

COUNTY COMMISSIONER

cooperation to assist with development and planning.

Opioid epidemic: Our country is in the middle of an opioid epidemic, and Brown County has been very hard hit by this. I hope to work with community leaders, medical and law enforcement, church leaders and the public to create a plan to address these problems. While there is no magic bullet to solve this issue, we can look to other communities' successes and work to help the many who struggle with addiction and who are affected by this epidemic with hope of decreasing deaths, helping to foster a climate of recovery, and lowering the need for law enforcement expenses. As commissioner, I would create a committee to study these issues and commit to finding ways to fund proactive solutions through grants and any public health funding.

FOX: The highway department needs to be adequately staffed. Employees need to be trained regularly in safety and proper use of equipment. This includes taking the time for updating safety requirements as needed. Supervisors need to have accountability to the commissioners and their employees. An incentive program for employees should be set up to recognize those employees that excel on their jobs. This would help others excel and get the word out about the job so more would sign up, not only helping the staffing problem, but bringing more jobs to our county residents. It would be easy to drop an appreciation article into The Democrat paper for some exposure for accomplishments. Partners to engage are the supervisors, employees and the commissioners. My timeline for this would be set up within the year with quarterly meetings continuing as needed. Funding should be available for the highway department budget.

The septic problems in this county need to be addressed. It has gone on for many years and we still seem to struggle with it as a whole. I have noticed this on a personal home level as well as a larger buildings and businesses. Although this problem has been addressed many times, there has never been any conclusion for a plan of action. I would love to be a part of the solution to this longtime problem.

There is also a problem with children

ASK YOUR OWN QUESTIONS

The League of Women Voters of Brown County and Brown County Farm Bureau will host two candidate forums at the County Office Building:

Tuesday, April 3: 9th Congressional District candidates

Wednesday, April 11: Brown County clerk, Brown Circuit Court judge candidates and Brown County commissioner candidates. Due to Indiana Code of Judicial Conduct restrictions, the judge candidates will make extended statements but not take questions on a panel.

Each will begin at 6:30 p.m.

The public is encouraged to submit questions during the forum for the moderator to ask of the candidates.

Both forums will be webcast live at browncounty-in.gov

and the elderly being hungry in this county. The high cost of living and the lack of transportation contribute to this problem. Partner with TRIAD, Mother's Cupboard and food pantries in general, churches and senior citizens. These programs know where the most problem areas are, and we can then collectively brainstorm. Once the problem areas are identified, an action, funding and contribution can be analyzed. This could be yet another opportunity to provide jobs to the area with things such as bus and/or car services, and helping run units to feed others.

BIDDLE: Courthouse security: We can no longer afford to wait to provide additional security in the courthouse to protect our court staff, county employees and the public. Drawing from budget funds set aside for "security improvements," we will be making significant changes to increase the security at the courthouse.

County roads and bridges: After spending the last three to four years catching up on the paving of county roads, I would hope that the next four years will be focused on paving the remaining 100 miles of county paved roads, as well as developing a strategic plan to prioritize repairs and replacement of failing bridges and culverts.