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Election Overview

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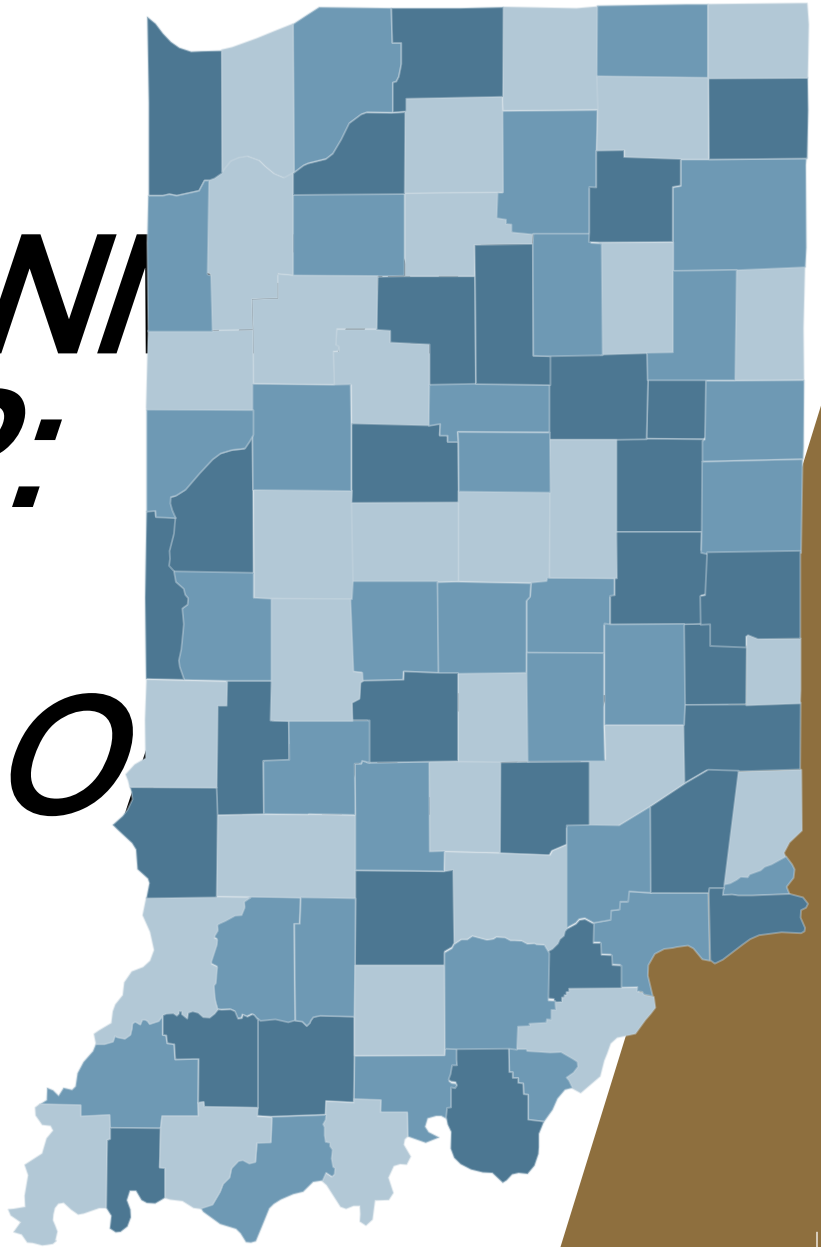
In this Section

