

WHERE THEY STAND

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SECTION B

On May 6, voters in the Republican primary will pick three candidates to appear on the general election ballot in November. Reporters Joseph S. Pete and Sarah Michalos interviewed the candidates on a wide range of issues. Use these pages as a guide to help you make your voting decision. Go to thejournalnet.com for more questions and answers.



Johnson County Council

At-large (pick three)

Primary election day: May 6 ■ Voting hours: 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Resume
What is the most important experience you have that makes you qualified to hold office as a county council member?



Issues
What is the top issue facing Johnson County? How will you address it?



Conflict of interest
Define conflict of interest. When is it appropriate for a county official to disclose a conflict of interest? If a conflict of interest occurs, what should the official do about it?



White River Township
What should happen with White River Township? Some have discussed annexation, incorporation or leaving it as-is. What do you propose happen, and when and how should it be accomplished?



Roads
White River Township residents have complained their roads don't get fixed and they don't get enough services, even though they live in one of the most populated areas of the county. What can be done to address their concerns? What will you do?



Thomas Carroll

Carroll

Has managed and owned businesses for more than 20 years. Is familiar with financial aspects, such as creating and following a budget.

Carroll

Top issue is getting more money in the county without asking more of taxpayers. Need to get more businesses and activities, not just grow in population and build more housing developments. Would get more money into the county by conducting events at Franklin College and county fairgrounds.

Carroll

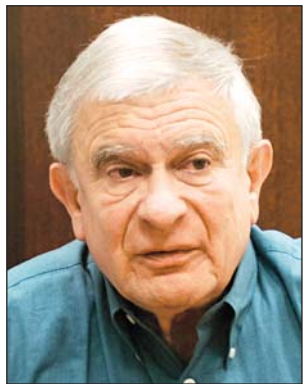
Conflict of interest is when a person has a personal issue or opinion that may affect a decision. Would tell other county council members about a conflict of interest and would abstain from a vote or discussion. Thinks candidates' background and activities should be offered to the public.

Carroll

Isn't opposed to annexation as part of Greenwood as long as the township would have equal access to government services, utilities and fire and police protection. Doesn't think annexation is something that should be done immediately because the need isn't there yet.

Carroll

Thinks the county should be responsible for improving the roads, because White River Township's not part of a city. Says many roads in the county need attention, and pressure could be alleviated by annexing White River Township into Greenwood and have the city pay for repairs. Would work to figure out a way to upgrade roads without interfering with the county's tax base.



Forrest Chambers

Chambers

Worked 30 years with Indianapolis Power and Light, handling contract specifications, the bidding system and other financial matters. Also was on the White River Township Advisory Board for a number of years, which approved or denied township expenditures much like the council does for the county. Feels like he'd be a good fit for the county council.

Chambers

Top issue for the county seems to always be finances. Would like to see county have more accountability and more efficiency, to accomplish what's needed in a different manner that would cost less.

Chambers

Conflict of interest would be doing something an official would do that would benefit himself or his associates. Should be brought forward to the public right away and addressed by law enforcement if criminal. Would be there for the people and the businesses but not for special interests. Feels that people want someone who will listen and be there for them and address their interest instead of who can put up the largest and most signs. Wants to always do things openly and honestly.

Chambers

If the township becomes too much of a load for the county, it could be annexed into Bargersville or Greenwood. Doesn't think township can afford to create a city or town and take on the costs of an administration with a mayor, city workers and parks and police departments. Cost would be prohibitive. Favors annexation if anything. Not for anything unless it becomes too much of a burden for the county to provide the township with services. Still would have to pay the county tax, so it might make sense leaving it like it is but would suggest annexation if anything.

Chambers

Proposes trying to obtain funds from state grants paid for from interest from the toll road lease to rebuild roads. Would also look for county funds that could be spent for this. The most used and high-capacity roads should come first, then the county should fix the other roads as it can afford to.



Kenneth Marshall

Marshall

Education and work experience. Is an instructor at Ivy Tech Community College, Ball State University and Franklin College and worked for a newspaper and for radio.

Marshall

Communication. Doesn't see good communication between the residents of the county and officials. Wants to see a countywide newsletter. Residents should be able to watch county meetings aired on a public access TV channel.

Marshall

Conflict of interest is when a person has decision-making power over something that would benefit him or her directly. Officials should share conflicts of interests at the beginning. If officials have conflicts, they still should be able to participate in discussion but shouldn't vote.

Marshall

What happens is the business of White River Township. If the residents decide to be annexed by another area, they should look into that first. Decision should be made by referendum.

Marshall

Would be one of his top priorities if elected. First need to look at the delay of the repair of county roads and figure out why it's delayed. Roads have to be repaired because easy travel increases a person's overall quality of life.



Josh McCarty

McCarty

Serves on the county council after being elected four years ago. Is the president of the council. Is qualified from that aspect and also because he owns a small business and is familiar with budgets and how to run a business.

McCarty

Public safety. Will continue to have a good working relationship with Sheriff Terry McLaughlin and his staff to try to keep hiring more deputies. Another top issue is infrastructure. Will work closely with highway director Gary Vandegriff to help get funds to continue to repair roads. Will work to pursue federal dollars and utilize local state representatives and senators to help with funding.

McCarty

Conflict of interest is if a council member or family member would benefit from a decision that would be made by the county. Best way to handle it is transparency. Would be upfront and open about a situation where a conflict of interest could happen.

