

INDIANA MUSLIM ADVOCACY NETWORK

2023 Primary Election Voter Education Guide: Westfield



Your Voice Matters. Make an Informed
decision with our Nonpartisan Voter
Education Guide



Table of Contents

Primary Election Basics & Voter Guide Policy	01
What to Know Before Going to the Polls	02
Westfield City Council & Mayoral Candidates	03
Questions Sent to Candidates	04
<u>District 1</u>	05-06
<u>District 2</u>	07-08
<u>District 3</u>	08
<u>District 4</u>	09-10
<u>District 5</u>	11
<u>At Large</u>	11-15
<u>Mayoral Candidates</u>	15-18

Information about Indiana Midterm General Election

Voting in the Indiana General Election:

Indiana's Primary Election is used to narrow the field of candidates for a given elective office or to determine the nominees for political parties before a general election. The Primary Election occurs at local, state, and federal levels. In Indiana, the winners of primary contests are determined via plurality vote. For example, the candidate with the highest number of votes is declared the winner of the primary even if they did not win more than 50 percent of the vote.

Voting Requirements:

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 **THIS** election, May 2, 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 unless you qualify to vote using one of the "Fail Safe" procedures; and
- You are registered to vote.

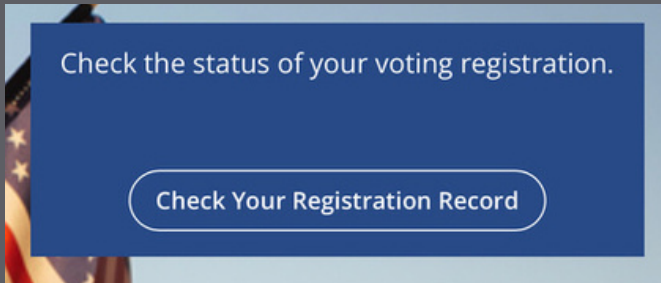
The following Voters' Guide policy was shared with all candidates:

- The Questionnaire is sent to candidates from both parties.
- Candidate replies are printed without editing or verification.
- Candidates are listed alphabetically by party.
- Candidates who do not respond to our questionnaire by the provided deadline are listed with the notation, "No response received."
- Answers to each question should not exceed 200 words.

What to know before going to the polls

Check out indianavoters.in.gov to see your sample ballot.

First, click here.



Next, fill in your first name, last name, date of birth, and select the County you live in, and click submit.

A screenshot of the "Tell us about yourself." form on the Indianavoters.in.gov website. The form includes instructions: "Please enter your information exactly as it appears on your voter registration record. If you registered using your initials you may have trouble finding your record. Please do not include any suffix (e.g. Sr, Jr) in your last name. Please contact your county election administrator if you require assistance." The form fields are: First Name, Last Name, Date of Birth, and County of Current Registration (a dropdown menu currently showing "-- SELECT --"). A yellow "Submit" button is at the bottom right.A screenshot of the "Search Results:" modal. It displays a table titled "Information Entered" with three columns: First Name, Last Name, and Coun. The table contains the following data:

First Name	Last Name	Coun
FATIMA	KHAN	Hendr

At the bottom of the modal are two buttons: "CANCEL" and "Continue".

Confirm that is you and click continue.

Scroll down, and you will see:

- Both early voting and Election day locations and their hours
- Who will be on your ballot, including which party they belong to and what position they are running for;
- and information about your districts.

Westfield Candidates

This guide covers WESTFIELD, INDIANA ONLY. If you live in another city, please check our other Guides.

Westfield City Council Candidates			
District 1	(R) Jon Dartt		(R) Mark Keen No response Received
District 2	(R) Andrew Bouse No response Received		(R) Victor McCarty
District 3	(R) Joe Duepner No response Received		(R) Justin Griffiths
District 4	(R) Alexis Lowery	(R) Patrick Tamm No response Received	(R) Scott Frei (i) No response Received
District 5	(R) Mike Johns (i)		(R) Noah Herron
At Large (2)	(D) Gary Lane		
	(R) Brian Tomamichel (R) Chad Huff - No response received (R) Kurt Wanninger - No response received		
Westfield Mayoral Candidates			
Jake Gilbert - No response received Kristen Burkam - No response received Scott Willis			




