



Indiana Muslim
Advocacy Network

2023 General Election: Voter Education Guide - Westfield



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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
- Both the 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 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 Mayor/City Councilor of Westfield?
2. **Agenda:** What are your top 3 agenda items to address in Westfield 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 Westfield? 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. **Growth:** Westfield is one of the fastest growing cities in the country! In your opinion, what are the biggest challenges the city faces as a result of this population growth and what are your plans to address these challenges?



Candidates On Ballot & Responses Received

Westfield Mayoral Candidate

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

Westfield City Council At-Large Candidates

Chad Huff (R)

No response received by deadline.

Gary Lane (D)

No response received by deadline.

Kurt Wanninger (R)

No response received by deadline.

Westfield City Council District Candidates

District 1

Jon Dartt (R)

District 2

Victor McCarty (R)

District 3

Joe Duepner (R)

*No response received by
deadline.*

District 4

Patrick Tamm (R)

*No response received by
deadline.*

Alexis Lowry (D)

District 5

Noah Herron (R)

*No response received by
deadline.*



Jon Dartt

Republican

City Council - District 1

Qualifications:

I believe I am a very qualified candidate for the position of city council because of my extensive business experience. I managed a \$1 billion business with a team of 90 people worldwide. I have 25+ years of experience working with commercial developers, home builders and major retailers like Home Depot, Lowes, Amazon and Walmart. I have built a world class sales organization that focused on teamwork, collaboration and proactive communication. I also have 11 years of experience developing long range plans similar to the comprehensive plan that Westfield has built and will continue to modify.

Agenda:

School safety should be a priority in all schools across the country. While the school violence is minimal in Westfield at this time, we should be proactive in planning efforts. Keep in mind that city council members do not make decisions for school operations and safety, however I would start with non-evasive metal detectors in all schools and more on campus security.

Inclusion:

Westfield needs to be a community where all residents are heard and have a voice. Diversity and inclusion makes us a better place to live. I would recommend a few things to increase the Muslim community involvement. 1) Invite the mayor and city council members to your community meetings as speakers so you can get to know us and we can get to know you. 2) Get on a city council agenda and share what the Muslim community is involved in 3) Volunteer for committees related to city government. There are plenty of opportunities and it seems like we always have the same citizens stepping up. A different perspective/viewpoint would be welcome as far as I am concerned.

Growth:

Infrastructure is critical. The city planners need to stay ahead of the growth as it relates to streets, parks, trails. Police and Fire & Safety. One of the biggest draws to Westfield is that it is a very safe place to live. We need to continue supporting our police and fire and ensure they have the talent and equipment to do their jobs. Schools. The school board has done a great job of staying ahead of the growth. New schools, remodeled schools, early learning centers, sports/activity centers are just a few of the things they are planning well into the next decade.



Victor McCarty

Republican

City Council - District 2

Qualifications:

I know that I am best suited to represent Westfield as a City Councilor because I have put in the work. Running for city council, let alone any public office, takes dedication. This includes dedicating one's time, talent, and treasure. I believe in leading from the front, utilizing our available resources, and listening to those who are closest to the issues at hand because I certainly won't have all the answers. By being on APC/BZA, having my Victor in Westfield FB page, and interacting with our community, I have shown that I am dedicated to the role. My only hope is that we have leaders who prioritize public service instead of self-interest.

Agenda:

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.

School Safety:

Safety for our loved ones is always a concern and should take priority. The shooting in Noblesville in 2018 proved that it can happen anywhere. I believe WWS and WPD are taking steps in the right direction to be one of the safest school systems in the country. These steps have included having multiple school resource officers throughout the district and utilizing schools as mobile command posts for officers on duty to work from. This has allowed the officers to create positive relationships with staff and students.

Inclusion:

As I tell anyone wanting to get involved, the most important part is showing up. Attending meetings is how I got to be where I am today. In addition to our regular meetings, I hope for us to explore expanding our Citizens Academy so that there are more opportunities for our community to learn and get engaged.



Growth:

As previously mentioned, regardless of our growth, our biggest challenges are building positive Relationships, investing in our aging Infrastructure, supporting our public Safety teams, and providing Engagement opportunities. With our population being nearly 60,000, we have been an import of people from all over the country. They bring a new perspective, and I hope to hear from them to help make Westfield better while staying true to our roots. A great opportunity to be involved will be when we update our comprehensive plan so that we have a vision for our future. I also want us to be more proactive with updating our roads and trails. Our country roads were not made to have the amount of traffic that they have, and I want our community to be as safe and accessible as possible.