McCarty

Not sure. Thinks residents of the township should see if annexation will increase their tax burden or tax rate. Annexation could result in an increase in police and road improvement. Incorporation with Bargersville or Greenwood has been discussed, but need to look at it from all aspects. First, need to see how White River Township residents feel about it and see what's in their best interest.

McCarty

County highway department has done a great job maintaining Johnson County's more than 600 miles of roads. Knows the department is doing the best it can within the budget and has worked with Eagle Trace and Woodland Streams subdivisions in White River Township to do resurfacing work. Need to keep a balance between fixing roads in White River Township and the rest of the county.



William Brian Walker

Walker

Served as advisory board member who looked at budget. Approved or disapproved expenditures on that board. Plus work experience. After graduating from Purdue University, worked at Endress+Hauser for more than 10 years in a variety of jobs. Reviewed and monitored budget, set sales and marketing plans.

Walker

Based on his research so far, would be funding the services taxpayers expect to receive. People want trails, improved roads, pay raises for county employees. With recently passed property tax relief, must figure out a way to fund all those projects, bring taxpayers' money back from the state so it pays for the local services that residents are paying for.

Walker

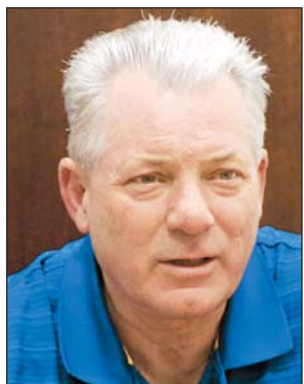
Would be providing services or selling product to a local government entity as an official. Should file a disclosure statement how that might be a conflict. Has no conflict with serving that he's aware of.

Walker

To incorporate and start from scratch would be cost-prohibitive and duplicate many services. Greenwood or the town of Bargersville could acquire portions through annexation if it became necessary to do that to continue to provide services the community requires, such as road repair. Will continue to grow, with developers building commercial buildings and subdivisions and so forth.

Walker

In a lot of respects that's true. As a council member, would want to see an appropriate amount of money provided for road projects, such as intersections that need turn lanes or roads that need to be widened in certain areas through the township. Feels that in order to do more of the road projects that everybody wants, the county needs to see more of residents' tax dollars come back to the local communities. State legislature needs to see that more tax dollars flow back into local services.



Ronald West

West

Being on the council for almost two terms would qualify him. Also one of the few elected officials in the state with a diploma from Association of Indiana Counties, having pursued more information about local government and local government needs and operations.

West

Top issue in light of what legislators did is to protect individual rights as far as a community goes. Can't have statewide control over school systems. For elected officials, the most important thing to look at is how to avoid one-size-fits-all approach. Communities need to have rights and choice. They need to make their own decisions. Need more home rule for local government and more flexibility than what state provides. The state collects the proceeds and redistributes it at whatever time frame it decides.

West

Obviously, if there's a conflict of interest, official must disclose it as soon as he's aware of it. Rules of propriety would take effect. In case of direct monetary involvement, official must recuse himself from any official action in that area.

West

Doesn't see advantage to incorporating. Would add another layer of political office that taxpayers would have to support. Doesn't see need for it over there right now. Adding a mayor and a city council and all those things that would have to be funded and organized would be pretty onerous task.

West

Would do the same thing he's been doing, trying to get 1, 2 or 3 cents back to the county from huge windfall state is reaping from gas sales tax right now with gas at \$3 a gallon. Did the numbers one time, and county is paying \$50 million a year in sales tax from gasoline. If county got \$4 million of that back, county could do more street projects and more road maintenance.



Residents are frustrated with the quality of Johnson County's roads, specifically in subdivisions and White River Township. Some have offered to pay additional money to get their roads fixed. Is that fair? What about those who can't afford to pay for the repairs? What is the solution for the county to pay for road work?



What is the county's role in economic development?



The council's top job is to set the budget and consider requests for additional spending. What will be the biggest financial challenges in the coming years, and how do you propose handling them?



A platting fee charged to developers is going to Johnson County Development Corp. What result is the county seeing for enacting this fee? How is the county holding the corporation accountable?



There has been talk to move Interstate 69 out of the planned route through Perry Township and likely out of Johnson County. If the route of the interstate were to be moved out of the county, would you be willing to petition the state to keep Interstate 69 in Johnson County? If I-69 does not stay, how will improvements be done to State Road 37 and how will they be paid for?



What involvement should the county council have in forming the comprehensive plan? What should the plan include? What should the plan prevent?

