



Indiana Muslim  
Advocacy Network

# 2023 General Election: Voter Education Guide – Fishers



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# Election Basics & Voter Guide Policy

## **You have the right to vote in an Indiana election if:**

- You are both a U.S. citizen and a resident of Indiana
- You will be at least 18 years of age by the election date, **November 7, 2023**
- You are not currently in prison after being convicted of a crime
- You have lived in the precinct where you vote for at least 30 days prior to the election
- You are registered to vote

## **The following Voter Guide policy was shared with all candidates before receiving their responses:**

- The Candidate Questionnaire was sent to all candidates from all parties
- Candidates replies are printed without editing or verification
- Candidates are listed by district, but in no particular order
- Candidates who did not respond to our questionnaire by the provided deadline are listed with the notation, “No response received by deadline.”

# What to Know Before Going to the Polls

## Who is on your ballot?

- Based on your address, you will have different different district City Council candidates to choose from
- Mayoral Candidates and At-Large City Council Candidates will be on everyone's ballots
- Use this guide to make an informed decision about each candidate based on their answers to a few questions about key parts of our community
- You can go to [indianavoters.in.gov](http://indianavoters.in.gov) to find out:
  - What district you live in
  - Your closest early voting site, and election day voting site location
  - Voting site hours
  - Who will be on your ballot or a "sample ballot"
  - Check your voter registration status

## What do I bring with me?

- A valid ID issued by the State of Indiana or the federal government



# Questions Sent to All Candidates

1. **Qualifications:** Why do you believe you are qualified to be the next elected City Councilor of Fishers?
2. **Agenda:** What are your top 3 agenda items to address in Fishers if you are elected as Mayor/City Councilor?
3. **School Safety:** The national rise in school shootings has parents, school districts, and law enforcement agencies looking for ways to ensure schools are safe. Do you believe school safety is an issue of concern in Fishers? If so, what would be your plan to address these concerns?
4. **Inclusion:** The Hamilton County Muslim community is historically an immigrant community with limited political engagement. Organizations like IMAN have worked hard to increase voter and political engagement within the Muslim community. How do you see your role in increasing participation from groups like the Muslim community in city government and various decision making processes?
5. **Community & Bipartisanship:** Over the past twelve months the Fishers political landscape has become increasingly divisive. There have been several partisan battles related to educational matters and library policies that have played out in the public sphere. How do you see your role in dissipating the tensions and working to bring the community together? Please highlight any bipartisan initiatives that you are working on to help strengthen our communities and bridge the political divide.



# Candidates On Ballot & Responses Received

## Fishers Mayoral Candidate

Scott Fadness (R) *No response received by deadline.*

## Fishers City Council At-Large Candidates

Todd Zimmerman (R)  
*No response received by deadline.*

Jocelyn Vare (D)

Cecilia Coble (R)

Howard Stevenson (D)

Tiffanie Ditlevson (R)  
*No response received by deadline.*

## Fishers City Council District Candidates

North Central  
District

John Delucia (R)

Crystal Neumann (D)

Northeast  
District

Brad DeReamer (R)  
*No response received by  
deadline.*

Samantha Chapman (D)

Northwest  
District

Selina Stoller (R)

Bill McLellan (D)  
*No response received by  
deadline.*

South  
Central  
District

John Weingardt (R)

Lane Skeeters (D)

Southwest  
District

David Giffel (R)

Bill Stuart (D)

Southeast  
District

Pete Peterson (R)  
*No response received by  
deadline.*



# Cecilia Coble

## Republican

### City Council Candidate

### At-Large

#### **Qualifications:**

I am a proven leader on the Fishers City Council. I have served as a Fishers City Councilor At-Large for almost nine years. Through my results-oriented approach to leadership, Fishers has become one of the best and safest cities to live in Indiana and the United States. I am also proud of the disability initiatives I have led that are now being modeled in other cities. I have been an active community servant in Fishers for many years. As a City Councilor, I have been devoted to this position full-time. It provides me the opportunity to work on various city-wide initiatives and committees, while engaging with Fishers residents and community members.

I currently serve as Co-Chair of the Fishers Advisory Committee on Disability which has provided more opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Fishers and beyond. I also serve as a member of the Fishers Arts and Culture Commission. My law background, professional background, and extensive community service experience serves me well to represent the Fishers community on the City Council. For more information on my background and education please go to [www.cobleforfishers.com](http://www.cobleforfishers.com).

