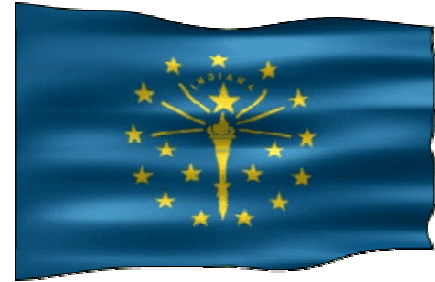


# 2008 Endorsements



## **State Senate, District 5**

*Larry Balmer (D) vs. Ed Charbonneau (R)*

No Endorsement

## **State Senate, District 8**

*Jim Arnold (D) vs. Allen Stevens (R), Gregory Kelter (L)*

Jim Arnold has represented the citizens of State Senate District 8 in a highly professional manner. He has made himself accessible to the citizens in his district and respects their opinions and in general is a proponent of economic growth and expansion for La Porte County. LPAC endorses Jim Arnold for State Senate District 8.

## **State Representative, District 9**

*Scott Pelath (D)*

No Endorsement

## **State Representative, District 17**

*Nancy Dembowski (D) vs. Mark Mackillop (R)*

Although Nancy Dembowski represents only a small portion of southern La Porte County she has demonstrated strong ability in representing the citizens of her district. LPAC recommends that she continues serving as the State Representative for District 17.

## **State Representative, District 20**

*Jerry Cooley (D) vs. Tom Dermody (R)*

Tom Dermody as State Representative for District 20 has been more accessible and seeks the opinions from all members of his district than any candidate that has represented the district in the past. He is constantly seeking the opinions of citizens, business, and local units of government on the many issues facing the citizens of his district. We have found him to do an extensive amount of research and is very knowledgeable of the issues and legislation that comes before the State Legislator. LPAC endorses Tom Dermody to continue as the State Representative for District 20.

## **County Commissioner, District 2**

*Barbara Huston (D) vs. Ronald Schafer (R)*

Ron Schafer has the business background and understands the various issues that La Porte County is currently facing and will continue to face in the future. We find his views of caring about both the Cities and towns within LaPorte County along with those of suburban La Porte County as a desirable trait. LPAC endorses Ron Schafer for County Commissioner District 2.

### **County Commissioner, District 3**

*Bill Hager (D) vs. Kenneth Layton (R)*

Although Ken Layton has taken various positions that LPAC feels are not pro growth or pro economic development for La Porte County, LPAC endorses Ken Layton for County Commissioner District 3. LPAC does so because of his thirty years of dedicated service and experience as a trust worthy county servant demonstrated by his years as County Sheriff, County Treasurer and County Auditor. LPAC feels that he demonstrates both the administrative and fiscal skills that will be needed at the Commissioner level because of the many issues that La Porte County will face because of House Bill 1001.

### **County Council Member at Large**

*Matthew Bernacchi (D), Scott Ford (D), Cary Kirkham (R), Lois Sosinski (D), Geoffrey Sellers (R), Roger Wolf (R), Mark Lindborg (L)*

Scott Ford has over twenty five years of experience in the private sector serving in positions of leadership in manufacturing and logistics. He understands the many concepts involved in local, county and regional economic development issues. Scott has indicated an understanding of tax abatement, TIF, a strong local infrastructure and strong economic tools. We believe that of all the County Council candidates, Scott Ford takes the strongest positions for pro growth and economic development for La Porte County and therefore receives LPAC's strongest endorsement.

It is LPAC's opinion that many of the current elected County Officials seem to forget that the citizens that live in La Porte, Michigan City and other towns in La Porte County are also county tax payers. Cary Kirkham understands the necessity to allow for the overall economic good, for all La Porte County, and that cities and towns must be given the opportunity to grow. We find Mr. Kirkham's ideas and positions on the use of solar power, recycling of gray water, and other ways to reduce energy costs and assist the environment very unique for a County Council Candidate. Mr. Kirkham would advocate regular meetings between County, City, Towns, and Township officials to meet and work together to try to solve problems within the County and try to set the future direction of La Porte County. We do disagree with Mr. Kirkham's issue with regards to truck traffic in downtown La Porte as being a minor inconvenience; however we do endorse him for County Council Member at Large.