<p>Carroll</p> <p>The county is never going to get anybody to voluntarily pay more for anything. People who can't afford to pay for repairs shouldn't have to. One solution is having housing associations or homeowners associations subsidize street maintenance. Problem is, housing developments go up, and nobody thinks of who is going to maintain the roads in four to five years when they're falling apart.</p>	<p>Carroll</p> <p>County should play a big role in luring new businesses, large and small. Must be active and work to develop a mass transportation system or redevelop the parks system. Also must preserve areas for farmland and agriculture.</p>	<p>Carroll</p> <p>Biggest challenge is there's always a need for more money with fewer ways to come up with it. Can't keep telling the taxpayers they've got to be spending more. To handle this, have to draw in new things. One solution would be to eventually build a convention center and bring big events with profit to the county.</p>	<p>Carroll</p> <p>Not sure, since he isn't a member of the council now. Would have to research this and see how the fees are collected and handled.</p>	<p>Carroll</p> <p>Yes, would petition state to look at keeping the interstate in the county. State Road 37 needs to be repaired, whether the state does it as part of the I-69 project or whether the county pays for it. Will have to see when the decision is made, if it falls back on the county will have to find a way to pay, preferably not dumping it back on the taxpayer.</p>	<p>Carroll</p> <p>County council members should be given regular reports on the progress of the plan and be able to give feedback. Plan should include better designed recreation, such as parks, trails and walkways. Should preserve farmland and designate areas for agriculture. Should prevent an unlimited number of new housing developments and instead plan housing based on population projections. Keep new housing developments near schools, police and fire departments.</p>
<p>Chambers</p> <p>White River Township has the most residents of any township in the county, who pay more taxes into the county. The county could spend more funds there than it has in the past few years, but would not be fair to all the people in the county to let some people pay for own repairs. Does not support it because people are taxed to death already. Would look at all available funds to potentially free up some money for road repair. Also would like to see load limits enforced to prevent heavy trucks from tearing up the roads. More policing would more than pay for itself in the long run.</p>	<p>Chambers</p> <p>Would like to see county pursue getting more industry, more jobs, more pay and more tax income to the county. Industries often demand an abatement. Favors promoting the county to firms looking to build new plants, stressing the good interstate access, two active railroads and qualified and available work force.</p>	<p>Chambers</p> <p>Thinks the council needs to look at each expenditure to see if it can be done in a less costly manner and still accomplish its goals. Trying to make due with what we county has would be biggest challenge. Hotel tax has been proposed, and he pays a high hotel tax everywhere he goes. A small county gas tax wouldn't be noted with all the ups and downs of gas prices. Favors more accountability for expenditures and supports property tax caps.</p>	<p>Chambers</p> <p>Would like to see more published on this, what the development corporation has really accomplished. Would like to see the figures. Believes it does support cooperation of the cities, towns and developers. Thinks it has worked hard to get jobs to the county and keep them here.</p>	<p>Chambers</p> <p>Believes State Road 37 does pretty good job between Indianapolis and Bedford, and there should be a new road between Bedford and Evansville. Interstate 69 is only a corner of White River Township and would not have much impact beyond service stations, hotels and eating establishments in the corner of the township. As a state road, the state is responsible for maintaining it. Is an excellent road as it is and limited access wouldn't necessarily be better.</p>	<p>Chambers</p> <p>Thinks it's the responsibility of the council to look at. People and businesses of Johnson County should also take part in the discussion, which should be fair and include concerns for all people. Council should be involved and work with commissioners to see if any improvements could be made. Comprehensive plan should keep a proper balance among industry, homes and agriculture. Should be done to benefit all people of the county and not special interests. Wants to keep agriculture in the county because he grew up on a farm and understands the hard work that comes with farming. County also needs good-paying jobs.</p>
<p>Marshall</p> <p>Even if someone wants to pay for the repairs on their own, they shouldn't have to. Should be taken care of through the fundraising responsibility of the county council. If residents raise funds, could have a conflict on how to fix the road — one person may want to patch with asphalt, someone else may want concrete. "If I have the option of fixing my own road, who owns the road now?" Residents pay taxes for the repairs anyway, and they should be done. If money county has isn't enough, need to increase taxes but explain why.</p>	<p>Marshall</p> <p>The leader. County officials need to be working with commissioners. They should put together a packet to give to corporations or other developers that outlines what the county has to offer.</p>	<p>Marshall</p> <p>Roads. Need to bring in more roads and repair our roads to draw in businesses. Need to be bringing in additional revenue for this. No one wants to pay more taxes, but it must be considered as a last resort. Good planning for roads and other development can help manage costs. "The question is, are we going to control the change or is the change going to control us?"</p>	<p>Marshall</p> <p>Defers that question to current council. Says to ask him in two years and he'll know.</p>	<p>Marshall</p> <p>No. State Road 37 has a lot of congestion, could make it limited access and keep it rural. It is a state road, county shouldn't have to pay but should reap benefits from Gov. Mitch Daniels leasing the toll road.</p>	<p>Marshall</p> <p>Council members should be heavily involved. Plan should include some type of industrial development, maybe warehousing. Plan should consider bigger communities, overall quality of life, roads and business development. Should prevent conflicts with our agriculture. Have a nice agricultural community here and need to keep that intact as best possible.</p>
