



# ELEPHANT TALES

Fellow Wells County Republicans,

I know this sounds crazy....but we are approaching the one year mark before our next Primary Election Day! As we get into May and June, expect announcements for re-election and some folks jumping in on the remaining elected Democrat seats to happen. We have a couple of events coming up this year that will support both the Wells County GOP and a number of candidates next year so keep your eyes and ears open for ways to support our candidates for elected office.

God bless each and every one of you,

Zach Rodgers  
Wells County GOP Chairman

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### MAY

- 1 Breakfast
- 5 Noble Co Lincoln Day
- 6 Lunch & Listen for Elected Officials
- 11 3rd District Meeting
- 18 Adams Co Lincoln Day

#### JUNE

- 5 Breakfast
- 5 Kosciusko Co Lincoln Day
- 8 3rd District Meeting
- 18 Trivia Night
- TBD Republican Women

#### JULY

- 5 Central Committee
- 10 Breakfast
- 13 3rd District Meeting
- 13-18 4H Fair

### 2021 Club Membership

Join the 2021 Club for only \$20.21

With your membership, you will receive a 2021 Club Membership Card and a special gift.

[wells.gop/membership](https://wells.gop/membership)



### NEW MEMBERS

- Carolyn Bertsch
- Jeff Bertsch
- Chandler Gerber
- Jim Oswald
- Laura Sawyer
- Seth Whicker

There's still time to become a member!



We hope this brings you elephant-size joy.



**Breakfast**  
May 1, 8 a.m., GOP HQ  
with Guest Speaker  
**Mike Lautzenheiser**  
Bluffton N.O.W.  
President

**Register** Know someone who isn't registered to vote?  
★★★to★★★  
**VOTE**

Next year is an important election year. Encourage your unregistered friends and neighbors to register so they'll be prepared:  
<https://indianavoters.in.gov/>

### WHO ARE WE?

ALL WHO BELIEVE IN THE IDEALS OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

#### CENTRAL COMMITTEE

- Zach Rodgers, Chair
- Sandy Garcia, Vice-Chair
- Preston Wright, Secretary
- Colin Andrews, Treasurer

### WHERE ARE WE?

Republican Headquarters  
125 S. Johnson St,  
Bluffton, IN 46714  
260-824-4620

Facebook:  
Wells County Republican Party

Instagram: [wellscogop](https://www.instagram.com/wellscogop)

Website: [wells.gop](https://wells.gop)

### HOW TO REACH US?

ZACH RODGERS  
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# Getting to Know Your Elected Officials



**Mike Vanover**  
**Wells County Commissioner**  
**District 1**

**Tell Us a little bit about yourself.**

For 32 years, I have lived and worked in this community. I am a lifetime practitioner of the martial arts with a

handful of blackbelts and rank recognized nationally and internationally. In my quest to serve others and be a positive role model, I became a dedicated self-defense and firearms instructor. My credentials include Law Enforcement Instructor certifications: these allow me to help make communities safer by aiding our law enforcement professionals in receiving top notch training. I also own and operate several companies in Wells County - chief among them is Clean Fuels National, the number one fuel storage tank cleaning company in the nation. God blessed me with two sons who live in Wells County and work with me. Benjamin being 19 years old and Taylor, 23.

**Why did you choose to run for office?** I believe in the uniqueness and importance of our Republic to the individual and the world. We are so blessed to live in a country where the Creator is recognized within our founding documents, as the one who gives us our rights, and not men. I believe in personal responsibility and more, servant leadership. Local elected officials are in the strongest position to protect and preserve our fundamental, natural rights. Individuals of strong character and ethics should never walk away from the calling to serve their communities and to ensure a greater prosperity for future Americans. I truly love doing my part. in a small way, for the people.

**What do you enjoy most about your elected office?**

I enjoy applying my negotiating and business skillset toward growing Wells County into a more positive and notable position within the state and nation. Being one of the three commissioners allows me to aid Wells County citizens in solving issues in an enduring and meaningful way.



**Steve Huggins**  
**Wells County Councilman**  
**District 2**

**Tell us a little bit about yourself.**

I have lived in Wells County since 1988, being born and raised in LaGrange County.

April Yvette Huggins and I have been married for 29 years. We have 3 children, Brandon, Leah D, and Michael as wells as two grandchildren. I graduated from Westview Jr. Sr. High School and Indiana University with a Business Management Degree. I worked in the golf business out of college and then started working for Pretzels, Inc. in 1988. It was owned by my parents, Bill and Ruby Huggins in partnership with Bill and Betty Mann. I worked many floor jobs there, then moved into supervision and management before becoming VP and CEO. We sold the majority of the family business in 2018. I still maintain a seat on the Board of Directors and still have some ownership in the company. I enjoy working out, golfing, hunting, shooting archery and firearms, reading, conservation activities, investing, philanthropic endeavors, IU sports, and spending time with family and friends. I have been a member of Hope Missionary Church for 26 years and believe Jesus is my Lord and Savior. We have also attended services at iTown Church in Bluffton. I am a member of the Bluffton Rotary Club, a board member of Forgotten Children Worldwide, and serve on the Wells County Economic Development Board.

**Why did you choose to run for office?** I believe it is necessary to serve and give back to the community and I believe it is important for Christians to be in leadership and elected positions. It is important to steward the earth and its resources. Public officials have the opportunity to do that. As leaders, we should put others' interests in front of ourselves. I strive to be a statesman, not a politician.

**What do you enjoy most about your elected office?**

My favorite thing about being on Wells County Council is helping our community and doing so with other like minded individuals.