Questions sent to candidates:

City Council Questions

- **Background:** What training, experience, and background qualifies you for this position?
- **Top issues:** What are the top three issues you would like to address if elected? Why?
- **Islamophobia:** Do you believe Islamophobia is a concern for Muslims living in this city? How do you perceive your role in tracking Islamophobia in our city?
- **Development** - Fishers is an ever-growing community and quite large. Do you believe there should be more or less development/redevelopment, and why?
- **Diversity** - Recognizing that Fishers has made strides with diversity and the Muslim community in the past, What are your plans to make ensure that the momentum continues and that diversity grows?
- **Diversity and inclusion** - How do you plan to involve residents, specifically the diverse minority populations, in the decision-making process in our city/town?
- What are some things Fishers is doing well?
- What are some things Fishers can improve on?

Additional Mayoral Questions

- **Gun safety policy** - The national rise in school shootings has parents, school districts, and law enforcement agencies looking for ways to ensure schools are safe. What plans do you have regarding school safety? What policies would you enact and why?
 - **Affordable Housing** - Do you view the lack of affordable housing as a major concern for your city? Why or why? If yes, what are your plans to address this concern?
 - **Grand Park** - The City recently considered changing ownership of Grand Park. What is your opinion on this? Should Grand Park be sold to a private entity, enter a private/public partnership, or remain with the city?
 - **Economic Development** - Westfield is a fast-growing community. If elected, how will you improve Westfield's economic development?
- 

District 1	
Democrat: No Candidates	Republican: Jon Dartt Mark Keen - <i>No response received</i>



Background: I have 28 years of big business experience as an executive of a fortune 500 company business unit but more important, my experience is practical and relevant to the challenges and opportunities facing Westfield. I've managed \$1 billion in business, \$200 million in spend budgets, negotiated with big builders and developers, developed long range strategic plans and have a strong reputation of building teams, building customer relationships and collaboration across all levels in organizations.

No other candidate running for the council positions have this type of experience. I believe our Mayor and Council members should act less like politicians and more like business executives

Top issues: Update the City Comprehensive Plan-the plan was developed in 2007 with few updates since then. I would engage a task force to tackle several elements of the plan that will positively impact our growth. Economic Development- I believe we should restructure our economic development plan and team to set Westfield up for success as it relates to attracting new businesses and the right businesses. Public Safety- Westfield is recognized as one of the safest places to live in Indiana. Our public safety record is one of the key reasons businesses and families move to Westfield. I believe we should play a proactive role in staying ahead of our growth to make sure that fire, police services are adequately staffed.

Islamophobia: At this point, I do not have enough information to accurately state whether Islamophobia is a concern or issue in Westfield. If the Islam community has concerns, they should bring this to the attention of the Mayor, the Council, the Chamber of Commerce and Welcome Westfield so it can be addressed. I do believe the city officials do have the responsibility of addressing phobias and hate in our community.

Development: I am a pro growth candidate but more importantly, I am about SMART growth. Smart growth is about partnering with the right multi-family/single

family home builders and developers to ensure that they are aligned with Westfield's comprehensive plan. I also believe that our growth should include more commercial development to balance the tax base, bring in higher paying jobs and establish Westfield as a Hamilton County destination for residents and businesses. I am pro development of our downtown corridor and believe that there should be more density including housing, shops, restaurants and small business.

Diversity and Inclusion: I believe that every business and resident of Westfield should be heard and have a seat at the table regarding the direction of our city. The Mayor and the City Council members should act as representatives of the residents and businesses and therefore should make sure that there is an open channel for communication on key issues and opportunities which includes, clear, concise and transparency in all that we do.

What are some things Carmel is doing well?

- Education- Westfield high school is one of the top rated in the Indianapolis area. The city and education board have done a great job of staying ahead of population growth by building new schools, hiring the best talent, keeping our students/teacher ratio at the right levels and keeping our students and teachers safe
- Grand Park- This is one of the greatest assets the city has. GP has brought in millions in revenue and economic development to Westfield.
- Public Safety- As one of the safest places to live in Indiana, Westfield has done a great job of supporting our fire/rescue and police teams. In addition, public safety also includes, roads and trails. Some of the best in the state!
- The Chamber of Commerce, Welcome Westfield and other city organizations have done a great job of bringing families together to celebrate the holidays, our local businesses, restaurants, parks and sports.

