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May 26, 2020

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Better Indiana makes its first endorsement for the 2020 election cycle

Better Indiana, an independent, grassroots political action committee, has chosen to endorse its first candidate for the 2020 election cycle: Naomi Bechtold, a Democrat, running for Indiana House District 24.

This is Bechtold's second run for the seat. Better Indiana believes she will flip the seat.

"I'm running again in 2020 because it's clear our current political supermajority has failed everyday Hoosier families," Bechtold says on her campaign website. "They are more interested in social conservatism and big business than the health, education, and safety of the people they represent. I find that unacceptable."

This is also the second time Better Indiana has endorsed Bechtold. Bechtold earned 15,428 votes or nearly 42% of the vote two years ago, running against the Republican incumbent. There had not been a Democrat on the ballot for over a decade; Bechtold increased the Democratic share of the vote by nearly 24%, compared to the last time the race was contested.

Bechtold is focused on issues that affect all Hoosiers: strengthening investment in public education, keeping our kids safe at school and at home, expanding access to quality and affordable healthcare for our families, maintaining the highest standards for clean air and water, and ensuring safe and fair elections.

Bechtold is not a career politician. She says she is a neighbor who cares deeply about our state and the residents of Carmel, Zionsville, and Westfield.

An accredited financial counselor, Bechtold works as an extension specialist at Purdue University in the area of family resource management. Her job is to provide the link between land grant university research and Indiana residents by creating innovative learning opportunities that address local issues.

She also serves as a board member for the Carmel Clay Parks Foundation, was a founding member of the Carmel Kiwanis Club, and was past-president for the Indiana affiliate of the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences.

“I am well known as an independent thinker, leader, collaborator, thoughtful listener and problem solver,” she says.

Bechtold has a bachelor’s degree in public policy from Duke University and a master’s in business administration from Lehigh University.

She has lived in Carmel since 2008 and has been married for over 30 years. The couple has two adult children.

“I think it is time for much more equal representation of ideas and bipartisanship in our state House of Representatives,” she says.

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For more about Naomi Bechtold: Go to www.bechtoldforindiana.com or you can find her on twitter @NaomiBechtold and Instagram @BechtoldforIndiana

About House District 24: The district, which includes western Carmel, and much of Zionsville, Westfield, and Whitestown, has undergone dramatic growth in the past decade. In 2018, Senator Donnelly received 47.3% of the vote in fact. It encompasses Carmel’s West city council district, which historically elected that city’s first Democratic council member, and Zionsville elected that city’s first Democratic mayor.

About Better Indiana: Better Indiana’s mission is to elect progressive leaders who are committed to creating a better Indiana. The goal is to bring new people, money, and energy to support Democratic candidates for the Indiana state legislature. Better Indiana’s focus is on excellent candidates in winnable legislative districts and providing campaign support services and financial resources. Furthermore, Better Indiana recognizes the importance of building progressive support in Indiana by helping to build a bench of new local leaders, encouraging community engagement, increasing voter turnout, and supporting progressive organizations that will shape a better future for Indiana.

Better Indiana’s 2018 Endorsements: Better Indiana endorsed five candidates, including two winners: Incumbent Democratic Rep. Carey won State House District 87 by 24.4%. Challenger and now Sen. J.D. Ford won State Senate District 29 by 13.4%. The other endorsed candidates significantly increased the Democrats’ share of the vote compared to the last time their races were contested: Naomi Bechtold in House District 24, Poonam Gill in House District 88, and Sherry Shipley in Senate District 22.