Democrat Marian Hensley is also running, and will face the three Republican winners in the general election in November.



BRYAN BURNEY

FOR MCCORDSVILLE TOWN COUNCIL

PROTECT YOUR TAX DOLLARS

BURNEYFORMCCORDSVILLE.COM

PAID FOR BY BURNEY FOR MCCORDSVILLE.

PHOTO: JEFFREY W. HARRIS

Re-elect
BRENT
Eaton

www.EatonForProsecutor.com

PROSECUTOR

Prosecutor Brent Eaton

Keep Moving Forward for Hancock County!

- ➔ Increased prosecutions for sexual assault
- ➔ Successfully prosecuted tough cases: drug dealing, murder, major felonies
- ➔ Hancock County ranks as one of the safest communities in Indiana
- ➔ Nationally recognized for his efforts to combat substance abuse
- ➔ Eaton is the only attorney in Indiana appointed to the National Association of District Attorneys Opioid Working Group

www.EatonForProsecutor.com

Authorized & paid for by the Eaton for Prosecutor Committee, Tom Haines, chairman.

PHOTO: JEFFREY W. HARRIS



STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 88

Candidates vie for District 88 state representative seat

By RORYE HATCHER

Special to the Daily Reporter

HANCOCK COUNTY - In a race for state representative serving some 60,000 constituents, incumbent Chris Jeter says he's primed to keep up his momentum.

Jeter, a Republican who lives in Hamilton County, was appointed in August 2020, serving out the remaining term of former House Speaker Brian Bosma for District 88.

District 88 encompasses the northeast corner of Marion County, part of Hamilton County, and western parts of Hancock County, including McCordsville and Fortville.

In the May 3, 2022, primary election, Jeter, 43, faces off against Republican Chrystal Sisson and Democrats Donna Griffin and Craig Hirsty.

He said he's started to hit his stride off of his first term as a state representative.

"I feel like I had a good freshman term and learned a lot," Jeter said in a phone interview.

Jeter has contributed to legislation regarding tax and regulatory reform, educational freedom and choice, and legislation supporting law enforcement in his first term, he said.

He is proud to have passed HB 1004, he said. This bill, among other things, moves level six felony offenders in county jails to the Indiana Department of Correction in an attempt to lessen the pressure on crowded county jails and the officers who staff them, he said.

Jeter remains interested in addressing mental health issues in the community, he said. He aims to find a way to redirect people with mental health issues from being handled primarily by law enforcement officials because mental health professionals would be the most qualified to help them, he said.



GRIFFIN

"We need to find a better way to care for those folks," he said.

Jeter, born and raised in the district he currently serves, has a military background he said provides a unique skill set as a state representative.

He earned a commission as a JAG officer in the U.S. Navy, serving in the Navy's Litigation Office in Washington D.C.

He deployed in 2006-07 during Operation Iraqi Freedom and was later awarded the Defense Meritorious Service Medal by the Secretary of Defense for exceptional leadership, according to his website.

He co-owns an attorney firm with two partners in Fishers, called Massillamany Jeter and Carson LLP, 11650 Lantern Road, Suite 204, Fishers.

Jeter's Republican opponent in the primary, Chrystal Sisson, 40, is a grassroots candidate and stay-at-home-mom of nine children, she said.

"I am a True Republican," she wrote in an email to the Daily Reporter. "We need someone who is willing to stand and face opposition in order to change the political landscape at the Statehouse. I am that person."

Sisson chose to run for office based on her passion for ensuring medical patients' and parents' rights,



JETER

she said in an email. Hoosiers' medical freedom and parental rights have been stripped away in recent years, she said.

She cited protecting the changes to Indiana firearms law recently signed by Gov. Eric Holcomb and ending abortion in Indiana as some of her goals if she is elected.

"I have every intention of leaving my posterity with the freedom to make their own choices both medically and as parents," she said. "And I'll do whatever it takes to ensure freedom reins for the next generation."

Democrat candidates

Donna Griffin, 63, aims to use this summer as a listening tour - not for her prospective constituents to listen to her, but for her to listen to their needs and ideas.

"I want to talk to as many teachers and residents as I can, to hear what their thoughts are and come up with a better plan than what the legislature has been talking about the last 10 years," Griffin said.

She is running in part to give county residents another choice on the ballot, she said, but also because she wants to be able to change the state's current education policy.

Though she is a first-time political candidate, Griffin said she feels her decades of experience covering

politics as a reporter in Pendleton, New Palestine and Greenfield lend her some understanding of the process. And as a teacher, she has remained in contact with many of her former colleagues, who she said are telling her variations on the same theme.