What are some things Carmel can improve on?

- Downtown Development-We need a vision for our downtown development. I believe a master plan for downtown should be developed that includes housing, retail, business, restaurants and offices.
- Recruiting regional and national business headquarters- it is well known that 82% of the collected tax revenue comes from residential. Only 18% comes from businesses. I would like to see a better mix of residential and commercial tax base. Bringing in the right businesses to Westfield would help solve this issue but would likely bring in higher paying jobs
- Rezoning land for commercial development-Westfield has not adequately zoned enough property for commercial development. Even if regional or national headquarters wanted to relocate to Westfield, they would be hard pressed to find the property to relocate. This needs to be a priority for our new administration.

District 2	
Democrat: No Candidates	Republican: Andrew Bouse - <i>No response received</i> Victor McCarty



Background: I graduated from Huntington University in 2015 as a Digital Communications Major and Sociology Minor. I have been on the Advisory Planning Commission as well as the Board of Zoning since 2020. I have also attended or observed every City Council and APC meeting since 2019, and I have attended regularly since 2016. Also in 2020, because of Westfield's industry being tourism, I received a Hospitality and Tourism Management Certification through

FAU followed by an Indiana Master Planner Certification from Purdue in 2021. Above all, though, what qualifies me to be a city councilor is my ability to listen and my dedication of volunteering for many different organizations within Westfield since being a student at WHS.

Top issues:

Many issues at the city level can be addressed if we RISE together. By building positive Relationships, investing in our aging Infrastructure, supporting our public Safety teams, and providing Engagement opportunities, we can create a welcoming community for all to live, work, and play. I look forward to focusing on improving our corporate tax base, having a proactive vision, and being a positive leader for Westfield.

Islamophobia: I believe that Westfield is a welcoming community to people from all backgrounds, but there is always room for improvement. As not just a potential city councilor, but, as someone who is already actively involved in our community, it is important to lead by example and be accepting of our growing diverse population. Hate of any kind has no place here.

Development: It's not about if Westfield grows but how we grow. There is already enough residential projects approved from before 2020 to potentially increase

our population upwards of 80,000 people. When we update our comprehensive plan, we need to provide a layout of what we want our future to look like. Whether it be new developments, infill projects, or redeveloping existing areas, we must be responsible and good stewards of our growth.

Diversity and Inclusion: I would like to see more individuals involved at all levels in our city. As our neighboring cities have done, two examples I believe would be beneficial for us are an official Disability Council as well as establish an Arts Council. People are not asking to be saved, they are asking to be heard and providing more engagement opportunities can only improve our resident representation.

What are some things Carmel is doing well?

There are many things that we can celebrate such as our schools, but, from a city perspective, we would not be anywhere without our city employees. Whether it be our fire fighters, police officers, public works department, Westfield Welcome, or everyone in between, we are who we are because of them. No matter the available resources, they make the impossible possible and it is always exciting to people from all backgrounds attending Westfield Welcome events. I would also like to thank our various non-profits as they continuously show that we are a community who cares about helping one another.

What are some things Carmel can improve on?

The infighting, grandstanding, and personal vendettas of our elected officials have shown a lack of compassion for our community. Unfortunately, those outside of Westfield have also taken notice which is why there is very little in the pipeline right now. The negativity has hurt many people, and it needs to stop. Instead of dwelling on the past, we have to focus on our future and be proactive. From our roads and creating a walkable community to adding more fire stations and playing catch up to our neighbors, there are many infrastructure and safety improvements needing to be done. We can do better.

