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Q&A DELAWARE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE CANDIDATES

DISTRICT #5

Ben Freeman (R)

- **Q1: What strengths and experiences could you bring to this office?**
  - I bring more than a decade of experience in civil litigation, government law, and private practice, handling complex matters involving families, businesses, contracts, property, and local government. As a partner at Beasley & Gilkison and counsel to the City of Muncie, Delaware County Council, and Muncie Redevelopment Commission, I have learned the importance of preparation, sound judgment, and public service. As a lifelong resident of East Central Indiana, I carry the Hoosier values of hard work, service, humility and treating everyone with respect. I also bring the perspective of a husband, father, business owner, and community volunteer raising my family here in Delaware County.
- **Q2: What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
  - 1. Experienced. I bring broad experience in litigation, family law, property, contracts, and local government law. All of which are the kinds of matters that make up the majority of the court's daily work. 2. Prepared. As the managing partner of one of Muncie's oldest law firms, city attorney, litigator, and counsel to local government, I have developed the judgement, work ethic, and leadership necessary to serve my community effectively from day one. 3. Principled. I believe every person deserves fairness, dignity, and equal treatment. A judge must protect constitutional rights, follow the law rather than personal preference or politics, and apply it consistently. The rule of law. Always.
- **Q3: In your experience, what are the greatest challenges within the justice system? Describe how you would address those challenges.**
  - Our justice system is challenged by delays, limited access to legal resources and representation, and declining public confidence in the

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Q&A DELAWARE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE CANDIDATES

DISTRICT #5

Ben Freeman (Continued)

- institution. Our courts must be efficient without sacrificing fairness. I will emphasize preparation, timely rulings, consistent procedures, and respect for everyone who enters the courtroom. I also support practical efforts to improve access to justice for self-represented litigants while preserving judicial neutrality. Most importantly, I will work to strengthen confidence in the justice system through fairness, transparency, respect, and the faithful application of our Constitution and the rule of law.

Amanda Dunnuck (D)

- **Q1: What strengths and experiences could you bring to this office?**
  - I bring 23 years of legal experience and 11 years of proven judicial leadership. As both an attorney and judge, I understand a case from every side of the courtroom. I have handled complex civil, family and criminal matters and understand how court decisions affect families, victims and our community. As City Court Judge, I have reduced case backlogs while developing practical approaches to mental health and other issues that repeatedly bring people into the justice system. I will bring that same work ethic to Circuit Court 5: know the law, be prepared, move cases efficiently, treat people with dignity, and make fair and impartial decisions based on the facts and the law.
- **Q2: What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
  - My campaign is about qualifications, proven leadership and community. First, Circuit Court 5 needs a judge prepared to handle its diverse caseload, particularly criminal, family and civil litigation. I have that background. Second, justice delayed affects real people. I have a proven record of reducing court backlog and will bring that same focus to Circuit Court 5.

Q&A DELAWARE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE CANDIDATES

DISTRICT #5

Amanda Dunnuck (Continued)

- Third, courts must serve the entire community. Every person who enters the courtroom deserves to be heard, treated with dignity and receive a fair, impartial decision based on the facts and the law–not politics, status or personal preference.

- **Q3: In your experience, what are the greatest challenges within the justice system? Describe how you would address those challenges.**
  - Our greatest challenges include court delays and the growing impact of mental health, addiction, poverty and family instability on the justice system. Courts cannot solve every community problem, but they must recognize the realities behind the cases before them. I would address delays through active case management, timely rulings and accountability. I would also continue building partnerships with local agencies and service providers so appropriate resources are available while maintaining personal accountability. Most importantly, I will ensure the courtroom remains a place where the law is applied consistently and impartially and every person is treated fairly and with dignity.

LOCAL RACE SNAPSHOT

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CIRCUT COURT JUDGE CANDIDATES

CIRCUIT COURT #4

Zachary (Zach) Craig (R)

- **Website:** https://www.zachcraigforjudge.com/
- **Facebook:** Zach Craig for Judge
- **Email:** zachcraigforjudge@gmail.com

No Democratic candidate filed

CIRCUIT COURT #5

Ben Freeman (R)

- **Website:** https://www.benfreemanforjudge.com/
- **Facebook:** Ben Freeman for Judge
- **Email:** benfreemanforjudge@gmail.com

Amanda Dunnuck (D)

- **Website:** https://amandadunnuck.com/
- **Facebook:** Judge Amanda Dunnuck
- **Email:** dunnuckforjudge@gmail.com

Circuit Court Judge's Role: "The Circuit Court Judge is a constitutional officer of the judicial circuit elected for a six year term. The Circuit Court Judge may be reelected without limit." (IN.gov) "Circuit Courts hear cases that are outside the jurisdiction of other courts," such as cases involving felony charges, domestic relations, juvenile matters, mental health, and probate. (indianacourtrecords.us).