#### **Agenda:**

- Leading with Financial Integrity

I will lead by being fiscally responsible and ensuring the long-term financial stability and prosperity of Fishers. I understand the importance of keeping taxes low for Fishers' residents and businesses. I am committed to finding innovative solutions and making informed financial decisions that prioritize fiscal responsibility and minimize the tax burden on the community.

- Strategic, Quality of Life Investments and Amenities for Residents

I am dedicated to a resident-centric approach that prioritizes the needs and preferences of the community. By making strategic investments in infrastructure, parks, schools, and community amenities, Fishers enhances the quality of life for its residents. These investments contribute to the city's attractiveness, ensuring a vibrant and thriving community.

- Commitment to Public Safety

I am deeply committed to maintaining Fishers as one of the safest communities in Indiana. I will advocate for the best personnel, training and education, equipment and gear, communication systems, vehicles, facilities, technology and tools, community outreach programs, including mental health support, and adequate funding.



**School Safety:**

The City of Fishers is ranked as one of the safest cities in Indiana and the United States. Our City is very committed to staying that way. In the 2024 budget, the City plans to hire two new School Resource Officers. The Fishers Police Department and Fishers Fire Department work together on safety plans with school administrators. Most recently, I helped to gather leaders from the Eman Schools and the Al Huda to meet with the Fishers Police Chief and his team to ensure that the Eman Schools are also included in a school safety plan/training for students/teachers and administrators.

**Inclusion:**

I made history as the first Latina to be elected on the Fishers City Council. I have served as Fishers City Councilor At-Large for almost nine years. I always welcome opportunities to connect with the constituents and the various organizations in our city. I meet with residents one-on-one on a regular basis. I always welcome any opportunities to learn and connect with the Muslim community, which is why I regularly attend events. I want to learn and understand what those in the community are interested in so that I can best represent them. Further, I encourage everyone, whether in the Muslim community or not, to get involved.

**Community & Bipartisanship:**

Fishers is consistently being recognized as one of the best places to live, work and play. I continue to stay focused on working hard to ensure the City of Fishers continues with this positive distinction. As a Fishers City Councilor, it is important that I work to help strengthen our community and lead by example with respect and empathy to others views.

I am proud of the work that has been done to advance the quality of life for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. I am a special needs parent, and I help lead the disabilities initiatives as Co-Chair of the Fishers Advisory Committee on Disability. This is a bipartisan initiative in which the City of Fishers was recognized through a resolution by the Indiana General Assembly in March of 2023 for the City's commitment to disability inclusion. The resolution was signed by leaders in both parties.

During National Hispanic Heritage Month, I have helped coordinate a Mayor's Breakfast with the Hispanic community so that connections can be made with residents and business owners. The City of Fishers provides a forum with valuable information about what is happening in the City and shares how the Hispanic Community can become more engaged with City matters. This is a bi-partisan event.







# Jocelyn Vare

## Democrat

### City Council Candidate

### At-Large

#### **Qualifications:**

I have served as an at-large member of the Fishers City Council since 2020. I have two adult children who graduated from Fishers HS. In 2022, I ran for Indiana State Senate and earned 16,000 votes from Fishers residents. I am a 25-year resident of Fishers, the mom of two HSE Schools graduates, a local small business owner, a volunteer and a champion for the community I love. I am a member of the Fishers Finance Committee, Non-Profit Committee and Fishers Arts + Culture Commission. I served as a committee chair for the successful HSE Schools referendum in 2016. I am a graduate of Fishers City Government Academy, Hamilton County Leadership Academy, Ball State's Economic Development Course and Community Development Course. In 2021, I was recognized as an Impact Award nominee, one of 30 alumni designated in the Hamilton County Leadership Academy's 30-year history. I am eager to continue to serve the Fishers community on the City Council and fight to provide the good local government that all taxpayers deserve.

#### **Agenda:**

1. Fiscal Responsibility & Oversight. I have stood apart as the reasonable voice that digs into city expenses and budgets. The city cash reserves, completion of State Road 37/141st St, investments in road repairs and trail connectivity are concerns of mine. I will continue to scrutinize and make the city budget open and accessible to taxpayers.
2. Housing. The city invested in a Housing Study and after my prompting, the recommendations were officially adopted into the city's comprehensive plan. A top recommendation - now a top city priority - is encouraging development of housing for seniors, young adults and renters and "right-sized" housing with attainable pricing. The study showed that Fishers has a problematic deficit of housing options, like many other cities across the nation. Addressing this must be an action item for our city.
3. Good Government - I'm the first Democrat elected by the city of Fishers. I strive to bring broader representation and balance to local government, now bipartisan for the first time. I've always worked to serve residents and make government accessible and accountable to the people it's meant to serve. I'm excited to be re-elected and continue fighting for government transparency, civic participation, and the issues that will elevate your community, neighborhood, and household.