Website: <https://www.victormccarty.com/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/McCartyForWestfield>

District 3	
Democrat: No Candidates	Republican: Joe Duepner - <i>No response received</i> Justin Griffiths - <i>No response received</i>

District 4

Democrat: Alexis Lowry

Republican:
Patrick Tamm - *No response received*
Scott Frei (i) - *No response received*



Alexis Lowry
Democrat

Background: I am a small business owner. I am a foster mom. My family has been in Westfield for three generations so I have a unique understanding of where Westfield has been and what it could become in the future if we manage growth the right way. During my campaign, I have met with nearly every single department of Westfield government and spent time learning how all the pieces of government work together to make our city the best that it can be. I have built relationships with community leaders so

that I can hit the ground running when I am elected to City Council.

Top issues:

1. A Vision for Westfield: Making sure that Westfield is a city that has good jobs, plenty of activities for families, and plenty of great outdoor spaces.
2. Economic Development: I will focus on diversifying the tax base by encouraging more commercial development;
3. Infrastructure: Many Westfield citizens are voicing concerns about if infrastructure is keeping pace with the rapid development in Westfield. I am committed to finding ways to accommodate balanced growth while maintaining adequate infrastructure.

Islamophobia: Islamophobia is a concern for Muslims living in ANY city and Westfield is no exception. People from any marginalized population have an added concern for their own well-being anytime they are in public. We need to make sure that ALL children feel safe at school so they can focus on learning. Allies like myself need to be more proactive in standing up for the Muslim community and being an advocate. I can help educate and bring awareness to those who have never learned about the Muslim faith. I will use my position as councilwoman to work with public safety departments and any other departments in Westfield government to teach, educate, and create understanding to make sure Westfield truly feels like a Home Town for All.

Development: In recent years Westfield has been labeled a “no growth” community. The label really only applies to growth in the commercial sector. The tax base in Westfield is currently 90% residential and 10% commercial. I believe Westfield must diversify its 90% residential revenue tax base. Doing so will help lower the tax burden on our families and allow Westfield residents to work and spend money closer to home. Additionally, our current 90% residential tax base is also extremely risky from a funding of city needs perspective. If we don’t focus on making Westfield welcoming to companies who can help us broaden our tax base, we run the very serious risk of not being able to fully fund essential services like our police department, fire department, and public works. The Council’s role going forward should be to create a welcoming environment for commercial development. The City Council needs to find a way to make sure that there is adequate housing for working class families by encouraging development of “starter” homes. I am fully committed to finding smart ways to bring new corporate partners to Westfield and the right kinds of housing to the community.

Diversity and Inclusion: I plan to include our diverse minority populations the same as I include every resident of the city of Westfield. I am always available to listen and learn from those around me. I lead with an open-door policy and everyone will have equal access to me. I plan to make myself available in a public setting on a regular basis. I will be an advocate in supporting anyone, especially those from marginalized populations, to also run for public office. Our local government should reflect our community and it doesn’t even come close. We need to change that.

What are some things Westfield is doing well?

The trail system in Westfield is a true asset to the community as well as the parks, providing many opportunities for all different kinds of recreation. With regard to families, schools are the number one determining factor and Westfield is doing really well attracting families based on the outstanding school system.

What are some things Westfield can improve on?

Helping people of marginalized populations feel just as safe and welcome as everyone else. It will take a proactive mindset, more collaboration and treating each other with the kindness and respect all humans deserve so that we can listen to others who have different life experiences. Different does not equal wrong – differences provide opportunities for everyone to grow and expand their understanding of the world.

Website: <https://www.alexisforwestfield.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AlexisforWestfield/>

Twitter: @Alexis4WF

District 5	
Democrat: No Candidates	Republican: Mike Johns (i) - <i>No response received</i> Noah Herron - <i>No response received</i>

At large - 2 seats	
Democrat: Gary Lane	Republican: Brian Tomamichel Chad Huff - <i>No response received</i> Kurt Wanninger - <i>No response received</i>



Background: I have an accounting and finance degree with a minor in economics from Indiana University Kelley School of Business and a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Indianapolis. I have spent the last 12 years working in school finance and currently serve as the assistant superintendent for business and operations at Westfield Washington Schools. I believe my experience in government accounting and finance would be a valuable asset for as a city councilor. Also, my experience in strategic planning and

communication with on of the fastest growing school districts in Indiana can cross over and help when working with the fastest growing city in Indiana.

