

1. What are the three most important issues facing Fishers (in order of importance)
 - a. Keeping schools strong
 - b. Economic Development
 - c. Effective Tax and Distribution Policies
2. If elected, how will you address these important issues?
 - a. Schools: Work to return power to our locally elected school board; work to see that our schools and teachers are fairly evaluated and graded
 - b. Economic Development: Be an advocate between the town and the General Assembly; work to lessen regulations/fees/taxes that impede economic development; free the town to make decisions locally – empower the town to move forward on local matters not hinged upon the permission of the state(strengthen home rule)
 - c. Effective Tax Policies: See that formulas, such as County Option Income Tax, are fairly weighted to not advantage units which have a history of high rates and debt.
3. Why are you running for State Representative? I was brought up to believe that it is my civic duty to be involved in the community in which I live. I have practiced that principle for decades. I now have children and grandchildren living in the district and wish to protect and better our community by serving in the General Assembly. I will work tirelessly to see that our community grows and is bettered by bringing local decisions “home” where they belong. “Top Down” management inhibits communities from growth and vibrancy. Local leaders need to be empowered to exercise common sense solutions to local challenges.
4. How can a State Representative assist Economic Development in Fishers? Primarily by being an advocate that the state “get out of the way” of progress. Although a Representative’s job is to see that legislation and regulations enhance the state; decisions should always flow through the filter of “what is best for my district”? A State Representative can ensure that tax policies do not inhibit growth and entrepreneurship, but instead that state government promote methods that give rise and promote healthy economic growth, foster competition, and provide greater job creation, and employment opportunities.
5. How do you create visibility for Fishers in the State Legislature? I will build upon my reputation, and many years of experience as an advocate for local government through consistency and by adherence to my guiding principles and commitment to being accessible, responsive and accountable to the people in the 37th district.
6. What is your vision for Mass Transit in Fishers and Hamilton County? This decision is so profound it needs to be left to the people who will bear the weight of the decision and should be left to judge the merits of the project. The town, other units – including Hamilton County – should be allowed to put the question to the ballot without the “permission” of the state. But there needs to be an educational effort that makes the costs and benefits clear to the voters so that they have the full breadth of knowledge needed to make a decision of this magnitude.
7. Do you think the current COIT Distributions is fair to Fishers – If not what can be done about it? NO! The formula, designed and implemented by the State, is unfairly weighted and “rewards” units with the highest tax rates. This has for many years led to an inefficient, unfair allocation of resources.

8. State mandated property tax caps are requiring some local taxing entities to reduce services, what is your proposal to address this? The answer lies in efficient service delivery AND in growing our state and local economy to offset the shortages. Two questions are brought to bear: What can we learn from other states and communities – and then let's do it better! Second, de-regulation! Encourage a bottom-up approach to governing, rather than top-down. Finally, should LOCAL leaders find it necessary (as in the question of Mass Transit) allow communities to ask the question of taxpayers to move beyond the tax caps for special projects.
9. Do you support the implementation of a Local Option Income Tax? This is a decision which should rightfully be made at the local level by the town council.
10. What is your opinion of "Local Control" – allowing local elected officials to operate free from State mandates? Local units should have the freedom to operate as they see fit so long as it is not contrary to our constitution and laws pertinent to the safety and well-being of Hoosiers. The more the state can "turn loose" the creativity and determination of local leaders, the better!
11. 11. What is your opinion of a Statewide smoking ban? This is a decision of private property rights. It is best left to the individual property owner to decide what is best for his/her market. In essence the marketplace, the consumer, will efficiently dictate which places of business will permit smoking. If a place of business permits smoking, and consumers join in, so be it. And if consumers "boycott" the business by not purchasing the goods, then the business model for that enterprise obviously did not work. I think it is an individual decision of property rights and can also be influenced by the marketplace efficiently and effectively.
12. 12. Do you support the state collection of sales tax for internet sales – if yes when should it be implemented? First of all, I believe that we must support our local businesses that create the jobs and support our community. Not collecting sales taxes gives Internet retailers a competitive price advantage over small businesses and even large big-box retailers that have a presence in the state. That's not fair. Creating a level playing field for small businesses is especially important in difficult economic times. But, this is a complex issue driven by a law enacted by Congress and until Congress changes current law, online sales taxes for companies that don't have a physical presence in the state are prohibited. Currently the state is faced with the even more difficult decision to collect tax on the large internet retailers that have located in Indiana and employ thousands of workers -- putting them at a disadvantage against other online retailers who don't have a physical presence in Indiana. Internet Sales are not exempt from sales taxes in Indiana. The purchaser of a product online has the responsibility to report the sale and pay the tax as part of the annual tax return if it wasn't paid as part of the original transaction. The reality is, however, that consumers typically don't pay to the state if online merchants don't charge them (only about 3,000 taxpayers reported such transactions last year.) The bottom line is that leadership is needed on this issue to resolve it with fairness to our local retailers and our Hoosier internet retailers as well. Sales tax should be blind to the nature of the transaction if the product is taxed

regardless of where the sale originated. That is a fair solution and one that would level the playing field. Until we can achieve that fairness, I believe we should

13. Which form of government do you think is best for Fishers – town/City/Hybrid? On a decision of permanent change to the structure of our government, the people who are effected (citizens) should have the opportunity to vote their choice.
14. How have you been involved with the Fishers Chamber of Commerce? As trustee of Delaware Township, I have been a consistent Charter Member and I frequently attend the chamber meetings.