That theme is: in the last decade, Hoosier education has made a big shift, to educators' and students' detriment, she said.

She first began thinking about running for political office in 2012, when the state superintendent of education position was changed from an elected to an appointed role, she said. And this most recent legislative session disappointed her, she said.

"The Statehouse needs to be addressing issues that really matter, not hearsay," she said. "The people in the legislature don't know what the education system needs. Solutions have to come from teachers, parents and students."

A Buck Creek Township resident, Griffin is a substitute teacher and an adjunct professor at Butler University. At Butler, she teaches Student Voices, a diversity initiative with Butler students mentoring area middle and elementary school students.

Griffin called on her potential constituents to look beyond politics and work together to improve the state, she said.

"I think people in this area are working really hard," she said. "We are all facing the same stresses."

Candidate Craig Hirsty, a Democrat, declined requests for comment.

According to his LinkedIn page, Hirsty currently works as an account executive for NetDocuments, a web-based document and email management company based in Lehi, Utah.

According to the National STEM Honor Society Facebook page, Hirsty is currently serving as a leadership mentor to student interns of the society, based in Gloucester, Mass.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 54

Crowded field forms for altered house district

STAFF REPORTS

BLUE RIVER TOWNSHIP — Eight Republicans are vying to serve Indiana House District 54, which includes Blue River Township in Hancock County's southeastern corner.

The seat is up for grabs due to the forthcoming retirement of Rep. Tom Saunders, a Republican who has served since 1996. Thanks to 2020 redistricting, a portion of Hancock County is included in the district for the first time.

Heather Carie, Cory Criswell, Nansi Custer, Joshua Gillmore, Melissa Meltzer, Betsy Mills, Bobbi

Plummer and Gayla Taylor are running for the position on the GOP ticket.

Carie, of Knightstown, is co-founder and chief administrative officer of Cyril and Dorothea's Foundation for Medical Freedom.

Middletown resident Criswell's background includes educator for New Castle School Corporation, assistant athletic director for New Castle High School, varsity assistant boys basketball coach for New Castle High School and owner of Criswell Lawn Care.

Custer, of Rushville, is board president of Northern Rush County

Schools Inc., a reserve police officer with the Carthage Police Department and assistant chief of the Raleigh Fire Department.

Gillmore, of New Castle, will graduate from Indiana Wesleyan University in May with a degree in nursing.

Meltzer, of Shelbyville, has bachelor's and master's degrees in counseling psychology and runs a private practice in Christian mental health counseling.

Mills, of Muncie, is an at-large member of the Henry County Council, in which capacity she sits on the Henry County Economic Development

Corporation Board and the Eastern Indiana Regional Planning Commission.

Plummer, of Straughn, is a Henry County commissioner and information technology business owner for nearly 20 years, specializing in dental office networking.

Taylor, of Knightstown, is a Shenandoah High School graduate who grew up on a farm and raised twin boys as a single mother.

Democrat Nan Polk, of New Castle, is also running and will face the Republican winner in the general election in November.

VERNON TOWNSHIP BOARD

Vernon Township Board candidates eye growth, public safety

By **MARIBETH VAUGHN** | DAILY REPORTER
mvaughn@greenfieldreporter.com

VERNON TWP - Public safety in a growing community is at the forefront of each candidate's mind in the race for Vernon Township board this spring.

Four Republican candidates are vying for the nomination for three seats on the board; no Democrats have filed.

Incumbents Tim Plank and Marybeth Sears are hoping to stay on another four years to finish projects they've started while newcomers Anthony Buechler and Jeff Augustinovicz have also thrown their hat in the ring. Current member Gary Sharrett is not seeking re-election.

All four candidates say they're hoping to serve the community they love. Vernon Township includes the towns of McCordsville and Fortville and has seen significant growth in recent years and will likely continue to grow.

Marybeth Sears is completing her second term on the board and is vying for a third.

Sears said she is proud that she was able to help in building the community's first fully staffed fire station in Fortville, and they're about to break ground on a second building in McCordsville. The small volunteer fire department in Fortville and not being able to keep up with growth in the area was a huge concern, she said, and she's pleased they were able to go in-house with medical services.

"I am very proud of what our township has been able to do under



BUECHLER



PLANK



SEARS

our current leadership," she said.

Now retired, Sears has lived in Fortville the last 39 years. She's married and has two grown children that attended Mt. Vernon Schools, and is a grandmother of five with one more on the way. Sears' father owned the IGA store in Fortville, and she gained a lot of customer service experience while working there, along with many fond memories and connections with the people in the community, she said.