<p>McCarty</p> <p>Road upgrades and improvements are the ultimate responsibility of county government. Residents already are paying enough taxes that go toward road improvements, and anything more would be out of the realm of responsibility. Would look for ways to be creative with fundraising options.</p>	<p>McCarty</p> <p>County partners with Johnson County Development Corp. to lure investment into the county. Need to continue to partner with the development corporation, utilities, builders, developers, school systems and private businesses to work as a group and promote Johnson County.</p>	<p>McCarty</p> <p>Biggest challenge will be a possible reduction in the county's revenue from legislation that was passed during the most recent session. Now have a reduction in property taxes that everyone deserves, but this lessens the funding the county receives. Will have a hole in the budget. Need to assess the budget and look at some areas to cut.</p>	<p>McCarty</p> <p>Not sure how much the platting fee has raised for the development corporation. Has met with development corporation staff and thinks they are doing an outstanding job with their annual budget.</p>	<p>McCarty</p> <p>Not sure if he would be willing to petition to keep Interstate 69 in the county. Needs to see more detail on what the benefits would be, since drawbacks are having to relocate homes, private businesses and the recently built White River Township fire station. Improvements to State Road 37 are the state's responsibility.</p>	<p>McCarty</p> <p>Council should continue to receive updates on the plan from commissioners and council's representative on the steering committee. Plan needs to promote business development ranging from commercial to light industrial to get an increased tax base. Plan should address what type of housing Johnson County residents want and expect to see. Plan should prevent development on designated agricultural areas.</p>
<p>Walker</p> <p>Thinks if there were a particular homeowners association that would pool money together, they'd be entitled to do that. However, would still have to go back and look at all the taxes paid by an individual: wheel taxes, gas taxes, sales taxes, the income tax. Government needs to figure a way to streamline and come up with better use of the tax dollars already paid. Johnson County does a pretty decent job based on the money it has to work with to make improvements, but would work hard and diligently to fund more road projects without dipping into people's pockets even more.</p>	<p>Walker</p> <p>Thinks county is just like a city or town and must lure commercial development, production or processing facilities that would hire more people from the county. Should always look for ways to spur additional economic development. Need to keep and attract bright, intelligent individuals here. Need to do something about the brain-drain situation, where they graduate from college and leave the state. Would want them to utilize their expertise and talents here, and would have to support that in any way that he could as a council member.</p>	<p>Walker</p> <p>Biggest challenges he sees are the jail expansion, funding trails in the northern part of the county and the county salaries. Those are the issues he's been made aware of that the county would need to address. Should make sure there's at least a cost-of-living raise for the employees because it really hurts employees plus you're not paying the market value for that employee. You're training people until they get a higher-paying job, so you have to maintain the salary so it is consistent with what they are doing to both keep them employed and compensate them fairly for their service.</p>	<p>Walker</p> <p>Assumes that groups or agencies that receive fees would be held accountable for what they do for that money. Can't answer what result they're getting for the fees they're charging. It's the responsibility of the council and other elected officials to make sure the money they collect would get results. Should be a report on a regular basis about what progress was being made. Should be a matter of public record.</p>	<p>Walker</p> <p>I-69 would have to be a federal project while improvements to a state road is a state responsibility. Legislature could have a good reason to change the route. Wouldn't petition to get it back unless it made sense to the taxpayers of Johnson County.</p>	<p>Walker</p> <p>That's more of a function of the commissioners' job. They created a panel or task force of people from the leadership program, schools and fire departments and got good input and feedback. Would participate if asked. Believes an east-west road should be laid out in a master plan along with sewer services in the county, which should be integrated with what the towns and municipalities can provide. Should establish a list of road projects and when they'll happen. Should prevent massive development without considering what infrastructure is needed. Should promote higher property values, and the county must be careful when it proceeds about what development will have that impact.</p>
<p>West</p> <p>County should get fairer share of state sales tax on gas, with price at more than \$3 a gallon. Bottom line is highway department could be using that money, doing overlays in subdivisions, dealing with major drainage problems and curbs if county shared in that money.</p>	<p>West</p> <p>Obviously, supports the commission and its efforts to bring more businesses to county. Supports it economically and supports it personally. Elected officials should use their time and talents in any capacity with potential business owners in the community. A lot of time elected officials might be able to speak to a potential business and talk to them about aspects of the county others might not think about, including protection or rights and property values. Can talk in a little more pragmatic angle and need to be involved aggressively. Real issue is bringing jobs and wages, which helps whole county economically and better distributes burden of paying for local government services.</p>	<p>West</p> <p>Believes many challenges exist. Currently, 70 percent of county's funding goes to criminal justice system, and it only increases. Entire United States faces increased costs of the justice system. Here it's the jail expansion and adding another court, growing the probation department. Juvenile probation needs more personnel and more dollars. There's a point that the criminal justice system will bankrupt society. Favors working with people, especially young people, to provide educational and recreational opportunities. A criminal tide has developed in this county, and the budget is limited by growth of non-farm income.</p>	<p>West</p> <p>Corporation is held accountable. Based on results from their efforts, retention and overall economic growth have improved. Recognized the accountability factor but said what the Johnson County Development Corp. does is long-range and can't be gauged on a month-by-month basis. Have to take a longer period of time into consideration. A lot of what it does is retention. Corporation been involved with a lot of companies staying here or expanding where it's not always known about. The effort put into it is pretty easy to see.</p>	<p>West</p> <p>Not sure. Believes they'll start the interstate in the southern part of state, so it may be 15 years in the construction process, even without delays or setbacks, before construction along State Road 37. Has stifled development to a certain degree, not knowing when it will come through and the effect it will have on the area. Already have a good road that's four lanes with limited access. To restrict that road further as an interstate would be waste of money. At some point in time they might make it a toll road. Would hate to see them take that road out of service to replace it with a toll road.</p>	<p>West</p> <p>Every elected official's duty is to be involved. The county's fiscal body has to be able to provide funding and services to these areas of future growth, whether residential, commercial or industrial growth. Obviously, plan should include a basis for orderly control growth that would allow us to capitalize on growth to provide efficient services and make improvements. What needs to be avoided is putting the comprehensive plan on the shelf, where what we're been doing continues to happen without significantly altering it.</p>