**School Safety:**

When we say “school safety,” we are talking about school shootings. I know that this is an important issue in Fishers because students tell me that they are very concerned about this. I am a Moms Demand Action Gun Sense Candidate and am the only candidate in Hamilton County who has received the Everytown for Gun Safety endorsement. These distinctions mean that Fishers can count on me to advocate for sensible gun legislation and gun safety best practices. I continue to advocate for a safer community by supporting our local police department, advocating for gun safety legislation at the Statehouse and participating as a Moms Demand Action volunteer. I stand up for Gun Safety and advocate for a safer Fishers.

**Inclusion:**

Before each city council meeting, I post a blog that details each agenda item. My hope is that if I can make it easier for citizens to know about what is happening in their local government, they will find it easier to then get involved in it.

For three years now, I have been championing diversity on our city boards and commissions. These citizen appointments to decision-making/advisory bodies of local government should prioritize a cross-section of our community. Instead, the same small group of people serve year after year, with no term limits. Dozens of applications are received each year from citizens who are interested in serving on boards and commissions. These citizen applications are not reviewed or even acknowledged by the city leaders! I continue to encourage a new open approach to these appointments. Unfortunately, I haven't been successful yet. But the community is taking notice and more citizens apply each year. I'll keep raising my voice on behalf of our diverse community.

<https://www.larryinfishers.com/2021/01/24/city-council-must-face-the-diversity-issue-in-future-appointments/>

**Community & Bipartisanship:**

I am a next door neighbor to Alhuda Foundation. I live just one the other side of the Nickel Plate Trail and I walk by the mosque almost everyday. We are neighbors. And neighbors take care of one another. I have personally launched an initiative, "FISHERS IS FOR EVERYONE!" Stickers and flags have been adopted by community members as a symbol that our community is open, inclusive and welcoming.

Fishers cannot be Smart, Vibrant & Entrepreneurial without being Open, Inclusive & Welcoming. I specifically support the Muslim community by facilitating communication and understanding. I hope that I helped do this when Sunblest residents had concerns about street parking. I served as a bridge to communication and good outcomes were found when neighbors and Alhuda leadership communicated with one another. In addition, I encourage Fishers residents to learn about Ramadan and visit MOTW Coffee, for example. You can count on me to encourage Fishers residents to welcome their neighbors who are members of the Muslim community and all communities.





# Howard Stevenson

## Democrat

### City Council Candidate

### At-Large

**Qualifications:**

I believe my experience as a lawyer, law professor, small business owner, former school board member, current president of the Fishers Plan Commission and Vice President of the Fishers Board of Zoning Appeals, and my passion to make Fishers even better for everyone makes me the most qualified candidate for the position of Fishers City Council At Large. I have been a small business owner for 18 years and I have created 40 jobs during that time. I will bring my entrepreneurial experience as a job creator with me to the city council.

**Agenda:**

1. Fiscal Responsibility: I have been fiscally responsible as a small business owner for 18 years and my business now has no debt. I have also been fiscally responsible on every board that I have served on for the last 20 years, including when I served on the school board for HSE schools. The school district has a larger budget than the city of Fishers and has more employees. The City of Fishers' credit rating has recently been downgraded in light of the fact that the city has nearly doubled its amount of debt in the last 2 years. As a city council member, I want to focus on eliminating debt.
2. Smart Growth - The City of Fishers has approximately 6% of undeveloped land remaining. We must have a smart, strategic plan for developing this remaining land, including more green space, walkable trails and a focus on connectivity. Otherwise, the city's land use decisions will have an adverse effect on our community. I teach a law school class that covers smart growth and I want to bring that insight to the city council.
3. Relationship with our Schools. My family moved to Fishers 23 years ago because of the great schools. The vibrancy of our Fishers community and the property value of our homes is interconnected with the success of our schools. As a city council member, I want to continue to enhance the relationship between the city of Fishers and our school district. I believe my prior service on the school board will help me accomplish that as a city council member.



