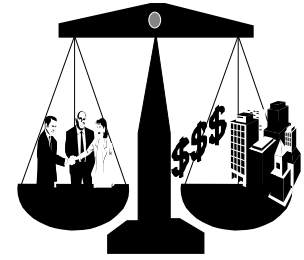


Citizens for Common Sense



April 2014

Seeking government that is responsible and responsive to taxpayers in St. Joseph County, IN

We Have Work to Do!

- 1)** Help prevent Indiana from getting stuck with Common Core. Learn about pros and cons of a Constitutional Convention. Talk about all the issues below and more.

Citizen for Common Sense Annual Meeting

Thurs, May 1, 7-8:30pm

**Mishawaka-Penn-Harris Library
209 Lincoln Way East, Mishawaka, IN**

There will be cookies and beverages, and ample time for your input.

- 2)** Vote in the Primary. Get the right people into state & local offices. There are some key races (see article inside) and a lot you can do to make a big difference.

May 6 – *Your polling place*

Check indianavoters.in.gov or call County Voter Reg. 235-9521

- 3)** Fight the additional Raises for County employees that work for the Prosecutor. These raises were approved over public objections and then the County Commissioners vetoed them. Now it's time to show up at the County Council hearing and prevent an override! (details inside)

&

Put your foot down about leaf pick-up! It has been mishandled too badly too many times. When is the County going to realize it's a waste of money? Speak up at the end of the Council meeting!

St. Joseph County Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 13 at 6pm

**4th floor County-City Building
227 W. Jefferson, South Bend, IN**

Regarding a Constitutional Convention ----

When we see things our federal government is doing that are unconstitutional, we naturally want to change things:

- the President passing executive orders
- the Supreme Court legislating from the bench
- representatives voting for pork
- regulations restricting free enterprise
- laws infringing on personal liberties

What makes little sense, however, is to try to change things by modifying the Constitution. If the problem is that the Constitution is being ignored, what sense does it make to change the Constitution?

To the contrary, we could make matters worse. If we open a Constitutional Convention, even if it is nominally to discuss a single issue, there does not appear to be any limit on what else can be brought up. The last time one was held (1789), the entire Constitution was rewritten!

There are people suggesting this problem could be avoided if the push for the convention came from the States rather than from Congress. Other authors, however, are quick to point out problems with the State-called (Article V) convention as well. Among other things, it is not clear how each state's delegation would be made up or whether they'd have any obligation to represent the people of their state. And the problem remains that once the convention was convened, other issues could still be raised and a runaway convention could still result.

There are many fine articles available online on the pros and cons of one form of Constitutional Convention or another.. Various public activists and elected officials are coming down on both sides. **One thing that is clear is that the safest approach is simply to put pressure on lawmakers to make specific amendments -- which they can do WITHOUT a convention.**

Other issues at the national level ----

Obamacare

The number of people signing up is way low, the amount some are having to pay is much higher than their current insurance, and most of the uninsured are still not covered. Despite some brave conservatives holding out – even to the point of a government shutdown, Congress still has not taken any action to discontinue or streamline it, yet the President has changed it repeatedly – without Constitutional authority. What's it going to take to get rid of it?

Tax Reform

Overhaul the tax code? Flat tax with no deductions? Eliminate income tax, to be replaced by a federal sales tax?

Social Security

Was never set up to gain interest or even cover the total number of retirees. So what next? Phase it out? Set up mandatory IRA's instead? Why not voluntary IRA's?

Want to discuss what we can do next? ----

Citizen for Common Sense Annual Meeting

Thurs, May 1, 7-8:30pm

**Mishawaka-Penn-Harris Library
209 Lincoln Way East, Mishawaka, IN**

There will be cookies and beverages, and ample time for your input.

*If you are not on our e-mail list, you are missing lots of announcements, articles and helpful links. If you don't want to miss out, email citizensforcommonsense@gmail.com and say **SUBSCRIBE**.*

Indiana and Common Core

Common Core is a set of national standards for what should be taught in schools from Kindergarten to 12th grade. The federal government urged states to adopt the standards, threatening to withhold education funds if they did not. Indiana adopted them in 2010. Although the standards have been adopted by 45 states, they've since faced a backlash. Indiana was one of the first to put on the brakes. The main complaints against Common Core are these:

- 1) The standards were put together by a panel of “experts” only a few of which actually had teaching credentials. Those two are now among the strongest opponents of the standards. They were put together quickly and NEVER benchmarked. That means that no one has tested them to see whether they work.
- 2) The math standards suffer from sequence problems. Children are taught some concepts before their developing brains can even comprehend them. They also are taught concepts out of order, before they have received the training in the necessary building blocks.
- 3) The Language Arts (Reading & Writing) standards downplay classical literature and instead have students reading more users manuals and pamphlets. Unfortunately, this means they are reading material that has not withstood peer review and the tests of time.
- 4) Not only are topics specified, but also there is opportunity for the federal government to control the content as well. Whereas one of

the science standards might say “Tie in science with current social issues”, the example might be “Show Al Gore’s movie on manmade climate change.”