Alexis Lowry

Democrat

City Council – District 4

Qualifications:

I truly believe I am the best candidate to serve as the next District 4 City Councilor of Westfield. As a mom and the only woman running for this role, I bring a unique perspective and a heartfelt dedication to our city. My lifelong connection to Westfield has given me a deep understanding of our community. As a mother, I share the concerns and aspirations of families in Westfield. I'm passionate about ensuring excellent schools, safe neighborhoods, and a welcoming city for children and moms like me. Since February, I've been working tirelessly, engaging with our residents almost daily. I've listened to your voices, learned about your priorities, and taken your ideas to heart. Active involvement in community groups and activities has kept me connected to our city and its people. This connection empowers me to comprehend the challenges we face and find ways to improve our community. I firmly believe that effective public service involves not just sharing my thoughts but, more importantly, listening to you, the wonderful people who call Westfield home. I pledge to value your input, consider your ideas, and work collaboratively to make our city even better, even if it means changing my initial perspectives. In summary, I am the right choice because I have a lifelong connection to Westfield, a deep caring for families, a genuine desire to engage with you, and a commitment to building a brighter future for our city together.

Agenda:

When I am elected, my three key goals will not only benefit all of us but also support our vital services like fire, police, and public safety.

1. **Quality of Life:** Westfield already boasts fantastic parks and trails, but there's room for improvement. We can make them even better by connecting them more effectively. This encourages a healthier lifestyle for our current residents, ensuring that Westfield remains a wonderful place to live.
2. **Economic Development:** Attracting the right businesses diversifies our tax income, which, in turn, means more funds for crucial services like fire and police. This helps reduce the financial burden on our residents.
3. **Improved Infrastructure:** Fixing our roads and buildings isn't just for accommodating more people; it's also for the well-being of our current residents. Well-maintained infrastructure keeps our community safe and prosperous. As more people move here, we'll be ready to handle growth while taking care of our current residents.

By working on these goals, we will enhance our parks and trails, create a walkable city for residents, and diversify taxes for the benefit of all. This approach prepares us for the future while focusing on the needs of our current community. Together, we will make Westfield even more enjoyable, healthier, and safer for our residents.

School Safety:

I recognize the importance of school safety in Westfield and nationwide. Our lower crime rates, thanks to our dedicated law enforcement led by Chief Joel Rush, have been crucial. I recommend retaining their exceptional service to ensure our safety. My plan for school safety includes:

1. Collaboration with Law Enforcement: We'll work closely with Chief Joel Rush and his team, providing the necessary resources to maintain their excellent work.
2. Enhanced School Safety Measures: We'll ensure schools have locked doors, security cameras, and emergency plans to create a secure environment for students and teachers.
3. Mental Health Support: We'll offer emotional assistance within schools to address students' and teachers' needs, preventing potential issues.
4. Parent Involvement: We'll actively listen to parents' ideas and concerns, valuing their input to enhance school safety.

In summary, school safety is paramount. We'll support law enforcement, improve school safety, offer mental health support, engage parents, and strive to keep Chief Joel Rush and his officers in their essential roles. Together, we'll ensure our schools remain safe.

Inclusion:

It is very important that everyone in our city, including the Muslim community, gets to be part of the decision-making process. I'm running in District 4, where the Muslim community is growing, and I've talked to many of them when I went door to door. Here's how we make sure everyone is involved:

1. Listening and Learning: First, I want to hear what the Muslim community thinks and what they need. Talking to people is a great way to understand their ideas and concerns.
2. Outreach: To increase community engagement, I would love to visit organizations like IMAN and engage in discussions about the role city council plays in a resident's daily life.
3. Including Everyone: It's important that people from EVERY community have a chance to be involved. This way, they can share their ideas and help make decisions.
4. Being Fair and Friendly: My job is to make sure everyone feels welcome and that their voices are heard. I'll work to create a city where everyone has an equal opportunity.

I want to make sure everyone, including the Muslim community, can be a part of making our city better. By listening, helping, including everyone, and being open and transparent, we can build a city where everyone's ideas and voices matter.



Growth:

Westfield's growth brings both excitement and challenges. I understand how important it is to keep our schools top-rated as they're the number one reason people move to our city. While I don't have direct control over our schools, I can influence the quality of our city.

Preserving our hometown feel is a must. We should invest in community events, parks, and essential infrastructure like sidewalks and bike lanes to keep our close-knit spirit alive.

Balanced economic development is also crucial. We want to attract healthcare, tech, and sports businesses that align with our values. I believe creating coworking spaces can boost small businesses and job opportunities, making life easier for our residents.

I'm committed to helping businesses grow and ensuring equitable taxes. Lower taxes can keep our city affordable and welcoming for everyone.

Strengthening our community bonds through commercial development enriches our lives and fosters unity.

Investing in our police, fire, EMT, and public works departments isn't just about responding to emergencies. It's about nurturing a secure and thriving community.

Prioritizing public safety as we grow ensures Westfield remains a place where residents can live, work, and raise their families with peace of mind.

My approach aims to benefit everyone and maintain Westfield's welcoming, safe, and thriving character. Together, we can embrace growth while preserving our unique community and keeping our schools top-rated.





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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