- Requirements to hold a local office

- Filing Procedures

- Financial responsibilities

- Disclaimers and managing conflicts of interest

- Resources

- Offices up for election

Indiana Election Division

County Clerk

Election Board

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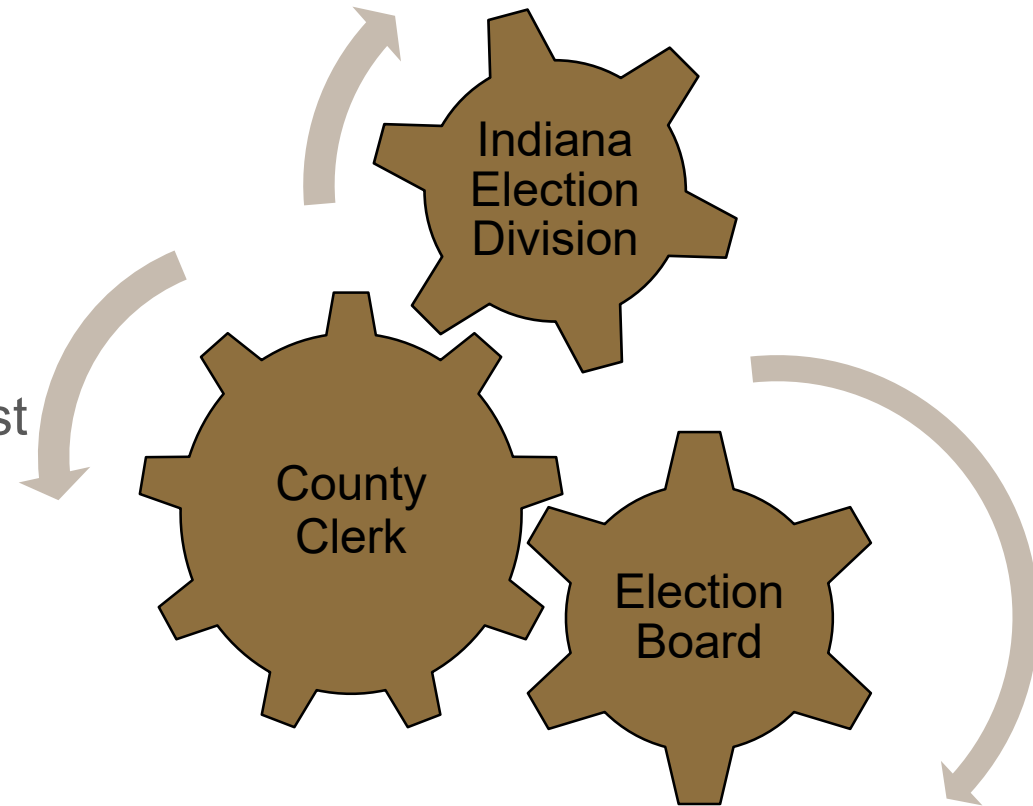
Requirements

- Registered Voter in election district the person seeks to represent

- Special requirements for some positions (i.e. Assessor – certified as Level 2 Assessor-Appraiser)

- Obtain a surety bond before officer's term

- Must take an oath before assuming duties

- Cannot hold "two lucrative offices" at the same time

- No felony convictions under IC 5-8-3, IC 5-8-2-1, IC 5-8-1-38, IC 35-50-2-7 or IC 35-38-1-1.5

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Candidate Filings for Primary

- Must belong to Democratic or Republican Party

- Must file a (CFA-1) Candidate's Statement of Organization and Designation of Principal Committee or Exploratory Committee.

- File Declaration of Candidacy (CAN-42 or CAN-2)

- File State of Economic Interests (CAN-12)

Most deadlines end at NOON (12 pm) local prevailing time.

*** The Clerk's office has new candidate packets

The Election Calendar and forms can be found on the Indiana Secretary of State: Election Division website:

www.in.gov/sos/elections

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Candidate's Statement of Organization (CFA-1)

- Every candidate for nomination or election to an office, for which the compensation is at least $5,000 per year, must have a principal political committee.

- Must have a Chair and Treasurer

  – Chair may have multiple committees, but treasurer cannot hold chair on another committee; candidate may be chair and treasurer

- Due no later than 10 days after becoming a candidate OR noon seven days after deadline to file, whichever comes first.

- For campaign finance purposes, an individual becomes a candidate when $100 is received or spent.

- CFA-1 Exceptions (receipts/expenditures less than $500)

  – Local Office: Compensation less than $5,000

  – School Board

Financial Responsibilities

- Register with the IRS at irs.gov as a political organization

- Obtain an EIN (Employer Identification Number) however, most candidates use their own social security number

- Set up a separate checking account   for your political committee using the new EIN

Disclaimers and Managing Conflicts of Interest

Any communication that advocates for your candidacy must have a disclaimer!

Where to File

Local offices including those in municipalities, townships, and counties and schools file with the County Election Board through the Montgomery County Clerk's office.

LOCAL OFFICE
- Leah Denbo, Elections
- Karyn Douglas, Clerk
- Montgomery County Courthouse
- 101 E Main St Rm 203
- 765-364-6437
- leah.denbo@montgomerycounty.in.gov
- karyn.douglas@montgomerycounty.in.gov

Federal and state offices, judges and prosecutors file with the Indiana Election Division.