WEB EXTRA: Go to the election section at thejournalnet.com for more questions and answers.



The county gets to keep half of the receipts of the food and beverage tax, with the other half going to pay for the stadium and convention center projects in Indianapolis. How is the county's portion of the revenue being spent? How should it be spent?



How should the Johnson County Sheriff's Office grow? How many deputies need to be hired each year and where will the money come from? Do other departments need to grow?



Officials are discussing an expansion for the jail, less than 10 years after the last one was completed. What will you do to make sure the county is not in the same situation in another 10 years?



With the jail current proposals, what is necessary to provide services and keep the cost for taxpayers low? Do you support the addition of a shooting range/training facility? What about the additional office building? Why or why not?









Since growth has slowed in the county, the assessed value may not continue to increase, and therefore generating more money. If needed, where would you look to cut expenses?



In the past few years, the council has approved two new or increased taxes: the wheel tax and the food and beverage tax. Did you support these decisions? Why or why not?

Carroll	Carroll	Carroll	Carroll	Carroll	Carroll
Doesn't know how it is spent now because he isn't on the council. Not sure how it should be spent, but council should go through budget and figure out the best way to spend the revenue. An option would be to invest or put it into a project that would generate more money for the county in the future.	Office should grow based on number of the people moving in to the county using projections on the pace of the growth. Not sure how many deputies should be hired; is not familiar with number now. Highway department will need to grow eventually as the county builds more new roads. Utilities and waste treatment departments also will need to grow to support more county residents.	Jail is a priority, but need to look at a different way to handle people who commit crimes. Can't keep putting more people into jail, because it isn't rehabilitation, but taking those people off the streets. Need to look at different options, such as changing work release, rehabilitation and community service programs. Could give a first-time offender more community service and less jail time to prevent another expansion in the next 10 years.	Supports additional training for police, but supports a new shooting range and training facility only if there's not a suitable training place in the county or state. Wants to see that all officers in the county are trained at the same level instead of competing for facilities. Thinks other options should be considered before a new office building is planned. Would consider a temporary solution by renting a low-cost office for five to 10 years. Doesn't think taxpayers should have to pay for all of the consulting firm's bill or expansion costs. Thinks money earned by courts system and fees for inmates could help offset the cost. Eventual goal is to make jail more self-supporting.	Would look into privatizing some services; not sure which services. Would look at services and see which could be handled as well, or better, and cheap with privatization.	Doesn't think the taxes were right or wrong, but says council needs to find something other than taxes to create money. "There's got to be another answer than just keep bleeding the homeowner." Need to look at how the money gathered from the two taxes is being spent, and if it proves that they're necessary.
Chambers	Chambers	Chambers	Chambers	Chambers	Chambers
One area county could use some of the money is to repair roads, plus use some money to attract industry. Favors seeing county employees get reasonable raises and reasonable health insurance. Would like to see more law enforcement. His feeling is do what you can do with what you have, but do it efficiently.	Thinks it's for the sheriff to determine what he needs to do to address problems like drugs. Has been told by law enforcement that drugs lead to robberies, thefts, burglaries and other crimes, that drug users go to great extremes to get money to support their habits. Supports more undercover officers, harsher penalties for drug dealers, more rehabilitation. Money would have to come from the general fund. Would have to consult with the sheriff for what's best and needed, but might have to reach a reasonable compromise on what county can afford. With other departments, should look at why they would need additional people. Should look deeply at what the requests would accomplish.	Thinks county needs to keep balanced budget for the jail and not let things get away from it. If done right, the county won't have that problem in 10 years. If the county doesn't expand the jail, which has been at capacity at times, might have to house prisoners elsewhere or see judges let some go. Don't want to get at overcapacity and have criminals turned loose on the public to make their lives miserable. Doesn't want to build too far into the future, and 10 years sounds like it would be appropriate. Normally doesn't like spending that much money, but in this case must be necessary to get the best facility for the money that the county can get.	Not sure about the shooting range with other facilities, such as nice facility at Camp Atterbury, for shooting. Office could be a benefit if done accountably and reasonably. Should look closely before going forward with it. Sheriff's needs have to be looked at pretty seriously and must be addressed as necessary.	Thinks expenditures of each department could have funds cut. Would have to consult with department heads about how they could reduce their expenditures. Doesn't know the inner workings of each department, so probably would do better with across-the-board cuts. Is an optimist and believes that trying times will end soon enough to ward off any major problems, that things will pick back up again in short order.	Spoke out against the wheel tax because less fortunate people still need vehicles to get to work and it hurts them. Supported the food and beverage tax, which though small helps the county's financial situation. Doesn't like any tax, and increases should be looked at in depth.
Marshall	Marshall	Marshall	Marshall	Marshall	Marshall
Doesn't know how it is spent, defers question on how it should be spent to current council.	Sheriff needs to assess how many new deputies are needed and how the department should grow. County highway department needs to expand, along with the staff that runs the county's fairgrounds. Need to look at how much money is available each year for employees and hire as many as possible. Thinks fair is especially important because it showcases the county and happens only once a year. Could generate more revenue from revamping the fair and then expand fairgrounds or hire more staff.	Would talk to sheriff, judges and prosecutors who have an idea of what's happening with law enforcement and the number of people who are being incarcerated. Need to plan this expansion based on what population will be in years ahead.	If jail expansion is needed, expand it. More people being incarcerated is a byproduct of growth. Supports a new training facility. Thinks people need to be equipped and trained well. Shooting range also could be rented out to people and bring money back in. Thinks weapons training is important for all people, including young people. Supports a new office building if it's deemed necessary. Doesn't think sheriff would request a new building if it wasn't needed. Doesn't know where money to pay for consulting firm or expansion would come from.	Would need to look at the budget first and see what could be cut.	Supports them. Doesn't know where else the needed money would have come from.