**School Safety:**

Yes, I believe school safety is a concern. As a husband of a wife who has been a teacher for 23 years in HSE schools, as the father of 3 sons who graduated from HSE Schools, and as a former school board member 7 years ago, I want to act proactively to reduce the risk.

Passing the school referendum is vital for school safety because it will allow the school district to hire more School Recourse Officers (SRO's) to be assigned regularly to every school building in our district. Currently, we don't have enough SRO's to cover all of our schools simultaneously.

I spoke with HSE Schools' Chief Operating Officer and HSE Schools' Director of Safety regarding their school safety plan. I was pleased to hear that they regularly review the school district's safety plan with the city's police department. As a city council member, I would like to serve as a liaison to our schools to continue the dialog and strong relationship between the school district and the city to ensure the safety of the students, teachers, and administrators in our schools remains paramount.

**Inclusion:**

I believe every group in our community should have a voice and a say in the direction that our city government is going. To accomplish that, we need representation from the Muslim community and other communities serving on boards and commissions and even serving in elected offices in Fishers regardless of their political affiliation. The city council appoints members of our community to various boards and commissions and those boards make major decisions for our community.

As a city council member, I will use my role to advocate and recommend candidates from diverse backgrounds to serve on boards and commissions. I will work with members of the Muslim community and other communities to identify board candidates. I have a track record of pursuing diverse candidates on other boards that I have served on, and I will continue to do that as a member of the city council.





**Community & Bipartisanship:**

I have been a bridge builder in Fishers the entire 23 years that I have lived here. I was a bridge builder on the HSE school board when I was on the school board 7 years ago. On the school board, I worked with school board members who I may have disagreed with on some issues, but we worked for the common good of all the students in the district to focus on academic excellence and narrowing the achievement gaps for some of our minority students. As a Democrat, I am currently President of The Fishers Plan Commission that is an 11-member Supermajority Republican Board (9 Republicans and 2 Democrats) and the Board has unanimously voted me President the last few years because I teach the subject matter at the law school and because I am able to bring people together for a common goal of economic development and land use. It shows that I work in a bi-partisan way.

I am also currently co-chair of Fishers CORE (Council On Racial Equity) where we focus on dissipating tension in our community along racial lines and we focus on economic, education, and social issues to make our community better for everyone. Republican Mayor Fadness appointed me as co-chair of Fishers CORE as a Democrat and we have Democrats and Republicans on the board for Fishers CORE. I'm also a registered civil mediator in my practice as a lawyer so I bring that skillset with me as well. Helping our community come together is my passion and I will continue to work towards that as a city council member.





# John DeLucia

## Republican

### City Council Candidate

### North Central District

#### **Qualifications:**

I have lived in Fishers for nearly 30 years and have served my adopted hometown in a variety of ways. Serving on the HSE School board for 8.5 years, with 2 as President, is probably the most relevant qualification. A career in banking with 10 years as an Executive Leader is significant as well. Coaching, mentoring, raising 3 children, and serving on numerous other boards are other qualifications. Serving on the Fishers City Council is the next best opportunity for me to serve Fishers.

#### **Agenda:**

1. Quality of Life
2. Public Safety, including mental health
3. Fiscal Responsibility

#### **School Safety:**

School safety is absolutely an issue of concern in Fishers and has been for quite some time. When I was elected to the HSE School board in 2010, my eyes were really opened to the extensive safety concerns with all of our schools, and how well the Town of Fishers at that time worked with the schools. After the tragic Sandy Hook incident, things had to go to another level. As a leader with the schools at that time, I was deeply involved in safety matters. My plan going forward is to "do what we do", but always work on improving. Continued engagement between the City and all schools in Fishers, both public and private, must continue and even expand. We need to add additional School Resource Officers (SROs) as we can and always keep lines of communication open between the City and the schools. With my relationships across the board, I will be able to greatly assist.

#### **Inclusion:**

This is critical! I was raised to be a great neighbor. I have lived in the neighborhood adjacent to the Mosque since its inception and have attended numerous "Friendship Feasts" ribbon cuttings, and have participated in the neighborhood recognition of the Eid by putting a balloon on my mailbox and welcoming the Muslim Children. I served on the YMCA board in Fishers where we made efforts to welcome the growing Muslim community and encourage participation. With a degree in Near Eastern Languages & Cultures, multiple trips to Muslim countries, living with Muslim neighbors, and doing business with Muslim owners, I have extensive knowledge and experience. People participate when they are invited AND feel welcome. My role in increasing participation will be by inviting members of the Muslim community to participate and to make sure they are welcomed.



