Q&A DELAWARE COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER CANDIDATES

All county council member 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 could 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 gave a character count limit for each response from candidates to keep them within similar lengths. However, there is variation. To ensure we fully honor their responses, we are sharing each answer as it was submitted.
You can find candidate contact information in the "Snapshot" sections.
Note: Names listed in alphabetical order and by party.

Q&A DELAWARE COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER CANDIDATES

DISTRICT #1

David Williams (R)

This candidate was contacted with the questions through many methods and did not respond.

Cody York (D)

- **Q1: What strengths and experiences do you bring to this office?**
  - I would bring a combination of public-sector experience, policy knowledge, and a commitment to serving the community. My MPA has strengthened my skills in public administration, budgeting, policy, and leadership. I also have experience with the Indiana House Democratic Caucus and local nonprofits, giving me firsthand knowledge of legislative processes, constituent services, and community collaboration. I would bring a practical, collaborative approach focused on serving residents effectively, responsibly, and with accountability.
- **Q2: What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
  - 1. Keep Delaware County Affordable – Make responsible decisions with taxpayer dollars, control unnecessary spending, and keep our county a place where working families can afford to live.
  - 2. Transparent and Accountable Government – Give residents a stronger voice in county government through openness, clear communication, and responsible leadership.
  - 3. Strong Communities and Services – Support essential public services, infrastructure, children and families, and stronger partnerships between government and the nonprofits serving our community.

Q&A DELAWARE COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER CANDIDATES

DISTRICT #1 (CONTINUED)

Cody York (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?**
  - I have deep roots in Delaware County as a homeowner, foster parent, and through my involvement with local nonprofits and public service. Fostering children from our community has given me a firsthand understanding of the challenges facing local families. I believe every resident deserves to feel heard, regardless of their political affiliation. As County Councilor, I will be accessible, communicate openly, and create opportunities for residents to share their concerns and ideas. I will bring those voices directly into county government and work to ensure residents know their vote matters and their government is accountable to them.

Q&A DELAWARE COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER CANDIDATES

DISTRICT #2

William Hughes (R) - Incumbent*

This candidate was contacted with the questions through many methods and did not respond.

DISTRICT #3

Tony Skinner (R)

This candidate was contacted with the questions through many methods and did not respond.

Ashley Wright (D)

- **Q1: What strengths and experiences do you bring to this office?**
  - I love my community. I am a lifelong resident of Delaware County. I have experience dealing with municipal budgets and previously worked for the county. I am a natural problem solver that enjoys serving.
- **Q2: What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
  - I want to make county government more accessible. I want to help find ways to keep taxes low while still maintaining our infrastructure and improving the quality of life.
- **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 have already proven by my prior experience that I always try to do what is best for the community. I am able to work bipartisan and have no political agenda. I just care about my hometown!

Q&A DELAWARE COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER CANDIDATES

DISTRICT #4

James Mochal (R) - Incumbent*

- **Q1: What strengths and experiences do you bring to this office?**
  - During 31 years as a restaurant owner and manager, I learned the importance of responsible budgeting, effective management, teamwork, and treating every person with respect. For the past 21 years, my career in real estate with Coldwell Banker has strengthened my communication, negotiation, and financial decision-making skills while helping people throughout our community. My service on local boards and commissions has given me valuable experience working with diverse groups, understanding community needs, and making thoughtful decisions. I will bring these strengths to the County Council by listening to residents, carefully managing public resources, encouraging responsible growth.
- **Q2: What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
  - 1. Integrity and Honesty: I will serve Delaware County with openness, accountability, and respect, listening to residents and making decisions based on the community's best interests. 2. Practical Experience and Fiscal Responsibility: My 31 years as a restaurant owner and manager, along with 21 years in real estate, have strengthened my skills in budgeting, management, negotiation, communication, and responsible decision-making. 3. Community-Focused Leadership: Through service on local boards and commissions, I have learned the value of teamwork and collaboration.
- **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?**
  - For decades, I have built roots in Delaware County by owning and managing local restaurants, working as a real estate professional, and serving on

*__Incumbent:__ This is the person who currently holds an office.