Top issues:

- Communication - I believe that we have lost the ability to communicate with those who we disagree with. If elected I look forward to improving communication between the city staff and the council and increase communication between the council and our residents.
- Improving infrastructure - As a growing city we have seen our infrastructure lag behind. Often times we see traffic increase drastically before a road is improved. I feel it is important that we focus some of our resources on ensuring that our infrastructure is staying up with our growth and allowing for safe passage for all.

- **Fiscal Responsibility** - How we manage our budget is important to all residents. It's important to understand that managing a \$100 million city budget is different than managing your budget at home. Investments in public safety and infrastructure matter and need to be done thoughtfully. Attracting new and appropriate commercial development needs to be done to diversify our tax base as well. All decisions have an impact on other taxing units (schools and library) and an impact on homeowners. The council needs someone with a financial background that understands these interactions to help guide the city forward.

Islamophobia: I do not honestly know the answer to this questions, but I would like to learn more. I hope that all individuals feel safe and welcomed in our city regardless of what makes them themselves. I look forward to working with all individuals in our city to ensure that everyone feels welcomed in the place they call home.

Development: I believe Westfield will continue to grow, and I support that. I think it is important that we update the comprehensive plan for the city, with community input, and decide where we would best like to see our future growth. I am a firm believe that in development we can either go after the type of companies we want to see come to Westfield, or we can sit back and get less desirable growth. I also believe that in order to attract the type of commercial development that we want it is important to have sites ready for development. We will continue to lose great companies to our neighboring communities if we do not have sites ready to go.

Diversity and Inclusion: We have multiple boards, committees, and other community groups that individuals can be involved in. I believe it is important that when we are looking for input that we reach outside of our normal circle and look for others who wish to be involved and provide an opportunity for them to have their voice heard in a safe manner. We can not sit back and wait for individuals to come to us as a council, we must make an active effort to reach out to individuals to hear their voice.

What are some things Westfield is doing well?

Westfield is the fastest growing city in the State of Indiana because of our schools, family friendly environments, and because we are a safe place to live. We need to continue to invest in these areas and make sure everyone feels welcomed. Our family loves Westfield and we look forward to calling it home for years to come.

What are some things Westfield can improve on?

- Communication - We have spent the last several years watching our communication amongst individual break down and even become combative. We must learn to again talk to one another and disagree without making someone else feel less of themselves.
- Infrastructure - As the fastest growing city in Indiana we must make sure that we continue to invest heavily in our roads to stay up with our growth. Infrastructure projects can take a long time to complete, so we must make that an action item now.
- Diversifying our Tax Base - Westfield is currently a majority residential community. If we wish to address our infrastructure or increase public safety we must continue to add to our commercial tax base and not just add more housing.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100087409188835>



Background: I have almost 20 years of experience in leadership roles across a variety of large companies and industries. I am a Mechanical Engineer by degree (Rose-Hulman Inst. of Tech) and an MBA (University of Chicago). I have utilized my schooling, along with training and certification in process improvement methodologies, to bring about impactful change in the organizations of which I was a part. I believe it is this background in bringing about positive change coupled with my

direct leadership experience that qualifies me for this position.

Top issues:

- Westfield is in need of a plan to guide growth. We have a "Comprehensive Plan" from 2006 that no longer matches what the city is or where it can go. We need a "North Star" against which to weigh decisions and more importantly to be held accountable to.
- We need more transparency in what decisions are being made; and how they impact us. It's not always easy to parse out what is being developed where, what factors go into the positions of city council members, nor what the decisions ultimately mean in terms of amenities and costs. We need to do a better job of explaining the "why" of things and a better job of seeking out feedback from residents before decisions are finalized.

- We also have to invest in our current needs here and now. Our Fire department is under-resourced regionally and more so locally. Our growth also means that our streets get more use (and get busier). Likewise, all of our public infrastructure is being pressed to where they will not be able to provide the level of service everyone in Westfield deserves unless we are thoughtful about how we invest to keep up.

Islamophobia: Unfortunately, I do feel that Islamophobia is a concern for our Muslim residents. I think it's at least in part why there are so few places of worship throughout Hamilton County. At its worst, I think Islamophobia could literally be physically dangerous for Muslims in personal interactions.