**Community & Bipartisanship:**

I have lived in Fishers for nearly 30 years and have developed strong relationships across the political spectrum. I am honored to be nominated as the Republican candidate for the North Central District, but my relationships go well beyond any political party. I am a Peacemaker. I am an includer. I am a unifier. This is no secret and I have been known as such for a very long time. While serving on the school board, there were many difficult situations I had to face. I have always been a voice of reason and would continue to be a voice of reason on the City Council.





# Crystal Neumann

## Democrat

### City Council Candidate

### North Central District

#### **Qualifications:**

I want to be your public servant. As a proud resident of Fishers, I want to move our city forward into a vibrant, welcoming city that offers opportunities for everyone. To do so, Fishers must be able to attract innovative businesses and attract talent to work and live here. We need to provide opportunities for our children to stay and work in Fishers. As your public servant, I will be passionate about my duty to shape Fishers into a society we can be proud of. I am committed to you. I am committed to listening.

I currently serve as a member of Fishers City Council for the North Central district. I am a first generation American, with a passion to make a difference and become a role model for others. I have mentored several within the community. I proudly serve on the Fishers Environmental Taskforce and have already worked with developers to take steps toward building sustainably. I have a doctorate in business administration and work as an administrator in higher education.

#### **Agenda:**

**Build Community** – We all need to feel safe and inclusive within our city. I also support your civic engagement for your voice to be heard by our government. YOU matter. Also, your mental health is important to me. According to the CDC, 1 in 5 people will experience mental illness. Let's make sure we are all okay. We're in it together.

**Focus on Sustainability** – We need to work on a better tomorrow for our kids. This can be done by taking care of our environment and ecosystems, and we can start right here in Fishers.

**Support Public Safety** – For all of us to feel safe, our public safety professionals need to have everything required for them to effectively do their jobs.

#### **School Safety:**

Thankfully, Fishers has been recognized as one of the safest cities to live. However, this doesn't mean that we should just stick with the status quo. We need to work closely with our public safety and public health officials to provide resources, including but not limited to, school resource officers and access to mental health resources. It is important that we all feel safe.





**Inclusion:**

As a first generation American, I find it important to ensure everyone is registered to vote because everyone's voice matters. Also, it is important that we also have civic engagement to help make decisions for the city within our boards, commissions, and various task forces. This is also how we promote inclusivity, as well as ensuring that everyone in the city is represented.

**Community & Bipartisanship:**

To me, we work best when we have a better understanding of one another. Rather than totally focus on what sets us apart or what makes us different, I would like to focus on common ground. Breaking bread with one another and having a civil conversation gets us back to a point of community and remembering that we are all neighbors. Sometimes we can be surprised that there are some common goals and want the same thing - those are the goals we can focus on to move forward. It's easier to move forward when we can work together.





# Samantha Chapman

## Democrat

### City Council Candidate

### Northeast District

#### **Qualifications:**

I am an attorney, an animal lover and a life-long Hoosier who loves Fishers. I have extensive experience advocating and working with elected officials on both the state and the local level on issues that improve quality of life for animals and people alike. I believe in the future of Fishers and want to be a voice for my neighbors in the North East district, supporting our schools, especially our HSE students, teachers, staff and families.

#### **Agenda:**

- Smart Investments
- Inclusivity
- Transparency/Accessibility to Voters

#### **School Safety:**

Unfortunately, school safety is an issue we all must be concerned about in Fishers and across the United States. I am a Moms Demand Action Gun Sense Candidate and while Indiana state law preempts localities to legislate restrictions on guns, we can work with our amazing Fishers police department to ensure that our schools continue to be as safe as possible. I believe in supporting school resource officers and enforcing policies throughout the HSE school district to keep our students, teachers and staff safe and learning, each and every day!

#### **Inclusion:**

I will work to personally get to know my Muslim neighbors in the North East district and celebrate these neighbor's accomplishments and contributions to the community through proclamations and resolutions. I also will look for opportunities on Fishers Boards & Commissions to appoint our neighbors from the Muslim community, who might be interested in getting more involved and serving the Fishers community.

