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BETTER INDIANA ENDORSES ERICA LAWRENCE FOR HOUSE DISTRICT 72

Better Indiana, an independent, grassroots political action committee, has chosen to endorse Erica Lawrence, a Democrat running for Indiana House District 72.

A first-time candidate, Lawrence was uncontested in the primary. Better Indiana believes she can flip the seat.

“I am dismayed public dollars are going to private education,” said Lawrence, who is an elementary school principal. “This is wrong. Public schools are open to everybody. Yet private schools with admissions qualifications continue to accept public money. We need those dollars.”

Lawrence is also concerned about the teacher pay gap in Indiana as compared to surrounding states – which can act as an incentive to teach elsewhere. She knows this firsthand.

She left a job as a school counselor in Jeffersonville, Ind., for the same job across the Ohio River in Jefferson County, Ky., for a \$20,000 raise and half the insurance premium.

Lawrence also says she is concerned about the watered-down 21st Century Scholars Program, which was created more than 25 years ago to help low-income Hoosier students graduate high school and attend college.

“Here was a powerful program impacting people around our state,” she said. “How did we let it get watered down?”

Other issues she is focused on that affect all Hoosiers: improving family physical and mental health; creating an economy that works, raising the minimum wage, and supporting small business.

Lawrence is a graduate of New Albany Senior High School. She earned a bachelor’s degree in history from DePauw University, a master’s degree in counselor education/school counseling and guidance services from Trinity Washington University, and a Doctor of Education from Spalding University. She has completed post-doctoral studies at University of Louisville and earned a professional certificate in urban school leadership from Harvard University.

She has served as a public school teacher (District of Columbia Public Schools), a high school counselor (Greater Clark County Schools), and assistant principal and principal (Jefferson County Public Schools). In addition, she is a counselor educator for graduate students (adjunct professor at University of the Cumberlands), a national presenter and facilitator on education topics, and a contributing author for Principal Magazine.

Lawrence serves on the DePauw University Alumni Board and Alliance Francaise Board of Directors. She and her husband have two children.

“We’ve got to educate young people. We’ve got to get them the skills they need,” she said. “If you build personal economy, you will build the state economy.”

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About Erica Lawrence: Go to www.eric4indiana.com and @DrLawrence2010.

About District 72: The Floyd County district includes all New Albany and Georgetown, as well as most of the county. The Republican incumbent has held the seat since 2008.

About Better Indiana: Better Indiana's mission is to elect progressive leaders who are committed to creating a better Indiana for all Hoosiers. The goal is to bring new people, new money and new energy to support Democratic candidates for the Indiana state legislature. Better Indiana’s focus is on fundraising to support excellent candidates in winnable legislative districts and providing them strategic 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 Hamilton 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, whom BI has endorsed again in 2020; Poonam Gill in House District 88, and Sherry Shipley in Senate District 22.