In terms of tracking Islamophobia, I think data from the Police department (both on cases as well feedback) is the best "tracking" tool set we have. I see my role in the tracking of Islamophobic incidents as adding another "input point" to that tool set. By being available to EVERYONE in the community I want to serve, I can offer another opportunity to listen to an individual's story and make sure it's heard. In a topic like this, I'm more concerned with hearing and addressing everyone's truth than making sure we have the most accurate number on a report, until that accurate number is zero.

Development: I am most certain that there needs to be more commercial development in Westfield. Our current 90% residential tax basis puts too much burden on our residents and limits the ability to provide proper amenities and resources to citizens.

The need for residential development is a little more nuanced. Currently, there are approved permits in the pipeline to support another 4 years of residential growth at the pace we've been seeing, so overall the supply seems strong (if not heavy). However, the mixture of that backlog is important and harder to know. My preference would be for it to be made up of a variety of housing offerings that would support and add to the diversity of the community.

Diversity and Inclusion: I feel strongly that the way to involve more folks in the decision making process is through active transparency which also includes education. I don't think it's fair to expect people to know how local government works and assume that public hearings are (or can be) attended by everyone who cares about an issue. I want to explore additional forms of outreach like social media, community "office hours", and issue hotlines that meet people where they are and give them a low-burden way to interact with their local elected representatives (or at least THIS local elected representative).

What are some things Westfield is doing well?

I think Westfield schools are exceptional and well resourced. I think Grand Park is a unique draw for the city that can really be leveraged to benefit the town. I also think that traffic and congestion has been relatively kept in check even with all the rapid growth we've experienced.

What are some things Westfield can improve on?

I think Westfield has an opportunity to increase the attractiveness of our city with responsible development. We could benefit from bringing corporate headquarters to town that bring along great jobs; and increasing the "walkability" of our city with safe trails that can access quality local shops and retail.

Website: <https://www.gary4westfield.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/gary4westfield>

Twitter: @Gary4Westfield

Westfield Mayoral Candidates

Democrat: No Candidates

Republican:

Jake Gilbert - *No response received*
Kristen Burkam - *No response received*
Scott Willis



Scott Willis
Republican

Background: When looking at a candidate for mayor, experience matters. I have the right leadership skills from running my own businesses as well as from 30 years of leading Marines. I've managed large budgets of more than 100 million dollars. I've led groups of more than 1500 men and women. I know what it's like to create a vision and work and inspire large groups of people to accomplish a goal.

I have been ingrained in our city for 19 years. I

have served on the Westfield Public Library board, the Westfield YMCA steering committee, Rotary Club, the President's Council for Purdue University, and numerous Veteran organizations including the VFW, American Legion, and Marine Foundation. From a city's perspective, I have served on the Redevelopment

Authority, Planning Commission, and City Council over the past seven years. This depth of experience I feel gives me the tools to hit the ground running on day one and solve the complex issues our city is facing as Westfield's next mayor. I am committed to making Westfield an even better place to live, work, and raise a family.

Top issues:

1. Expanding and diversifying Westfield's commercial tax base. We have to diversify the city's tax base to keep our taxes low and have the income to keep up with infrastructure and public safety needs that have been strained by the rapid growth over the past decade.
2. Investing in public safety. If you compare Westfield at our current population of 50,000 to our sister cities of Noblesville and Fishers when they were of similar size, you will see just how far behind we are. Fishers had five fire stations, Noblesville had seven fire stations, and Westfield currently has three. In a business where seconds matter, we owe it to our residents to ensure we have the tools and resources available to keep them safe.
3. Creating a community you can live, work, and play in. It starts with a vision of what we want Westfield to be in 20 years. I have a plan that will revitalize downtown, bring more shops and restaurants to our community, and create areas to support Grand Park that will help capture and keep our dollars here in Westfield instead of driving to neighboring communities for shopping and dining.

Islamophobia: I believe it is a concern for Muslims all across the country. I would like to create a diversity council composed of residents in the community that will help the city understand needs and challenges of all demographics and serve as a body to help address the issues identified. This will help to ensure that Westfield is a community where everyone will feel safe and valued.