Sears, a precinct committeeman and volunteer director for the Hancock County Republican Party, is involved in her church and the county's community gardening initiative. She said work for the township will remain a priority as residential and commercial growth continues to impact the needs of public safety.

Tim Plank has served on the board for 10 years, having also had experience as a trustee for the township back in the 1990s. Plank is running for another term to finish

up on plans for the new fire station in McCordsville, encourage fire training and get the township office building remodeled.

Plank has lived in Vernon Township most of his life and was owner of Fortville Tire Center for 40 years. Now retired, Plank occasionally farms and has three children, 11 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Plank said it's vital to stay ahead of growth in the community by keeping on top of tax abatements that county officials award, which increases commercial growth but also impacts police and fire safety to the community.

Communication with town and county officials is key to the newcomers as well; both Jeff Augustinovicz and Anthony Buechler said they hope to bring a fresh perspective to the board while increasing communication in Vernon Township.

Augustinovicz has lived in McCordsville 16 years and is a real estate agent and a law enforcement

officer outside of Hancock County. He is also a member of the Vernon Township Building Corporation, which he describes as the entity that funds the bonds for the fire station. He said with his public safety background and knowledge of the real estate market, he wants to get involved.

His priority is "looking at everything economically and making sure everything is done in the best interest of the community both ways, from the financial side and just making sure everyone can benefit from public safety and fire," Augustinovicz said.

Buechler, having spent 16 years with the Army National Guard, now serves as commander of the Fortville VFW post. He is married with three daughters and a stepson, and is in sales at a wholesale electrical supply company in Anderson.

Originally from Greenfield, Buechler has lived in Vernon Township almost four years and said he loves the community and it's an ideal spot to raise children. As the community grows, he said, he wants to make sure the township keeps up with fire, police and medical safety.

Buechler believes his military background has brought him leadership experience, and he wants to bring a fresh look to the board.

"I'm a talker- my kids say I don't know a stranger," he said, adding that listening is one of the most important qualities he could bring to the board. "It's not just black and white anymore; you have to look at all sides, all aspects, all the opinions."

MCCORDSVILLE TOWN COUNCIL AT LARGE



BURNEY



GOODING



JONES



STRAYER

4 Republicans seek 2 McCordsville council seats

STAFF REPORTS

MCCORDSVILLE — Four Republicans are running for two at-large seats on McCordsville Town Council.

Incumbents Chad Gooding and Tom Strayer face challengers Bryan Burney and Scott Jones.

Burney, a residential developer and retired physician, is looking to return to the council after losing his District 2 seat to Republican Greg Brewer in the 2019 election.

Gooding won a Republican caucus late last year to succeed Barry Wood, who stepped down with one year left in his

term. Gooding is vice president of construction for a mechanical, electrical and plumbing company.

Strayer, who has been on the town council for nearly 20 years and currently serves as its president, is an architect and owns Quantum Architecture.

Jones has lived in McCordsville for about eight years and owns several small businesses, including IT company Speedstream Technology Partners.

Democrats Linda Robinson and Andrea Yovanovich are also running for the two seats, and will face the Republican winners in the general election in November.

Vote ✓

GARY MCDANIEL
For County Commissioner

*New Voices
Bring New
Perspective*

Gary Believes:

- ★ Growth Should Benefit Citizens
- ★ The Future of Hancock County Should Be Focused on Quality of Place, Amenities, and Low Taxes for Residents
- ★ An Elected Official's Job Is to Work for the Residents and Not Special Interests

Find Out More at www.votegarymcdaniel.com.

● Be Heard on May 3rd! ●

N-310281
Authorized and Paid For By Gary McDaniel Committee



COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 2

Citing unfinished business, Huber will try to keep seat

By JESSICA KARINS | DAILY REPORTER
dr-editorial@greefieldreporter.com

GREENFIELD — County Commissioner Marc Huber plans to run for a third term in 2022, he confirmed, meaning the primary for his District 2 seat on the board of commissioners will be contested.

Gary McDaniel, a current member of the Greenfield City Council, also plans to run for the seat.

Huber said he decided to run for another four-year term because the county has many projects in progress right now, including developing a new economic development process, that he's passionate about.

"I'd like to stick around to see some of those things through," he said.

Huber said another



HUBER

priority of his is the ongoing process of awarding American Rescue Plan funds the county has received from the federal government, which it will likely do gradually over the next several years.

Mental health, Huber said, has long been a priority of his and is one the county plans to emphasize as it

allocates its ARP money.