#### **Community & Bipartisanship:**

I am a bridge builder and I have extensive experience working across the aisle with differing opinions, interests and political ideologies. At the end of the day, I truly believe that all elected officials in Fishers love this community. We have to put aside our personal opinions and come together to find common ground and compromises to benefit our neighbors. Policy making is all about bringing all stakeholders to the table and listening to different voices. As community leaders, we must facilitate those conversations and engage with one another in a civil and professional manner.





# Selina Stoller

## Republican

### City Council Candidate

### Northwest District

#### **Qualifications:**

I hold a Bachelor of Science in Engineering from Purdue University and an MBA from Western Governor's University. I've worked in investment banking, where some of my responsibilities were to provide consulting services regarding asset acquisition, planning, and managing private equity funds. Currently, I am a Business Development Executive who develops a path from product-market fit to systematically growing revenue through sales processes and strategic development.

These experiences have greatly assisted me in my role on the City Council, especially when it comes to economic development, city finances, and fiscal responsibility. Additionally, as an incumbent councilor, I always strive to be a good listener and have built strong relationships with many residents and community leaders not only in my district but also throughout Fishers. Maintaining those working relationships and rapport with individuals and community groups is essential to successfully solving issues and working together to maintain Fishers as a great place to live.

#### **Agenda:**

Fishers is a rapidly growing and evolving community, and with that, brings new topics to address. For example, one of our biggest priorities in Fishers is to ensure that our public safety departments have the proper resources. We have been able to add two additional fire departments to meet the needs of Fishers' growing population and support our Police Department which has become a leader in the state as they address gun crimes. Continuing to emphasize public safety in Fishers will be crucial to the additional development and growth of our city. Another area that has been a primary focus for the Mayor and City Council, me included, is economic development. We have been very successful in attracting new businesses, investments, and high-quality jobs to our community, and I would like to continue that work if re-elected. It is vital that we continue to attract new, high-paying jobs of the future and develop quality amenities to meet the needs of our growing population. Finally, we have worked diligently to ensure that we have quality infrastructure in Fishers. Continued improvements to our roads and walkways, such as the ones made to State Road 37 and Allisonville Road, are critical to the success and expansion of our community.

**School Safety:**

The safety of children is of utmost importance. Supporting public safety to maintain the status of one of the safest communities in the state is crucial. School safety is supported by the school resource officers, communication with the schools and parents, and collaboration with FPD and FFD. As a supporter of public safety, I am committed to funding police and fire, so they have the equipment and technology needed to keep schools safe. School safety encompasses security measures, mental health support, collaboration with law enforcement, cybersecurity, community engagement, emergency response training, after-school programs, and data collection and analysis. All of these areas must be reviewed and implemented to ensure safety at our schools.

**Inclusion:**

Over the past year, I have been given the opportunity to learn about Islam. It has been enlightening, to say the least. Many members of the community have taken the time to help me learn. I have listened to their concerns and aided the Muslim community with many initiatives that helped ease concerns. I have sought and will continue to seek opinions from various Muslim community members. Currently, I am encouraging members of the Muslim community to apply to be on boards and commissions, both government-related and various non-profits. Additionally, I have been working to help inform members of the Muslim community to understand their voter rights and how impactful city government is on their daily lives in hopes of increasing their voice and involvement. Through understanding, conversations, and engagement, the voice of all can be heard.

**Community & Bipartisanship:**

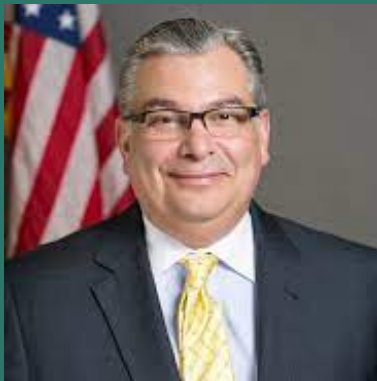
As a candidate, my primary role is to unify our community through open communication, bipartisanship, civility, and respect. I'm committed to these key principles:

- Open Communication: I'll actively engage with all constituents, ensuring every voice is heard, regardless of political affiliation.
- Bipartisan Initiatives: I'm dedicated to collaborating with colleagues from both sides to improve our community, such as enhancing infrastructure and quality of life.
- Civility and Respect: I'll lead by example, fostering a culture of kindness and empathy, even in disagreements, to encourage constructive dialogue.
- Community-Building Programs: I support initiatives like volunteering projects, cultural exchanges, and youth programs to bridge divides and promote unity.
- Conflict Resolution: I'll mediate and find common ground in conflicts, using my position to facilitate constructive discussions and benefit all.
- Transparency: I'll maintain transparency in decision-making, keeping constituents informed to build trust and unity.

