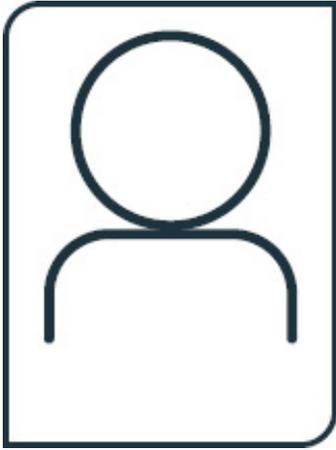




E-REP 2022
CANDIDATE
QUESTIONNAIRE
STATE
LEGISLATOR



**Wendy “Mac”
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QUESTION 1:

The I-69 Bridge construction is underway. As the single largest highway infrastructure project in our region's history, what are your thoughts on strategies to complete the construction sooner and to ensure that our region is prepared to take advantage of the opportunities that this new interstate corridor offers the Evansville Region?

ANSWER 1:

As an original advocate for I-69 and a new bridge over the Ohio, I have been able to see the caveats, pitfalls and wins of this project. The advocacy by local groups has been an integral part of the success. That will need to continue. Leave the gas tax alone. The plan for our states infrastructure relies on that tax. It is important to note that anyone who buys gas traveling in or through our state helps in this effort. Completing it sooner might be a challenge due to supply costs and limits.

QUESTION 2:

The state of Indiana continues to bring in record revenues - well above projections. What are your priorities for investing these dollars to help grow Indiana's population, our overall workforce, and specifically our Evansville Region?

ANSWER 2:

There has been much discussion over what to do with the record revenues. One area we must focus on as a state is healthcare. Investment in access to mental health resources and overall general healthcare are critical for a strong workforce. A priority I would like to see is an investment in attracting a workforce as much as we attract the workplace. Create Indiana as a destination for workers of all varieties. Lastly, much discussion has taken place in doing a 3.0 Grant cycle (READI).

QUESTION 3:

The Indiana Higher Education Commission recently shared data about the significant drop in High School graduates pursuing college, technical programs, or higher education of any sort. Increased High School graduation rates and post-secondary credentials are regional goals. If you could rewrite the education and workforce programs and processes, what changes would you make or what would you keep to work toward this goal?

ANSWER 3:

This is my 28th year in education. I think investment in programs, like EVSC Early College, are critical to building the desired workforce for this area. More need to follow the example of the Evansville Bar Association (EBA). EBA needs paralegals. They are sponsoring students to get the certification to fill that need. Companies/Business in the area that need welders, cyber security, etc. can and should do the same. Sponsor a student to finish his/her degree while still in high school.

QUESTION 4:

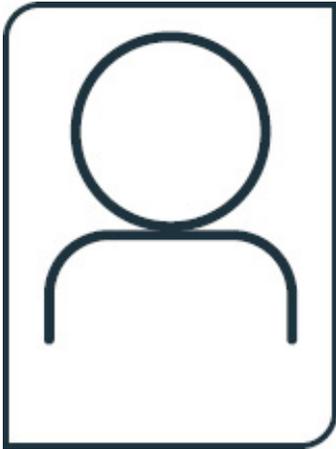
What is the main issue you plan to champion in the upcoming legislative session?

ANSWER 4:

This past session I accomplished the goal of reforming the juvenile justice system. I plan to have several bills that seek to further protect our law enforcement officers. I am working with the Chief Justice, State Police and EPD to create a data system for officers to be able to communicate from county to county. I am working with the IN Truckers Association to create a curriculum for identifying human trafficking victims and recognizing and reporting human traffickers.



E-REP 2022
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QUESTION 1:

The I-69 Bridge construction is underway. As the single largest highway infrastructure project in our region's history, what are your thoughts on strategies to complete the construction sooner and to ensure that our region is prepared to take advantage of the opportunities that this new interstate corridor offers the Evansville Region?

ANSWER 1:

To facilitate the I-69 bridge project and avoid delays there should be a team overseeing and communicating with all parties to trouble-shoot and anticipate problems before they occur. The state legislature might speed the project up by investing more money sooner, but the pace may be set by Kentucky, which was slower to find funding. Evansville will need to market itself and continue to work on quality of life to take full advantage of the opportunities afforded by the project.