- 5) Whoever controls the standards also controls the text books and the tests. When these become federal, a single vendor or testing agency can get a huge contract and become all powerful, not responding to local requests.

*Our Indiana legislature voted in this last session to **drop** Common Core. Unfortunately, just as parents and educators all over the state were feeling a sense of victory, we learned that the committee that is deciding what our new home-grown Indiana standards will be is largely made up of Common Core supporters, and what they have so far produced is basically Common Core under another name.*

Parents and educators who have been following Common Core want to see Indiana replace it with their previous standards which were higher than Common Core. In particular, they would like to see Indiana return to:

- 1) Language Arts from Indiana Standards of 2006
- 2) Math, Science, Social Studies, the Arts, etc. from Indiana Standards of 2009 (prepared right before Common Core was put in place)

Indiana’s Education Standards are being debated NOW. Contact the State Board of Education, your State Reps, and the Governor today!

Contact Sheet: Indiana Education Standards

Indiana State Board of Education Directors

Chair:
Glenda Ritz, Superintendent
State House Room 229
Indianapolis, IN 46204
gritz@doe.in.gov

First Congressional District:
Tony Walker
363 S. Lake Street
Gary, IN 46403
tony@walkerlawgroup.biz

Second Congressional District:
Dr. David Freitas
1700 Mishawaka Avenue
South Bend, IN 46634
drdavidfreitas@comcast.net

Third Congressional District:
Cari Whicker
2465 Waterworks Road
Huntington, IN 46750
cwhicker@hccsc.k12.in.us

Fourth Congressional District:
Sarah O'Brien
5456 East 75 North
Avon, IN 46123
sobrien4cd@yahoo.com

Fifth Congressional District:
Andrea Neal
7034 N. Park Ave
Indianapolis, IN 46220
aneal@inpolicy.org

Sixth Congressional District:
Dr. Brad Oliver
P.O. Box 3158
Muncie, Indiana 47307
brad4education@gmail.com

Seventh Congressional District:
Daniel Elsener
3200 Cold Springs Road
Indianapolis, IN 46222
delsener@marian.edu

Eighth Congressional District:
B.J. Watts
11148 Saint Wendel Rd
Evansville, IN 47720
bj.watts@evsc.k12.in.us

Ninth Congressional District:
Troy Albert
213 N Ferguson Street
Henryville, IN 47126
talbert@wclark.k12.in.us

At-Large:
Gordon Hendry
education@gordonhendry.com

Indiana State Representatives

Indiana Senators -- phone at State House: (800) 382-9467

Joe Zakas s11@ai.org John Broden s10@ai.org Ryan Mishler s09@ai.org
Jim Arnold s08@ai.org Ed Charbonneau s05@ai.org Carlin Yoder s12@ai.org

Indiana House Reps. -- phone at State House: (800) 382-9841

Dale DeVon h05@ai.org B. Patrick Bauer h06@ai.org Dave Niezgodski h07@ai.org
Ryan Dvork h08@ai.org Tim Wesco h21@ai.org Tim Neese h48@ai.org
Wes Culver h49@ai.org

Governor Pence

Governor Mike Pence: (317) 232-4567
Office of the Governor
Statehouse
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2797

To send an email, go to the governor's website:
<http://www.in.gov/gov/2333.htm> then select "To
contact the governor with questions or
comments unrelated to the above, click here."

Why the May 6 Primary Matters to You

If you are interested in putting true conservatives in office who will be responsible with your tax dollars and respect your Constitutionally protected rights, you will want to vote in the May 8 Republican primary.

- 1) *There are candidates, some even outside of St. Joe County who really deserve your help.*

*At the state level, be advised that just over the line in Elkhart County, Tim Neese is not running for re-election as State Rep. There are 3 Republicans running for the seat and no Democrats, so this one will be decided in the May 6 primary. Of the 3 Republicans, one we know to be a true conservative is Citizens for Common Sense's own **Jesse Bohannon** for State Rep District 48. One county to the south, our frequent compatriot **Curt Nisly** is running for State Rep District 22. Both of these guys could use your help with signs, door-to-door and donations.*

- 2) *The polls in St. Joe County are still short of workers.*

*You spend a very full day (6am – 6pm) being a part of something that really matters, and you even get paid. Must attend a short training session. All those interested, Republican or Dem, should **call Voter Registration at 574-235-9520***