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Offices up for Election in Montgomery County 2022

FEDERAL OFFICES:
US Senator
US Representative, District 4

STATE LEGISLATIVE OFFICES:
Senator, District 7
Senator, District 23
Representative, District 13
Representative, District 28
Representative, District 41
Representative, District 44
Secretary of State (General Only)
Auditor of State (General Only)
Treasurer of State (General Only)

STATE JUDICIAL OFFICES:
Judge, Circuit Court
County Prosecutor

MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFICES:
Auditor
Treasurer
Sheriff
Assessor
Commissioner, District 2
County Council Districts 1-4
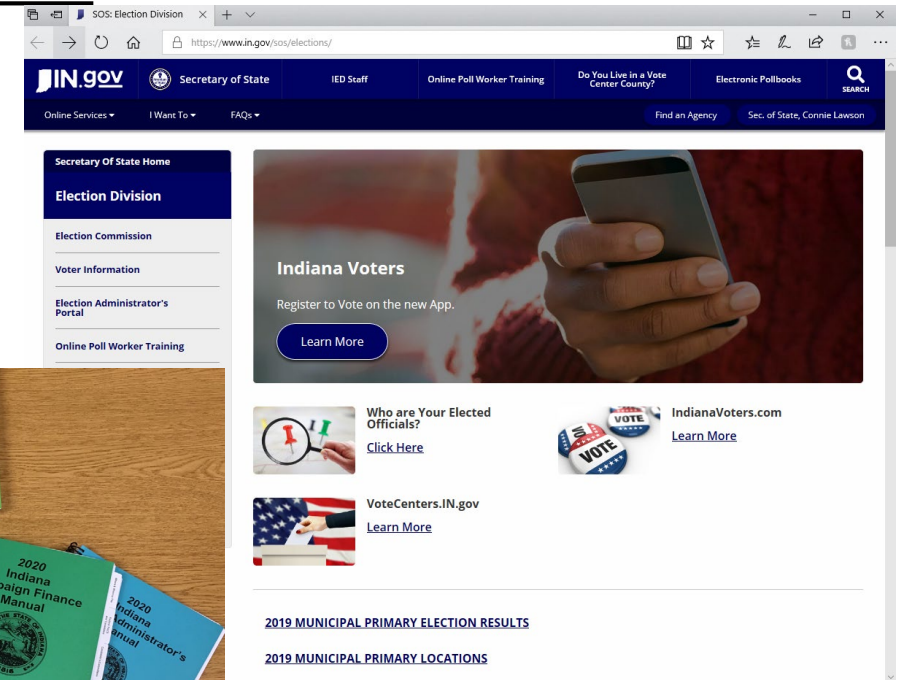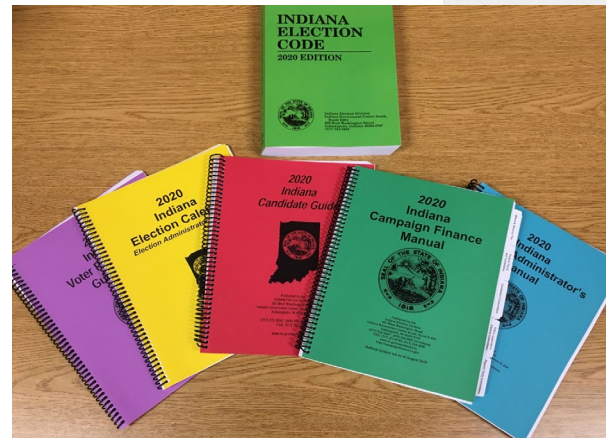
Township Offices:
All Township Trustee
All Township Trustee Board

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More Information

Indiana Election Division
www.in.gov/sos/elections

- Election Calendar Brochure

- Candidate Guide

- Campaign Finance Manual

- Candidate School Webinar

- Candidate Forms

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ANY QUESTIONS ???

Leah Denbo – Election Coordinator- 765-364-6437
leah.denbo@montgomerycounty.in.gov

Karyn Douglas – County Clerk – 765-364-6434
karyn.douglas@montgomerycounty.in.gov

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Running for Office Panel

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- Todd Barton, Crawfordsville Mayor

- Aaron Morgan, Former County Council President

- Virginia Servies, Democrat Party Chair

- Mike Reidy, Crawfordsville Council Member

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Campaign Ethics

Why are campaign ethics important?

Your public servant relationship with your constituents starts on the campaign trail.

It can be particularly tempting to justify a means to an end within the competitive environment of campaigning.