QUESTION 2:

The state of Indiana continues to bring in record revenues - well above projections. What are your priorities for investing these dollars to help grow Indiana's population, our overall workforce, and specifically our Evansville Region?

ANSWER 2:

- Education.
- Early childhood education and childcare.
- Support for technology adoption to equip our workers to be more competitive.
- Substance abuse treatment and harm reduction.
- Public health.
- Government agencies (so that agencies can do the work we assign to them efficiently and promptly, whether it is protecting children or the environment or resolving tax disputes).

QUESTION 3:

The Indiana Higher Education Commission recently shared data about the significant drop in High School graduates pursuing college, technical programs, or higher education of any sort. Increased High School graduation rates and post-secondary credentials are regional goals. If you could rewrite the education and workforce programs and processes, what changes would you make or what would you keep to work toward this goal?

ANSWER 3:

- Offer more academic and vocational counseling and school/work opportunities to help students see the relevance of education to their future lives.
- Offer more adult education opportunities for students who are ready to learn after leaving school.
- Enroll students who receive free or reduced price lunch in 21st Century Scholars program.
- Offer generous income-based repayment plans to students who study for careers in essential occupations.

QUESTION 4:

What is the main issue you plan to champion in the upcoming legislative session?

ANSWER 4:

I plan to champion women's issues in the coming session. Indiana will lag behind other states if it denies women access to reproductive health care and fails to invest in the child care resources needed so that parents can participate in our economy.



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QUESTION 1:

The I-69 Bridge construction is underway. As the single largest highway infrastructure project in our region's history, what are your thoughts on strategies to complete the construction sooner and to ensure that our region is prepared to take advantage of the opportunities that this new interstate corridor offers the Evansville Region?

ANSWER 1:

For I-69 ORX, opportunities to accelerate the timeline, identify/mitigate savings/risk of delays, is best achieved by project Red Teaming, ie a contracted party rigorously challenges plans, systems, etc, via rigorous methods/practices developed by DoD, IBM, etc, led by an experienced RT leader. Taking advantage of ORX means building "strategy" today: begin with ORX's 2045 value proposition; develop an empirical vision; factor: distributed production (eg market access), autonomous systems, etc.

QUESTION 2:

The state of Indiana continues to bring in record revenues - well above projections. What are your priorities for investing these dollars to help grow Indiana's population, our overall workforce, and specifically our Evansville Region?

ANSWER 2:

Per CICP's Indiana GPS report, Indiana is falling behind exponentially. Indiana was slightly above ave. in 2007, but fell 40% below the nat. ave. in critical adv. industry change in output as of 2019. This translates to Indiana's \$298,300 real output per worker vs the nat. ave. of \$375,000 per worker; explaining shrinking Hoosier margins and wage growth ranking 46th. To turn this around, the state must invest in local P3s to institutionalize cluster-based tech adoption & upskilling resources.

QUESTION 3:

The Indiana Higher Education Commission recently shared data about the significant drop in High School graduates pursuing college, technical programs, or higher education of any sort. Increased High School graduation rates and post-secondary credentials are regional goals. If you could rewrite the education and workforce programs and processes, what changes would you make or what would you keep to work toward this goal?

ANSWER 3:

Education and workforce programs and processes must be driven regionally to be relevant and valuable to all stakeholders. The decline cited correlates with the yearly increase of central planning from the Statehouse. We need (1) local accountability informed by regional (beyond E-REP) industry-driven comprehensive growth strategy/milestones, (2) single point of contact for cluster-based program and curriculum collaboration, and (3) align state agency organization with specific economic regions.

QUESTION 4:

What is the main issue you plan to champion in the upcoming legislative session?

ANSWER 4:

Current Indiana Code failed to realize the intended economic development model. Amending code should start with: (1) (IC 5-28-6-1-1-A) Replace "Identification" with "Establishment", ie "Establishment of specific economic regions..." 5 regions is optimum. (2) Establish Councils of Governments, congruent to the regions, to align and improve efficiency of gov (including school corps), planning, etc, across regional jurisdictions. (3) Align state resources (e.g. workforce) with economic regions.