He said he is working with several stakeholders in the community, including Hancock Regional Hospital as well as the sheriff's department, probation department, and prosecutor's office to help develop a plan for spending money to improve community mental health.

Huber said he's also focused on helping the county add more workforce development assets and hopes it will be able to secure a grant from the state's Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative to do so.

"I would like to see a trade center built, something along the lines of the Hub and Spoke in Fishers," Huber said. The Fishers center is a mixed-use space that hosts

STEM-focused educational programs as well as a co-working space, a community workshop and retail stores.

Huber said he hopes to continue working on improvements to the county's infrastructure as well, especially road improvements.

During his current term, Huber has been a vocal advocate for creating a more stringent tax abatement process for new development that would help ensure businesses are contributing to revenue for schools and public safety agencies. That's something the county is likely now on the verge of doing. Huber has also been a critic of state and federal COVID-19 policies and recently voted for a resolution discouraging private employers from mandating vaccines for their workers.

Running against the incumbent in the 2022 race will be McDaniel, currently serving his third term on the Greenfield City Council. McDaniel also said development in the county would be a priority for him if he were elected, along with affordable housing and preserving Hancock County's identity.

McDaniel said in October that he and Huber get along and that he would not run a negative campaign.

Hancock County commissioners are elected by the county as a whole, but representatives of each district must be drawn from specific townships. District 2 includes Buck Creek, Center and Jackson townships. Both Huber and McDaniel live in Greenfield.

The primary will take place in May 2022.

City council member McDaniel runs for commissioner seat

By JESSICA KARINS | DAILY REPORTER
dr-editorial@greefieldreporter.com

GREENFIELD — Greenfield City Council member Gary McDaniel is seeking election to the Hancock County Board of Commissioners District 2 seat in the 2022 election, opposing incumbent Marc Huber in the Republican primary.

"I've served on a lot of different boards and commissioners during my time with the city," McDaniel said. "It's time for something new."

McDaniel said he has wanted to run for the position and talked it over with incumbent Huber during Huber's first term, but decided not to because Huber was planning to run for a second term. This time, McDaniel said, he decided to run.

Huber has also been critical of the county's development process in the past and has called for more



McDANIEL

scrutiny of projects, especially speculative buildings.

"Marc and I have always gotten along," McDaniel said, adding that he is not planning to run a negative campaign.

McDaniel originally got involved with local organizing through his homeowners' association, where he has served for 23 years, many of them as the president.

He was elected to his third term on the city council in 2019 and has served as council president. He currently serves at the council's budget chairman as well as on the planning and zoning committee as well as on the city and county's joint committee on economic development.

With ongoing growth and redevelopment in all parts of Hancock County, McDaniel hopes to help guide the direction of the county's future.

Development in the Mt. Comfort area, in particular, has attracted widespread controversy among both residents and elected officials. McDaniel said he'd like the buildings going up in the area to include multiple types of business, such as manufacturing, instead of focusing mostly on warehouses.

Other issues McDaniel said he wants to focus on

include tax abatements, tax-increment financing districts, and affordable housing, all of which he has experience with from his time on city council. He also hopes to preserve Hancock County's unique identity.

"We don't want to be Fishers or Carmel," McDaniel said.

Greenfield City Council president Dan Riley said he's hoping McDaniel will be elected to the Board of Commissioners.

"Gary's a very hardworking person and I think that he would do well as a county commissioner," Riley said.

Riley said during their time on the council together, McDaniel has frequently taken a leadership role on issues involving planning and building, working closely with city staff and providing information to the other council members. This, he said, would make McDaniel

a good fit for the Board of Commissioners as it continues to frequently make decisions about future development in the county.

"They need some of that leadership," Riley said.

Council member Jeff Lowder said he didn't want to comment on a primary contest between fellow Republicans, but also said McDaniel has taken a leadership role on the council when dealing with planning decisions.

"He's a fine fellow to work with," Lowder said.

McDaniel hopes to emphasize preserving the "quality of place" that he said attracted him to Hancock County when he moved to the area 25 years ago.

"I love Hancock County, and this is something I enjoy," McDaniel said of his career in local government. "It just comes down to what the people want."

Scott

RUBLE

County
Council

Paid for by Friends of Scott Ruble

Re-Elect Our Grandpa

BILL BOLANDER

For Hancock County Council District 4

- Thinks Government Should Be Run Like a Business
- Assisted In Financing New Criminal Justice Center
- In Favor of Setting Up Programs for Recovery & Mental Health

Paid for by the Committee to Re-Elect Bill Bolander