My role as a candidate is to unify our community, prioritizing open communication, bipartisan collaboration, civility, and respect. Bipartisan projects have included support for HSE referendum, the stadium, and several economic development projects.







# John Weingardt

## Republican

### City Council Candidate

### South Central District

**School Safety:**

I want school resource officers at all our public schools and partner with public safety with the many private schools in Fishers to make sure ALL of our schools are safe for our children.

**Inclusion:**

My role is to have conversations and to develop strong relationships with all citizens of Fishers and listen to their concerns.

**Community & Bipartisanship:**

My role is to have civility and respect for all and listen to their point of views.





# Lane Skeeters

## Democrat

### City Council Candidate

### South Central District

#### **Qualifications:**

The simplest answer is that I represent the experience of many in my district. Like most of my neighbors I am raising my kids while working hard to keep up with the cost of living in Fishers. I also deal daily with business owners, in Fishers and nearby. Most of my clients are starting new businesses or expanding and I hear those struggles and successes.

#### **Agenda:**

Resident Focused Development:

As a representative of Fishers residents, I believe the main lens the Council should view new development through is how it will impact current and potentially new residents. I will champion business growth and welcome business owners to our city as well. But above all the goal will be to make Fishers the best place to live for our residents.

Engaging Residents in the Big Decisions:

Fishers is an amazing city and I don't deny the successes current leadership has had. But there is one issue that has seen many downstream problems as a result. The city has not engaged with residents in an open and honest way throughout some of the biggest changes to our city. I believe in directly educating, informing and engaging all residents at the pivotal moments of projects. In the initial ideation, during the financial planning and most importantly during the process where many changes happen before completion. We need far more transparency and input for our community.

Community & Culture:

I want to bring a greater sense of community, culture and belonging to Fishers. Where we live should be also be where we play, where we build memories and where we share experiences. The city has replaced the old with the new and in many cases has shown that top down planning doesn't replicate what our community can create when we work together. We need to embrace our history but also the vibrant, diverse community we now have.



**School Safety:**

With two kids in HSE schools of course this issue is top of mind. I am a Gun Sense Candidate endorsed by Moms Demand Action, a non-partisan organization aiming to reduce gun violence in our schools. There are many different approaches people have offered to increase safety. When I think about this issue I am also very concerned about the trauma that can be inflicted on our youngest (my little girl is 7) when being told of the real possibility of a shooter in their school. I believe any policies we have in place should not only protect our kids from the very real threat of gun violence but also do everything possible to allow kids to maintain their innocent view of the world during a pivotal moment of development. Beyond the threats of school shootings, school safety conversations should go further. Students should be (and feel) safe to be who they are. I believe that as long as their expression does not actively disrupt a learning environment, kids should be free to express themselves openly. Because we live in such a diverse community I think we need to be very careful in crafting policies that may inadvertently targeting the expression of deeply held beliefs.

**Inclusion:**

There are two prongs to my plan to engage under represented groups in Fishers. One will be regular meetings specifically for those groups that I actively encourage people to attend. This goes beyond the "open door policy" way of doing things. I understand that when a group has not historically been invited to the table, an open door isn't always welcoming, but a personal invitation may be. The second will come from those meetings, and it will be to identify those within each community who seem engaged with the city and are civic minded. When the opportunity comes up where a particular issue or project needs community voices these names will be top of mind. No board, commission or committee in Fishers will be truly doing its job without representation by ALL members of our community. For those already in these leadership positions I will demand the same of them by asking what they've done to engage with those that haven't felt represented.

**Community & Bipartisanship:**

I do not believe that these political fights represent the desires of most of our community members. We've seen groups outside Fishers seek to stoke divide and then point the finger back at those who are simply asking to keep the policies in place that have been working. We have a great library system and our schools are the reason most people have moved to this area. With all that said I believe both sides of these issues have failed in their approach, regardless of the merits. It is on the board members to foster a civil, safe forum for discussion. The format of these meetings created tension that wasn't necessary. I spoke to a member of the group asking for books to be moved. I explained that while I didn't agree with his position I respected his willingness to step up and speak. What I've asked him and others, including School Board members is to take these conversations outside these public meetings and encourage more personal conversations. We all have the interest of our kids in mind and I believe even on the hardest issues there are points of shared beliefs that compromise can come from. When we step away from the microphone and remind ourselves that these 'enemies' are people like us, we can move on. From a personal standpoint I will share that I have great respect for my opponent and we've gotten along great for many years. We recently had coffee and discussed our shared desire for Fishers to move past this moment. I have great respect for him.



