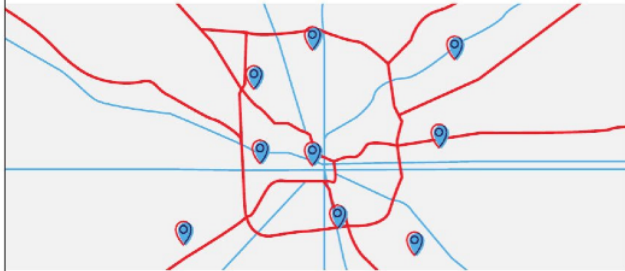


# VOTING EARLY, INDY?

2022



**VOTE AT ONE OF NINE LOCATIONS**  
Find out where, when, and how.

[vote.indy.gov](http://vote.indy.gov)

This message paid for by the Marion County Election Board.



## UNIGOV: THE INTENDED AND UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES 1970 - PRESENT

What is Unigov and how did it change our city?

**Moderator Abdul-Hakim Shabazz**

**Guest panelists:**

**Billie Breaux**, Former State Senator and IPS Teacher

**Ned Lamkin**, Former State Representative

**John Mutz**, Former State Senator and Lt. Governor

**Vop Osili**, President, City-County Council

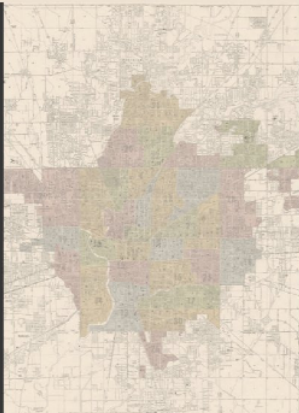
**Fay Williams**, Attorney and Civil Rights Activist

**Register**

<https://www.stlukesumc.com/page/1140?EventOccurrenceId=892>

**Contact**

[IRC@stlukesumc.com](mailto:IRC@stlukesumc.com)



**MAY 15, 2022**

4:00 - 5:30 pm

St. Luke's UMC, 100 West 86th St  
(in-person and online)

Presented by the Indiana Remembrance Coalition, in partnership with St. Luke's United Methodist Church and the Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library.



# QA

## Villages CEO on new challenges finding foster parents

Shannon Schumacher became president and CEO of The Villages of Indiana in April 2021, taking over for longtime leader Sharon Pierce, who retired after nearly 30 years.

This is a particularly challenging time for the statewide not-for-profit, which helps place children with foster-care families and provides a wide gamut of services to help support vulnerable parents and children, facilitate adoptions and prevent child abuse.

The Villages placed 321 children with foster families in 2021, but the need was much greater.

### How great is the need for foster parents statewide?

We take referrals from the Department of Child Services, so we get a call or an email that says, "We have a child that we need to get placed in foster care right away; can you help us?" And last year, we had 5,000 referrals that we could not place in foster care, because we simply did not have enough foster parents.

### Is that an unusual number? Has the need been getting greater?

We're seeing a lot of things get worse. One of the pieces to it is COVID. Families are more reluctant to become a foster parent because of COVID, especially if they already have children and they know how difficult it is if they have to

do homeschooling and all the stress of, "Can they go into work? Can they work from home?" All of that stress has caused families to think twice about becoming foster parents or caused them to retire from being a foster parent.

Another struggle is that we're seeing a lot more older children come into the system, and foster parents sometimes aren't as open to teenagers, to take teenagers into their homes.

The other thing that we're seeing is, the opioid crisis is not relenting. Sixty-two percent of the children that are in foster care are negatively affected by parental substance use disorder. Children are being removed from parents who are in the throes of their substance use disorder. We don't talk about it as much anymore, but it's still a major, major issue in our communities.

### So, to make all this work, you need families. How do you find them?

We do outreach and marketing, and we have lots of information sessions. There are a lot of myths out there for people who may be considering fostering. One is that you have to be married. About 28% of our families are single people. And you can rent your home; you don't have to own it. You do have to be at least 21.

We license the families, so there's training. We have 20 hours of pre-foster-care training that they go through that focuses on the trauma the children are experiencing and just the Department of Child Services process.

### What has surprised you in your first year on the job?

I have to say, I've never been a foster parent. I have some family members who have fostered children. But there is no profile of the perfect foster parent. We have people who have been in foster care themselves at one point. We have same-sex couples that are amazing foster parents. We have very religious people who are foster parents. It just runs the gamut. And so, I think it surprised me, just the variety of foster parents. But the link that connects them all is just their love and compassion and willingness to open their hearts and homes to children.