- 3) *Here are some races on the St. Joe County ballot to pay attention to:*

***Roy Saenz** has just filed against B. Patrick Bauer, a State Rep who has been part of the St. Joe County entrenched political machine for decades.*

***Tim Wesco** who has been legislating responsive and responsible state government for the two years he has been a State Rep will be facing a challenger in the fall.*

***Jeffrey Sanford** has filed for Prosecutor, an office that under Mike Dvorak has one of the poorest conviction rates in the state and keeps filing for special spending requests for his office.*

***Gerard Arthus**, one of our Common Sense activists, has filed for Auditor where he wants to bring technology up to date and do away with any funds tucked away in nontransparent places.*

***Jamie O'Brien**, longtime Common Sense supporter, is running for re-election to Council after voting consistently for cost-saving measures.*

***Dennis Jordan**, whose pledge to cut spending and improve transparency nearly won 4 years ago, is looking to take the Council seat now held by Corey Noland who keeps voting to spend.*

***Terry Demaegd** and **David Giles** are conservatives newly running for County Council.*

All of these people could use our help with yard signs, door to door and donations. Please help!

Contact a Candidate before May 6 and Make a Difference!

Two Reasons to Attend the May 13 County Council Meeting

1) **Additional Raises for 20 Employees.** The County Council voted on April 8 to give additional raises to 20 employees in the Prosecutor's Office. This made no sense because:

- * All county employees already got a 2% raise this year.
- * These additional prosecutor raises were dropped last fall in order to get a bipartisan budget for 2014. Four months into 2014, they're being brought up again.
- * The county just had an unexpectedly rough winter which ran up costs for snowplows, salt, and now pothole repair. Do you want the county to spend money on fixing potholes or additional raises?
- * The county has borrowed \$5 million from its CREDIT fund. Should people get additional raises when the county needs to pay back \$5 million?
- * Two council members who are up for re-election voted YES to these raises, namely Corey Noland & Diana Hess. So did Mike Hamaan who's running for Auditor.
- * The Republican-controlled Board of County Commissioners just VETOED the raises. Now the Council may try to override the veto on May 13. An override requires 6 votes. The three Republicans have consistently voted NO. Will all 6 Democrats vote YES?
- * Council member Bob McCahill, also running for re-election, was not present for the April vote. Will he give the Council their 6th vote FOR the raises on May 13?
- * Don't you want to see all these people vote NO to additional raises in favor of maintaining our reserves and fixing our potholes? Contact them (see below)!

2) **Leaf Pick-up.** The County Council also has a "Privilege of the Floor" time at the end of the meeting where any taxpayer can get up and speak on issues not covered during the meeting. Can we please keep hammering them on Leaf Pick-up?

- * Over and over, the County has tried Leaf Pick-up with disastrous results.
- * The leaves don't get picked up, they ruin people's grass, they get out in the road, they get wet and freeze ruining the asphalt, and they look horrible.
- * Almost no one even bids on this because everyone is figuring out that it can't be done.
- * The contract this time paid them by the mile so, of course, they did all the remote outlying areas first, where they got the most money for the least leaves, and left heavily populated areas like parts of Granger, South Bend and Mishawaka, 'til last.
- * Wouldn't it be better to stop wasting this money and instead cut taxes – like the LOIT or CREDIT Option taxes? Let us do our own contracting to get rid of our leaves! And get rid of the burn ban!

***Please come out to the Tues, May 13 County Council meeting at 6pm.
If you can't make it, please contact the County Council members:***

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY COUNCIL

Mike Hamann
2658 Tomahawk Tr.
S.B., IN 46628
315-9873
mhamann@co.st-joseph.in.us

Rafael Morton
325 N Studebaker
S.B., IN 46628
232-7190
rmorton@co.st-joseph.in.us

Mark Catanzarite
2022 Oak Park Dr.
S.B., IN 46617
232-9112
mcatanzarite@co.st-joseph.in.us

Corey Noland
19024 Glendale Ave.
S.B., IN 46637
273-0603
cnolan@co.st-joseph.in.us

Diana Hess
1301 Norwich Ct.
S.B., IN 46614
267-3931
dhess@co.st-joseph.in.us

Robert McCahill
749 S. 34th St.
S.B., IN 46615
289-8909
rmccahill@co.st-joseph.in.us

Jamie O'Brien
15822 Cedar Ridge Ct.
Granger, IN 46530
247-0070
jobrien@co.st-joseph.in.us

Dan Herbster
60149 Main St.
South Bend, IN 46614
520-7254
dherbster@co.st-joseph.in.us

Mark Root
10737 Chelsea Dr.
Osceola, IN 46561
674-9125
mroot@co.st-joseph.in.us