



Please publish my contact information below so that voters know where to go to get more information:

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1. Eighth-generation Hoosier

Graduate of Georgetown University (B.S. Finance, 1987) and the Indiana University School of Law (J.D.1989).

Attorney in private practice and owner of a title insurance agency.

Co-owner of the family farm.

Hospital Board member for 15 years, most of which as Chairman of the Board.

Member, Indiana House of Representatives (2002-present), presently serving in House Leadership as Assistant Republican Caucus Chairman, Chairman of the House Committee on Utilities, Energy & Telecommunications, and member of the House Judiciary, Rules, and Ethics Committees.

Married to Connie, a second grade teacher, and father of three sons.

My legislative work has been recognized by organizations including: the Indiana Rural Health Association, the Indiana Volunteer Firefighters Association, the Southern

Indiana Drug Task Force, the Indiana Pro Bono Commission (the Randall T. Shepard Award), the National Association of Retired Federal Employees, the Southern Indiana Center for Independent Living, the Tax Foundation (for Outstanding Achievement in State Tax Reform), the Bloomington Area Chamber of Commerce, the Indiana Speech – Language – Hearing Association, the Indiana Judges Association, and others.

I have been endorsed in this election by organizations including the Fraternal Order of Police, the Indiana State Police Alliance PAC, the Indiana Professional Firefighters Union, the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, the Indiana Manufacturers Association, the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) and the Indiana Farm Bureau ELECT-PAC.

2. My top priority is to continue to be an effective, conscientious, and responsive legislator for my constituents. This includes having a personal understanding of the unique nature of each county and community in the district. Each community has its own unique assets and challenges; Brown County especially so.

The role of a state legislator is also that of an advocate, troubleshooter, and problem-solver for individual constituents and communities.

I also maintain close working relationships with local elected officials and school leaders, and have assisted them with many issues specific to Brown County.

We must also continue the policies that have put Indiana at the top in the Midwest and nationally, including:

- In July, CNBC's 2016 report card on "America's Top States for Doing Business" ranked Indiana #1 in the nation for lowest cost of doing business and #1 in the nation for infrastructure.
- Indiana is in the top 10 states for doing business according to, Chief Executive magazine, Forbes, Area Development magazine, Site Selection magazine and national consulting firm Pollina Corporate Real Estate.
- Chief Executive magazine also ranked Indiana #4 in workforce quality, #10 in taxation/regulation, and #17 in living environment.
- The nonpartisan Tax Foundation ranks Indiana's business tax climate #1 in the Midwest and #8 in the United States.

- Our commitment to free market principles has also contributed to our state's national pro-jobs reputation. The Cato Institute recently ranked Indiana the 4th freest state in the United States, including a #2 ranking for regulatory freedom.
- Indiana is one of only 10 states with triple-A credit ratings from all three major rating agencies (S&P, Moody's and Fitch). This accomplishment saves Hoosier taxpayers money by lowering interest rates for state government.

The 2017 Session will be a budget year, where my priorities will include ensuring adequate funding for K-12 education, a long-term infrastructure plan that includes local needs, adequate funding for public safety requirements, and addressing the impact of large amounts of public and tax-exempt land on the local tax base.

3. Indiana's system has worked well. Our redistricting process in 2011 was done with bipartisan support and without any legal challenges.

4. I am the husband, son, and grandson of public school teachers, and my 3rd Great Grandfather founded one of the first public schools in the State of Indiana.

Brown County schools are among the finest in the state and I have been pleased to officially recognize their academic achievements on many occasions. I also maintain a real-time dialogue during the legislative session with local school leaders.

The current budget appropriates more money to K-12 public education than ever before and it is 52% of the state budget. During my tenure in the General Assembly, state tuition support funding per student for Brown County has gone from \$5,432 (vs. a statewide average of \$5,614) in 2002 to \$7,057 (vs. a statewide average of \$6,528) estimated for 2017. The biggest funding challenge facing rural schools is declining enrollment.

The original intent of the voucher program was to give low-income students an alternative when their needs were not able to be met in the public school system. There have since been efforts to expand the universe of eligible students. The impact of the voucher program on public schools is less than it would appear because the money following a voucher student is less than the amount of the tuition support that would go to the home public school. In FY 2015, 33 of the 29,000 total voucher

students in Indiana were from Brown County. It is my understanding that this number is now approximately 25. Children living within other school district boundaries who receive a voucher actually have a positive impact on Brown County funding in that a voucher student costs the state either 90% or 50% of the amount that would otherwise go to the home public school, which leaves more money in the fund and drives up per-student funding for all other schools. This is illustrated by the fact that in FY 2015 voucher students accounted for 2.9% of the students statewide, but only 1.7% of the funding.

Nonetheless, we need to carefully monitor the ongoing impact of vouchers on Indiana's public schools and give our public schools more freedom and flexibility to be innovative in the way voucher schools are able to be so that there can be a level playing field. Now is a good time to take a data-driven look at the program. Toward that end, I have drafted legislation that would require the Indiana Department of Education to report where the vouchers are being used to the student's home public school corporation. This will provide important and useful information to the home school corporation to better understand why the voucher option is being chosen and was based on a suggestion made by Brown County Schools Superintendent Dr. Laura Hammack.

5. Through the passage of HEA 1001 and SEA 67, the General Assembly has provided \$1 billion in new state and local road and bridge funding over the next two years with no state tax increases or debt. Brown County local units of government recently received distributions of over \$1,000,000.00. As these bills progressed through the Legislature, I maintained real-time communication with Brown County's local elected officials and Highway Department Superintendent to ensure that Brown County's unique needs were considered. As an example, half of the matching grant funds were reserved for counties with populations of fewer than 50,000. An interim study committee will report back to the Legislature next year with respect to long-term funding solutions.

I have also been working for the past several years on water and wastewater infrastructure issues. The EPA has estimated that over the next 20 years the cost of our state's water and wastewater infrastructure improvements will be \$14 billion. In some parts of the state, we have water lines over 100 years old and line loss of 25 percent. We have been proactive in data collection and are a national leader in water policy.

6. The DNR general fund appropriation actually increased from \$41.6 million in FY 2015 to \$44.2 million in FY 2016.

Paid for and authorized by Eric Koch for State Senate.