McCarty	McCarty	McCarty	McCarty	McCarty	McCarty
Food and beverage tax revenue goes into the county's general fund. Could use the revenue to make up for a hole in the budget this year caused by less state funding. Also could look at employee pay raises.	Hired six new deputies in recent years and need to continue to hire on an as-needed basis. Need to look into state and federal grants for funding options. Public safety is important, and the county will need more sheriffs' staff as the county continues to grow.	Need the upcoming expansion to be done right with the option of adding on more housing pods when they're needed.	To keep costs low for taxpayers, jail will follow state code without any frills. Supports a shooting range/training facility because deputies need to be some of the best-trained officers in the state. Supports a new office building because overcrowded community corrections program needs the sheriff's old office space. Money for expansion would have to be through bonding.	Since he started on the council, has made sure the budget is balanced without any waste. Will have to scrutinize every part of the budget and talk to department heads and elected officials to see what could be cut. Would need to find the most minimally invasive way to cut 5 percent or 10 percent from each department.	Supports the food and beverage tax because it's a fee paid by people who can afford to go out and eat. Revenue has been a strong addition to the general fund and has helped the council maintain a balanced budget. Does not support the wheel tax because it isn't raising adequate funds to repair the roads. Doesn't think it's a fair and equitable way to raise tax dollars since the highest taxes are for motorcycles or small trailers. Heavy trucks are the vehicles that damage the roads, but they don't pay the highest fees.
Walker	Walker	Walker	Walker	Walker	Walker
Should fund the jail expansion, trails in the northern part of the county, county employee salaries and other needs. Believes it's going into the general fund.	Sheriff would know how many deputies are required for public safety, which should be a priority. While there should be efficiency, council should take the direction of the sheriff on how staff needs to grow, which also would mean the court systems are growing for whatever reason. Most likely growth in conjunction with population growth. Have to ensure growth is necessary to provide the service the taxpayer expects to receive.	Again, comes back to efficiency. Would have to talk with attorney, judges and officers to know how criminals flow through the system and how expeditiously. The county has an obligation to have a jail. Though he hates to spend the money, have to add on when necessary. Would like to keep it from happening 10 years from now, but governments always have projects of some sort.	If the office he's proposing is part of an additional jail pod and it's negligible in cost, then it's OK. With training facility, the officers have a dangerous job and a technical job from a legal standpoint. Would hate to have anybody out there without the proper training, which would put not just that officer but other officers at risk. However, to build a training facility, maybe other cities and towns could pool together for an area center to train police officers so the county doesn't have to spend any more money than necessary.	A tough question because it depends on so many factors. For example, look at the money coming into the county from the state. The county can only work with the tax dollars the state releases back, so officials have to look for ways to improve efficiency without increasing taxes. Would not say an additional tax would never be required, but that cannot be the first thing officials look to do.	Would be interested to see how much money those taxes have provided to the county and what was done with that money. Hasn't seen a list of projects so doesn't know what the impact has been. Assumed it helped the county, allowed it to fix roads that couldn't be fixed otherwise. Assumes it has allowed for road projects. Just another source of creating revenue with property tax relief bill. Wonders why tax dollars funnel up to the state and sometime later funnel back to the local community. Past local officials had to incorporate these two taxes because we're paying more than we're getting back.
West	West	West	West	West	West
Going into the general fund, as it was designed to at the beginning. In the general fund provides increase to services and meets needs. Would like to see more in rainy-day fund in case of shortfall of funding and if money is ever needed to get us through the year. That goes back to the budget increasing only 4 percent though we're a fast-growing county.	When someone commits a crime the sheriff has to arrest them, the prosecutor has to convict them and the judge has to sentence them, while the taxpayers foot the bill. Must work to continue to arrest, prosecute and incarcerate them. But the growth in the criminal element can't be dealt with in strictly punitive measures. Need rehabilitative measures as well. Must recognize that everyone has to shape the development of young people. Seventy percent of the budget goes to criminal justice, not into parks or a community center. Children need mentoring and education so the county doesn't have to build another jail. Sheriff and other departments work hard to conserve as much as they can.	Only just begun to look at that, but when moving forward would have to get with the sheriff and his key people and look down the road. Would need to sit down and discuss what their needs are.	Would have to research the positives and negatives. A shooting range or training center could be regionalized, consolidating cities and towns into one facility where everyone trains. Have to look at what needs are in all areas, not just shooting range. Would need to look at costs of the proposal. With office, might have to do a long-range study of all government buildings. Would make sense to begin to plan for the future. Could look at consolidating services into a group of buildings. Would make sense with all the courts in one place and cut down on travel time.	Not many areas to cut. Departments have had little growth in their budgets and limited salary increases. Could look at developing a worker pool with cross-training, so if one office is busy twice a year they could get more workers from other offices to help save on part time and overtime. Could cross-train so one employee can go from one office to another. One idea that has not gotten any traction is that so much security is not needed at the courthouse. Started with two deputies, now it's six or eight people costing about \$300,000 a year. Just not convinced it's needed. Said health insurance costs have been growing exponentially.	Supported food and beverage tax for couple reasons. It's a selective tax, where people don't have to eat out as much. Plus it funds the convention center, which will have a huge economic benefit for central Indiana and the county. Opposed to the wheel tax, in part because it's not equitable in its application. When the weather's good, he rides a scooter that weighs 400 pounds, which costs the same \$25 to register as a bigger vehicle. Also, retired people on fixed incomes need that money. Thinks it was sold misleadingly, that it would fund a number of significant road repairs when that's not the case. Should look at bringing the county a rebate of gas tax money.