Unethical campaigning undermines the election process and people's trust in government.

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What are campaign ethics ?

Campaign ethics are more than just following campaign and election laws.

- Check out the Election Division resources and consult an attorney.

Campaign ethics are about upholding a fair and democratic election process and fostering integrity and trust between the community and government.

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Where Ethical Issues Arise on the Campaign Trail

- Campaign Communications

- Campaign Promises

- Campaign Finance

Common Ethical Issues: Campaign Communications

Be truthful
- Avoid deceptive messaging about yourself or your opponent.
- Vet your facts and make sure you have a firm understanding of the issues

Keep things relevant
- Focus on issues pertaining to the elected position
- Avoid name-calling, innuendo or stereotyping
- Focus on differentiating yourself from your opponent through clear policies and positions

Honor a fair process
- Be willing to debate
- Be available to the press
- Engage with voters
- Give your opponent an opportunity to respond
- Avoid whisper-campaigning

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Common Ethical Issues: Campaign Promises

Be realistic
- Don't overpromise
- Promises should be within the purview of the office you are seeking

Be transparent
- Voters should know to whom and to what you have committed.
- Promises should not differ based on the recipient.

Don't make a promise unless you intend to work towards fulfilling it.

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Common Ethical Issues: Campaign Finance

Maintain independence from donors
- Manage expectations

Follow the laws and then some
- Disclose donor information
- Do NOT use public resources for campaigning
- Avoid conflicts of interest
- File reports in a timely manner

Be a good steward

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Common Ethical Issues: Campaign Finance

Case Study:

You are an incumbent county commissioner seeking reelection. You have a group of friends who spend an annual boating weekend at the home of one of the members of the group. The host, a successful commercial building contractor, is very generous and pays for everything associated with the weekend. This, year, your host is additionally going to hold a fundraiser for your county commissioner reelection campaign during the boating weekend. He tells you that he is going to induce others to make a significant donation to your campaign at the event. Six weeks before the event, you and the host are discussing the fundraiser invitation list, when your friend casually mentions that he plans to bid on a significant county contract.

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Creating a Culture of Ethical Campaigning

Develop a Campaign Code of Conduct
- Do not tolerate unethical behavior from staff or volunteers
- Ask committee members to hold you accountable

Limit the number of spokespeople
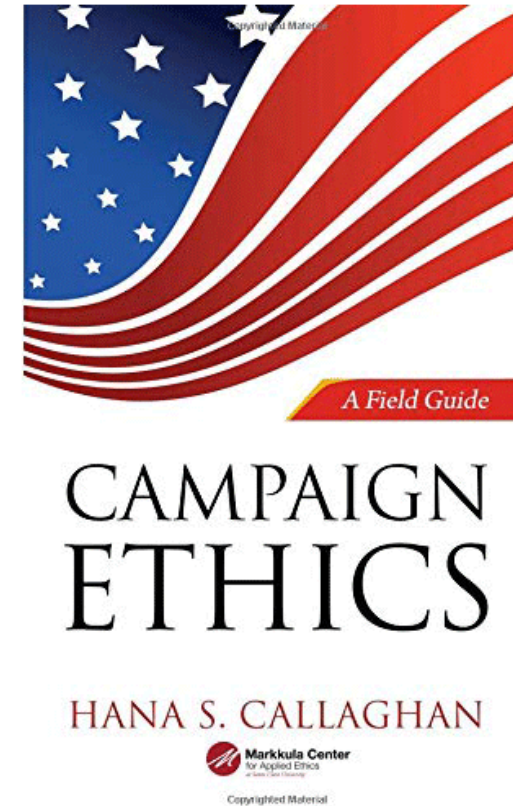- Consider access to social media accounts as well.

Communicate your commitment to ethics

Renounce unethical attacks sponsored by others on your behalf

Additional Resources

Election Division Website
www.in.gov/sos/elections

Campaign Ethics: A Field Guide
Markkula Center for Applied Ethics
Santa Clara University

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QUESTIONS?

Scan for Government Directory

League of Women Voters
lwvmontcoin.org
Facebook: @LWVMoCoIn

Montgomery County Republican Party
Facebook: @MontgomeryCountyIndianaRepublicanParty

Montgomery County Democrat Party
Facebook: @MoCoINDems

Purdue Extension Montgomery County
Extension.purdue.edu/montgomery
Facebook: @PurdueExtensionMontCo

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