

Q&A

INDIANA STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 25 CANDIDATES

All state senator candidates were asked the same questions by the creators of this guide. The answers that follow are in their own words.

Questions asked:

- 1. What strengths and experiences do you bring to this office?**
- 2. What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
- 3. Many residents believe their vote doesn't count; what roots do you already have in your community, and how will you ensure their voices are heard?**

We recognize that response lengths vary among candidates. To ensure we fully honor their perspectives, we are sharing each answer in its entirety. You can find their contact information in the "Snapshot" sections.

Note: Names listed in alphabetical order and by party.

Q&A

INDIANA STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 25 CANDIDATES

Katherine Callahan (R)

- **Q1: What strengths and experiences do you bring to this office?**
 - As a Doctorate prepared Nurse Practitioner, I bring real-world healthcare experience and deep local roots to the State Senate. I'm not a career politician, I'm independent, accountable, and focused on results. I understand budgets, regulatory systems, and frontline challenges because I've worked inside them. I prioritize fiscal responsibility, election transparency, and standing up for constituents, even when it's uncomfortable. I show up, engage directly, and defend my positions publicly. My campaign is about transparency, reform, integrity, and putting Constituents of District 25 first, not party pressure or insider politics.
- **Q2: What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
 - My campaign for District 25 is built on three key principles. First, reform and accountability. I am running to challenge insider politics and ensure government decisions are transparent and responsive to the people, not controlled by party structures. Second, fiscal responsibility. Every taxpayer dollar matters. I believe government must operate with discipline, eliminate waste, and prioritize responsible budgeting. Third, courageous, independent leadership. I will show up, engage directly with constituents, and stand firm, even under pressure. District 25 deserves a senator who is visible, accessible, and committed to putting the community first.

Q&A

INDIANA STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 25 CANDIDATES

Katherine Callahan (Continued)

- **Q3: Many residents believe their vote doesn't count; what roots do you already have in your community, and how will you ensure their voices are heard?**
 - Many residents feel unheard because they don't see their elected officials present or accessible. That's where my roots and experience matter. I have spent over 30 years standing beside individuals and families, ensuring their voices are heard within complex systems. Advocacy is the foundation of my career. Anyone is welcome to walk in and share their thoughts and beliefs at my practice. I regularly attend local meetings, and I sit in the seats with constituents. As your senator, I will continue showing up, holding open forums, maintaining direct communication, and providing transparent updates. Representation means being present, accessible, and accountable to the people.

Mike Gaskill (R)

- **This candidate was contacted with the questions multiple ways and did not respond.**

Q&A

INDIANA STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 25 CANDIDATES

Tamie Dixon-Tatum (D)

- **Q1: What strengths and experiences do you bring to this office?**
 - Legal Oversight- I construct and monitor policies to ensure compliance with federal, state and local laws regarding employment, education, fair housing, disability; Conflict Resolution- I review investigated complaints, negotiate conciliation agreements and mediate disputes; Operational Compliance- I monitor contract compliance and institute procedures for fair competition in the bidding process; Education & Training- I organize training and developing communication programs to inform the public of their rights; Employee Relations- I implement strategies to enhance employee motivation, performance, and workplace dispute reduction. I possess a Master's in Government, a Master's in Legal Studies, a Bachelor's in Telecommunications.
- **Q2: What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
 - I am an Advocate for and Protector of Civil/Human Rights. I am a Listening Voice - meaning I'm going to listen and learn from all of my constituents, and then carry your voices to the General Assembly. I am Ready to Serve/Ready to Lead as we search for and create a win/win/win Socially, Economically and for the Environment.
- **Q3: Many residents believe their vote doesn't count; what roots do you already have in your community, and how will you ensure their voices are heard?**
 - Anderson/Madison County is my community and my roots as I was born, raised, and still live in my community. To ensure All voices are heard in White River Township/Northern Jackson Township in Hamilton County, and in Anderson/Madison County, I plan to make myself and my staff available for town halls, virtual town halls, simple phone calls and emails, plus finding other ways to be more accessible/responsive to my constituents. I will advocate for and protect Voting Rights in District #25 and abroad via civil education and by helping to remove barriers to voting and civic participation/active citizenship!

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INDIANA STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 25 CANDIDATES

Todd Shelton (D)

- **Q1: What strengths and experiences do you bring to this office?**
 - I've been a resident of Madison County all my life, except for the time I was in the military. I have spent much of my life in cities in Madison County, including those in the northern part of Hamilton County. I was a UAW union official in Anderson, Indiana, when it was thriving, and I know what happens when big Corporations leave a community. I'm a disabled veteran who knows what it means to have access to affordable and accessible health care. I'm also an educator, and I have seen firsthand what happens when state leaders don't respect educators' voices, and I know how to fix these issues.
- **Q2: What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
 - Affordability, education, and Healthcare. These three areas are very important to me because I see what is happening to our working-class families in our community. I see the struggles they are going through when they should be enjoying life. Having access to affordable healthcare should be a priority, and this includes Mental Health. Education is a right and not a privilege. We need to make sure that our youth are given the proper education they need and let educators teach the curriculum that supports that, instead of hindering them with policies.
- **Q3: Many residents believe their vote doesn't count; what roots do you already have in your community, and how will you ensure their voices are heard?**
 - I was born and have lived in this District my entire life, and my roots are very strong here. I know what we need, and I do listen to people; that is one reason I am running for office to make sure we have a working-class voice back in the Statehouse. I will visit every city in our community and make sure their voices are heard. I will put people in this District first.