 <p>Taxes</p> <p>The state again has given counties the option of approving a local option income tax to relieve or reduce property taxes. Do you support the increase? Why or why not?</p>	 <p>For the past three years, county employees have received raises of 3 percent or more in every budget. Is this something the county can afford to continue? Should it continue each year?</p>	 <p>The cost of employee health insurance continues to increase every year. What can be done to address this issue?</p>	 <p>Recruiting businesses has typically been up to the cities, towns and the Johnson County Development Corp. Should the county have a role in this? What is that role, and what will you do?</p>	 <p>Most months, county office managers come to the council asking for additional spending on top of what was in their budgets. What can be done to be sure the county is spending money within its means?</p>	 <p>Should the county have a plan to continually fund railroad crossing upgrades countywide? If so, how could that be done?</p>
<p>Carroll</p> <p>Supports property tax relief but doesn't think tax should be shifted over to individuals. Each person only has so much money to spend, and officials can't keep increasing and moving around the taxes. Has to be a better way to reduce spending and increasing funding other than taxes.</p>	<p>Carroll</p> <p>Need to assess that on a year-to-year basis. Need to see if jobs are overlapping and compare salaries of county employees with their counterparts outside of county work.</p>	<p>Carroll</p> <p>Doesn't know how much the county can do to control costs of health insurance. Have to look and find the best insurance at the best price, which may mean switching providers for a better deal.</p>	<p>Carroll</p> <p>County should work with cities and developers to help draw in businesses. What kind of businesses the county wants, large and small, should be worked into the master development plan.</p>	<p>Carroll</p> <p>If a budget is turned in, unless there's an emergency, the office manager is responsible to live within the budget. Foreseeable increased spending should be worked into the budget, but people can't continually ask for more and more money.</p>	<p>Carroll</p> <p>Yes, but only after the county looks at options like grants and funding at the state and federal level. There are enough people in the county who care about safety of crossings that funds could be raised at the community level. Also could look into requiring developers who build new housing next to railroad tracks take on some of the responsibility of maintenance and repair.</p>
<p>Chambers</p> <p>Doesn't support it. Residents already taxed to death with property taxes and the mortgage situation, people are at risk of not being able to keep their homes under the present system. Any added tax is more agony. "We have to be more accountable and efficient in what we do without adding another tax."</p>	<p>Chambers</p> <p>Thinks county employees should get cost of living raises when due. County employees have to eat like everyone else, and people should not be forgotten. Cost of living raises should be compared to general pay structure of businesses in the county. Should make every effort to give them cost of living raise if possible without going into debt.</p>	<p>Chambers</p> <p>Shop around for different plans. Rising cost for all companies and governments.</p>	<p>Chambers</p> <p>Wants to see a countywide effort cooperating to recruit businesses. Development corporation should be equal and fair to all areas of the county with businesses wanting to relocate and build new factories like Honda did in Greensburg. Decent pay for area residents is needed and have to be willing to put the infrastructure in.</p>	<p>Chambers</p> <p>Should look at each request more deeply, ask questions, require departments to supply all information and why it is needed. Current council does a pretty good job, but there is some fat that could be cut in almost anything.</p>	<p>Chambers</p> <p>Thinks county not responsible for upgrades. With more heavily used crossings, private coalitions could raise funds like in White River Township. Would like to see that done in other areas. Would not support county funding at present time, until crossings become heavily used. Does not seem feasible to do it now.</p>
<p>Marshall</p> <p>Doesn't like the idea of a new tax. Thinks state has been responsible with giving the option for relief of property taxes. Isn't in favor the increase, but it could be a last resort.</p>	<p>Marshall</p> <p>Doesn't know if county can afford it but thinks increases should be tied to inflation and considered on a year-to-year basis.</p>	<p>Marshall</p> <p>Would look at finding the most competitive plan with the best price. Also would look into plans with reasonable deductibles to form a plan that's fair to employees.</p>	<p>Marshall</p> <p>Yes. Should form an agency or group of people who work within the county and coordinate with the cities and communities. Should be an emphasis on sharing ideas and making sure a business is good for the county as a whole.</p>	<p>Marshall</p> <p>Office managers need to keep inventories of how they spend each month. Need to learn good management practices; maybe county can offer training on budgeting. Could start a reward system to those who meet budget or for those who find a way to save money.</p>	<p>Marshall</p> <p>Yes. Should address this with the railroad's administration and get this issue in front of the council for discussion and ideas to raise funds. Would look at grants and other funds that may be periodically available.</p>
<p>McCarty</p> <p>Doesn't support any additional tax. Have finally seen a reduction in property taxes from the state, but now the county will see a reduction in money from the state. If the local income tax is the only option to fund government services, would consider it but needs to look into the issue further.</p>	<p>McCarty</p> <p>Hopes county government can continue to pay employees what they deserve. Need to keep employees' pay in line with state and federal averages. Will need to see how much funding the county gets from the state before a decision can be made on raises. Will do all he can to continue 3 percent raises.</p>	<p>McCarty</p> <p>Council does not have much input on the health insurance situation in the county. Need to look at other insurance carriers to get the lowest price and best package.</p>	<p>McCarty</p> <p>County should be proactive in attracting businesses and development to make Johnson County a state leader. Have to partner with the development corporation and lure new businesses.</p>	<p>McCarty</p> <p>Council's job is making sure the county spends within its means. When department heads come to the council, usually means that the extra spending is out of their control or is unforeseen. Council members need to scrutinize the expenses and look at all avenues to solve the problem before a decision is made.</p>	<p>McCarty</p> <p>Not sure. For the county to fund railroad crossing improvements, it needs to be a top priority. Would look at the Arms of Life group and help them continue their fundraising efforts and actively seek donations. Johnson County may not be able to fund entire upgrade but could partner with other groups to finish a project. Need to prevent tragedies like the accident that killed two boys in White River Township.</p>