# David Giffel

## Republican

### City Council Candidate

### South West District

#### **Qualifications:**

I have been actively engaged in leadership roles in the Fishers community since I moved here in 1997. I've served in an elected capacity since 2016 to understand the complexities of government. My whole business career has been to identify the needs and wants of consumers, and I am trained to problem solve. I know how to place my mind in someone else's shoes.

#### **Agenda:**

- 1) Supporting the Mayor to keep Fishers safe with the newest technologies that won't infringe on the privacy of others.
- 2) Keep our road infrastructure and neighborhoods at the highest quality and build a fun place to live and work.
- 3) A big part of our job is selecting development. I will be smart with any incentives to companies to bring high-paying jobs to Fishers and keep our density in the planned designated areas.

#### **School Safety:**

I believe Fishers is a safe place to live, but we must always be vigilant. I will support a budget for the schools with our trained police department.

#### **Inclusion:**

I applaud IMAN for engaging! I will continue to encourage people to attend the local GOP club meetings and volunteer to improve our community. I've found the best way to promote and engage others is to have cultural events with song, dance, food, and entertainment. I will always be open to actively engaging to understand everyone's needs, concerns, and interests.

#### **Community & Bipartisanship:**

At my workplace, I have been trained to de-escalate and will do my best to use the skills taught to me. Examples of this training include assessing the situation, listening, empathizing, and offering options.

The reality is most Fishers issues are in bipartisan agreement. My key highlights are as follows:

- Seeking a public-private partnership contract for better trash service.
- Supporting the HSE funding referendum.
- Trail connectivity.
- Most road and infrastructure improvements.





# Bill Suart

## Democrat

### City Council Candidate

### South West District

#### **Qualifications:**

I have an over 40-year history of working in and with federal, state and local government. I currently serve on the Fishers Planning Commission and the Fishers Fire Merit Board.

#### **Agenda:**

We must work together to keep Fishers' schools great. They are the engine that drives our economy and makes Fishers an attractive place to live, work and raise a family. I also want to ensure that the pace of growth is done in a proper way so that our infrastructure and roads can keep up - because no one likes sitting in traffic. Finally, I'll be a watchdog for your tax dollars to ensure we're making only smart investments that will improve Fishers for years to come.

#### **School Safety:**

Yes. I do believe school safety is an important issue. I'm supporting the HSE school referendum which has several school safety measures in it including adding resource officers. I'm also a "gun sense" endorsed candidate because I believe we must be forever vigilant in looking for ways to curb gun violence - particularly in our schools.

#### **Inclusion:**

I'll be an active partner with groups like IMAN to look for ways to increase political engagement. If elected, it will be my responsibility to reach out to the Muslim community and learn and understand your culture and the issues that matter to you. I'll also actively seek your input on the decisions coming before the city council. Finally, I'll partner with the Muslim community to identify individuals willing to serve on Boards and Commissions in Fishers.

#### **Community & Bipartisanship:**

I was raised by small business owners who taught me the value of a dollar and that serving the customer is job number one. I've spent 40 years working in the governmental arena in Indiana and I've never forgotten that the "customers" of government are taxpayers regardless of their political affiliation. In doing so, I've always worked in a bi-partisan way to get things done and will continue to do so. I'm endorsed by workers, businesses and Fishers firefighters because of my ability to work with differing viewpoints to find solutions. For instance, I was appointed to the Fishers Planning Commission as a Democrat appointment of our Republican Mayor. I've been working for the last seven years in a bi-partisan way on the Planning Commission to make Fishers a great place to live, work and raise a family.



Indiana Muslim Advocacy Network strives to provide an organized, educated, and amplified Muslim political voice, advocating for positive civic and political changes in the state of Indiana.

Indiana Muslim Advocacy Network urges all Muslims registered to vote, to vote by **November 7th, 2023.**

**Sign up to our newsletter below to stay up to date on events and advocacy efforts.**



Indiana Muslim Advocacy Network



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