Gun Safety Policy: Our schools and our children are our most valuable asset. We have to keep them safe. In the city of Westfield we have partnered with the WWS District to fund five school resource officers (RSOs) to support the schools. Two are full time at the high school, one full time at the middle school, one full time at the intermediate school, and the fifth floats around to the elementary schools. This is funded 50/50 between the city and school district. I believe this is a proactive and impactful program that sends a very clear message that we have a police presence in our schools. If I am elected mayor, I will continue to fund this program and look to expand it to have a resource officer in every school like other school districts in Hamilton County.

Affordable Housing: Westfield lacks an inventory of housing options. This includes new and existing home options. In addition, the types of housing options Westfield has traditionally had does not include a price point for what would be

considered entry level. As a result, we are seeing our kids graduate from college and look elsewhere to live when they land their first job. Westfield needs to diversify its housing options and look at the big picture when it comes to the future of our city. We are creating a city that is not just for our current residents, but future ones as well.

Grand Park: At this point it has been decided that Grand Park will not be for sale. The city has narrowed the process down to four bids and none of those bids include selling the park. The public, nor I, have seen the bids...However, looking at the financials of the Park, I believe maintaining ownership of the land and leasing out operations of the Park makes sense.

Getting the government out of the business of running the business of Grand Park should make the Park more profitable and stable long term. But I have maintained all along that until the public knows what the bids are I am unable to determine the best option. I believe data tells a story and we should be thoughtful in looking at all impacts a decision will have on the city's and the park's future.

Should we enter a partnership to operate the park, we have to make sure our youth sports leagues, as well as other entities who routinely have been using the Park, are protected.

Diversity: I would like to create a diversity council composed of residents in the community that will help the city understand the needs and challenges of all demographics. This body will work to provide solutions to help the city address issues identified and ensure that Westfield is a community where everyone will feel valued and welcomed.

Economic Development: Since my first day as a City Councilor, I have been committed to diversifying Westfield's taxbase, identifying new businesses and jobs, being fiscally responsible, and strategically growing the city. The first thing Westfield needs to do is identify what we want our commercial tax base to look like. We need to have a very strategic plan for attracting the right businesses and industries to Westfield. I have a vision for this that includes light industrial manufacturing, small business and corporate office space, and businesses around Grand Park that support the business of sports. However, with this plan, we need to understand where in Westfield companies like this will want to plant their flag and invest in infrastructure that will create shovel-ready developments. We need to partner with companies who are committed to the City of Westfield. And who will be a partner in the idea of our community.

What are some things Westfield is doing well?

Our police department-crime in Westfield, despite the rapid growth, has remained steady and very low. From an officer standpoint, we are close to hitting our target

headcount for population size. We lack only a few officers which I intend to hire. However, we are behind when it comes to technology available for maximizing policing capabilities.

Our schools-they are our greatest asset. Our community feels pride in our schools and makes them a priority in ensuring Westfield kids receive the best education possible.

What are some things Westfield can improve on?

We must diversify our tax base to keep up with growth. With the rapid growth Westfield is experiencing, it has been a huge challenge to keep up with the infrastructure and needs of our community created by this. The first thing Westfield needs to do is identify what we want our commercial tax base to look like. I have a vision for this that includes light industrial manufacturing, small business and corporate office space, and businesses around Grand Park that support the business of sports.

Secondly, we must focus on public safety. When it comes to fire services, Westfield currently has three fire stations. In a business where seconds matter, we owe it to our residents to ensure we have the tools and resources available to keep them safe.

Finally, I believe we need an updated vision of what we want our city to look like in 20 years. Our comprehensive plan has not been overhauled in 15 years and there are areas in our community that are not building out in a way that makes sense long term.

Website: <https://willisforwestfield.com/about>

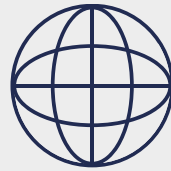
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WillisforWestfield/>

Twitter: [@WillisWestfield](https://twitter.com/WillisWestfield)



Indiana Muslim Advocacy Network urges all Muslim registered voters to vote early or on Tuesday, May 2nd, 2023.

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.



Sign up to receive our newsletter