<p>Walker</p> <p>At this time doesn't have enough information. Would first look at efficiencies before passing a tax just so the county doesn't have to look in the mirror and improve efficiencies. That's a failure on the part of elected officials and department head. Still, raising money to provide services may be a necessary evil.</p>	<p>Walker</p> <p>Must keep pay and salary consistent with surrounding market so not training employees just so they can move on. If employees got the on-the-job training in the private sector, they would make more money. Should set raises every year so that they're paid according to what's nearby.</p>	<p>Walker</p> <p>Would have to work with the insurance provider, perhaps get a wellness program to help get the rates down. Encouraging exercise and healthy living helps provide rate reductions, but the other part would be good stewardship. Employees shouldn't be going to the doctor just when they don't feel quite right. Health care's been a problem for every business, and it's a huge cost. "I don't have an answer. If I did, I'd be a millionaire today."</p>	<p>Walker</p> <p>Believes it's the responsibility of every leader to lure good businesses to the county to provide good-paying jobs and produce high-quality products. Allows the county to create a good reputation supplying good products, which only helps the community. Really, that's what the committee is set up to do, solicits these companies to Johnson County and it would be good to see some responsibility. Should report to commissioners to say who they've been talking to and keep them updated so officials aren't left in the dark. Believes more of a commissioners' issue, though.</p>	<p>Walker</p> <p>Thinks there probably are a number of reasons to come back and ask for additional appropriations. Department heads should provide all the information available so council members could judge accurately what they need and whether it justifies finding ways to fund appropriations. To help with budget process, would like to see disbursements and expenses trend line-by-line from 2004 on. That way members could see if \$70,000 is appropriated for something when only \$10,000 is spent in a particular year. Would know where money needs to be used that way.</p>	<p>Walker</p> <p>The county's plan would have to come through the highway department. County would have to go to the railroad and state to get them done. In White River Township, the majority of all the funds for those projects came from private funds, but county could continue if there were an instance where upgrades were desired and the means to get them done were available. Safety is the No. 1 priority for anyone close by making it a safer place for younger drivers and so forth.</p>
<p>West</p> <p>Doesn't support increasing income tax. Is dedicated to property tax relief. Still, there were a couple of issues not publicized. Local government must provide basic services to every property regardless of size of their home or income, but they'll have diminished collections. For a portion of people, the property tax reduction won't matter with the increase on the income tax side. For some, will be little direct relief when they're paying more of portion of the income. Shifts the relief so you're subsidizing another portion of society to pay for the same services. Has the idea of applying property taxes based on square footage.</p>	<p>West</p> <p>No, it's something that can't continue because of the compounding effect. Compounds 3 percent of 103 this year, if they got a raise the previous year. Given the financial climate of the whole country, Johnson County has slowed down. Must give the taxpayer a break in the process. Could have merit-based pay raises.</p>	<p>West</p> <p>County looked at different providers last year to get a few more services for our dollars. Would go with that, but in future employees will have to pick up bigger share of the cost of it. Could go to medical savings accounts, where they deposit it into their account, and once it's gone, it's gone. Would immediately begin to work, and you'd see conservation. If they have direct access to that money, they won't be as eager to spend it.</p>	<p>West</p> <p>Every elected official should support the work of the development corporation. Thinks it's incumbent, part of economically helping the community. Must have better pay for the people living here. As council member, can bring a different viewpoint when introducing companies to our community. On different occasions has done what part he could to help.</p>	<p>West</p> <p>Thinks most of the time when they come, unexpected or unanticipated cost have been incurred through no fault of their own. Sometimes were underbudgeted in certain areas and need a transfer. Some have areas underbudgeted but put same amount of money in travel and training every year, though they never spent anything. Just some unanticipated expenses that crop up. Can't budget for everything. A lot of times it's the state mandates that are unfunded, such as sending out everybody's rebate checks. Can't budget all the additional postage for that, and it was required of us. Could have better tracking of line items to ensure the funding is where it needs to be.</p>	<p>West</p> <p>Believes there's a significant need countywide. Needed especially in the remote areas of the county. After the tragedy in White River Township that caused them to upgrade crossings, proposed passing an ordinance that would have a \$500 fine for anyone who didn't come to a full stop. You could use a portion of that fine money to fund upgrade. Don't need a sheriff's deputy sitting there. Just need people to know so they'll stop at the crossings and look both ways before they cross, so they don't risk lives and bodily injury. "If you fined me once, I would for sure stop after that."</p>