—Mason King

## Shannon Schumacher

President and CEO of The Villages of Indiana



(IBJ photo/ Eric Learned)

Classifieds .....	26A	List: Banks and thrifts .....	20A
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Economy .....	16A	Opinion .....	14A
Focus .....	17A	People .....	6A
In the Workplace .....	8A	Statewide Roundup .....	12A
Personal finance .....	7A	Stocks .....	23A

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# Primary Election Day: May 3, 2022



Campaign signs crowd space outside the City-County Building. (IBJ photo/Eric Learned)

## Clerk's race could carry consequences for Democrats

Marion County party likely to see changes

By Leslie Bonilla Muñiz  
lbonilla@ibj.com

For years, the Marion County Democratic Party has been dogged by accusations of unfair pre-primary election endorsements and internal selection processes, and for years, it's defended itself.

The fight among local Democrats has come to a head in the contentious race for county clerk, pitting county recorder and party chair Kate Sweeney Bell against former state senator and two-time county auditor Billie Breaux.

Bell is the party's endorsed candidate, and her run has sparked outcry from some Black elected officials, local religious leaders and other Democrats, who consider Bell's dual roles as candidate and party chair a conflict of interest. Some have called for her resignation as party chair.

The midterm primary on Tuesday presents a potential turning point for the party.

Bell has said that if she's elected clerk, she'll step down as chair—but told IBJ it was out of a desire to reduce her demanding schedule rather than any conflict. Still, the party would have to select a new leader.

A Breaux victory, meanwhile, would deal another blow to the long-controversial practice of pre-primary endorsements and would intensify scrutiny of other processes.

The intra-party conflict centers largely on the selection process for precinct committee people, hundreds of whom fill the unglamorous but foundational elected positions across Marion County. Precincts are the smallest political units.

As party chair, Bell has the authority to fill any slots not taken by elected precinct committee people or the vice precinct committee people they can appoint. While the precinct positions require minimal time commitments in non-election season, they become hugely consequential as elections of all kinds roll around.

Precinct committee people campaign for

See **DEMOCRATS** page 27A

# Ready, set, vote!

Tuesday's primary to feature spirited local contests

By Emily Ketterer  
eketterer@ibj.com

Indiana's first Election Day after pandemic-related complications comes Tuesday, and a few hotly contested primary races are in the spotlight.

At the state level, five Democrats are in a heated race for a new state Senate seat representing Indianapolis. In Congress, nine Republicans have crowded the field for the vacant 9th District seat in southern Indiana.

In Marion County, a contested Democratic race for county clerk is being fueled by an intraparty feud, while Hamilton County features a high-profile race for prosecutor.

Election officials in Indianapolis are preparing for a return-to-normal Election Day as the pandemic eases.

During the last primary election amid the onset of COVID-19 in 2020, the county was deluged by thousands



A Marion County poll worker helps voter Stephen Wilson with a voting machine at the City-County Building. (IBJ photo/Eric Learned)

of mail-in ballots to count by hand. Results from Indianapolis took days to complete.

Mail-in ballots won't come anywhere close to that level this year. Still, mail-in voting appears more popular this spring than it did before the pandemic, Marion County Director of Elections Brienne Delaney said.

Marion County had received more than 3,200 mailed ballots as of April 22. That's nearly double the number at the same point of the election cycle in the 2018 midterm primary, Delaney said.

In response to health concerns in 2020, Indiana allowed no-excuse

See **VOTING** page 25A

## Republican candidates line up for Indiana House races in north suburbs

By Daniel Bradley  
dbradley@ibj.com

Two newly redrawn Indiana House districts in Indianapolis' northern suburbs have attracted a total of six Republican candidates looking to advance to November's general election.

A Hamilton County Council member, a former U.S. Department of Energy appointee and a first-time political candidate are competing in the Republican primary to represent Indiana House

District 32, which includes Hamilton County's Clay and Delaware townships and extends south into Marion County.

Republicans Fred Glynn of Carmel, Suzie Jaworowski of Fishers and Paul Nix of Fishers are running for the open seat in Tuesday's primary.

Another three Republican candidates are making their first runs for state office in the primary race to represent Indiana House District 41, which includes northern and western Boone County; western, southern and southeastern Clinton County;

northeastern Montgomery County; and eastern Tippecanoe County.

Richard Bagsby of Lafayette, Mark Genda of Frankfort and Shane Weist of Lafayette will compete for the GOP nomination for that seat.

Here is a look at both races.

### District 32

#### Fred Glynn

Glynn, a two-term Hamilton County councilor and a 2019 Carmel mayoral

candidate, decided to not seek another term on the council after the House District 32 seat became available.

He said issues that were important to him at the county level—no tax increases, a AAA bond rating and plans for a Hamilton County domestic abuse shelter—have already been fulfilled.

"I was in a position where I can leave the council role comfortably and go do something else and try to make a

See **HOUSE DISTRICTS** page 24A