Q&A DELAWARE COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER CANDIDATES

DISTRICT #4 (CONTINUED)

James Mochal (Continued)

- community boards and organizations. I have listened to residents as a business owner, neighbor, volunteer, and Delaware County Councilman representing District 4. I understand why some people feel their vote does not count. I will work to change that by being accessible, listening carefully, communicating clearly, and following through. Every resident deserves a voice in county government, regardless of party or neighborhood. I will continue bringing their concerns to the Council and making sure their input helps shape our decisions.

Michael Durall (D)

- **Q1: What strengths and experiences do you bring to this office?**
  - Infrastructure Inspection: I was responsible for inspecting structural steel welded and bolted connections during the construction of Lucas Oil Stadium, specifically focusing on the adjustable roof and windows. Budgeting and Administration: Through my work within a government entity, I have gained a foundational understanding of how department budgets are structured and how they interrelate. Communications and Fundraising: As the communications director for my union, I managed budgeting and developed creative solutions to fund a hardship program for members in need. Conflict Resolution: Being a fire department Lt. requires me to resolve internal conflicts and maintain positive public relations during high-stress situations.

Q&A DELAWARE COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER CANDIDATES

DISTRICT #4 (CONTINUED)

Michael Durall (D) continued

- **Q2: What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
  - Budgetary Efficiency and Economic Viability: We must work within current budget restrictions, while prioritizing long-term economic stability. Public Safety and Rehabilitation: It is essential to fund public safety to ensure efficiency and effectiveness. This includes providing resources for incarceration prevention as well as support services for those reentering the community. Revenue Generation and Collaboration: I am committed to finding creative ways to increase county income beyond traditional tax increases. I will collaborate with leaders across government and the business sectors to identify new opportunities for community wealth generation. I want to make county government more accessible. I want to help find ways to keep taxes low while still maintaining our infrastructure and improving the quality of life.
- **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?**
  - Over the past nine months, I have met with town councils and individuals throughout the county to better understand their concerns and expectations regarding our county government. During this time, I have worked to educate myself on potential solutions and connect with the resources and information necessary to address these issues. While I cannot promise to fix every problem, I am committed to providing the dedicated representation they deserve. By serving as their representative, I can attempt ensure their needs are heard more effectively and help secure the resources our communities requires.

LOCAL RACE SNAPSHOT

COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER CANDIDATES

DISTRICT #1

David Williams (R)

- **Facebook:** David Williams for Delaware County District 1

Cody York (D)

- **Facebook:** Cody York For Delaware County Council, District 1
- **Instagram:** electcodyyork
- **Email:** electcodyyork@gmail.com

DISTRICT #2

William V. Hughes (R) - Incumbent*

- **Facebook:** William V. Hughes County Council
- **Email:** whughes@co.delaware.in.us

No Democratic candidate filed

DISTRICT #3

Tony Skinner (R)

- **Email:** tskinner@co.delaware.in.us

Ashley Wright (D)

- **Facebook:** Ashley Wright for Delaware County Council District 3
- **Email:** Committeetoelectashleyw@gmail.com

Role description on page 43
*__Incumbent:__ This is the person who currently holds an office.

LOCAL RACE SNAPSHOT

COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER CANDIDATES

DISTRICT #4

Jim Mochal (R) - Incumbent*

- **Facebook:** Re-Elect Jim Mochal for County Council - District 4
- **Email:** jmochal@co.delaware.in.us

Michael Durall (D)

- **Website:** https://www.durallforall.com/
- **Facebook:** Michael Durall for Delaware County Council - District 4
- **Email:** Durallforall@gmail.com

County Council's Role: "The seven-member council appropriates all funds for county use, adopts the county budget, fixes the county tax rate, and has exclusive power to borrow money for the county." (Delaware County Website).

***Incumbent:** This is the person who currently holds an office.