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## **Concerned Citizens Release Green Voter Guide**

**Indiana** — [Voters for a Green Indiana](#) (VGI) just released [Green Voters Guide 2020](#) for select federal, state and local races to inform voters concerned about climate change. The guide identifies the candidates who accept climate science and support policies and actions to reduce heat-trapping gases.

The guide is for Hoosiers who want to support candidates that will help Indiana make the transition from coal to renewables. Global warming has been a political wedge issue for a long time, but as the signs of climate change become more apparent, voters are rising above the partisan divide driven by special interests. A recent article in the [Indianapolis Star](#) reports Hoosier voters are much more concerned about climate change than ever before: 80% of survey respondents prioritize the environment over the economy, even among Republicans.

Indiana universities have stepped up to address climate change. In a series of reports, the [Purdue Climate Change Research Center](#) shows that climate change is a serious local problem impacting Indiana's health, agriculture and tourism. The [Indiana University Resilience Institute](#) is providing technical assistance to cities and towns to address greenhouse gas emissions at the local level.

At the federal level, the U.S. Global Change Research Program, the country's authority on climate change, [reports](#) that global warming poses a severe threat to American's health and the country's infrastructure, economy and natural resources.

"This election comes at a pivotal time when climate scientists warn of critical thresholds beyond which damage is irreversible," said Kathy Moran, a VGI volunteer from Plainsfield in Hendricks County. "We hope this timely guide will help inform voters about the candidates."

Candidates were evaluated by a non-partisan volunteer team including Republican, Democrat, and Independent voters committed to environmental issues. Evaluations are based on

an extensive review of the candidates' positions, their voting record, as well as campaign funds accepted from fossil fuel industries.

Though 17<sup>th</sup> state in population, Indiana is the second largest user of coal, and has suffered negative health and environmental impacts, such as poor air quality and contaminated groundwater from coal ash ponds. Air pollution and contaminated ground water are problems we face today from burning coal. Alternative energy sources, such as wind and solar are now cheaper and cleaner than coal. A rapid transition from coal to alternative sources would help control electric bills, improve our local environment today, address climate change, and create more green energy jobs than coal jobs lost. It is clearly the best overall solution for the citizens of Indiana. Green energy jobs should be a large part of Indiana's future economy. But why is Indiana lagging behind?

“Unfortunately, campaign donations from coal and utility industries appear to have misguided the elected officials who voted to support outdated coal, voted against energy efficiency and voted against customer-owned solar,” said Ron Rhoads, a VGI volunteer from Carmel in Hamilton County. “The guide captures this political landscape and provides the research to inform voters this election.”

The guide and supporting research were prepared by concerned citizens in Hamilton, Hendricks, Marion and Porter Counties. Information was gathered from publicly available sources, including [Vote Smart](#) and [Follow the Money](#). In addition, some candidates were invited to share their views through a questionnaire. The guide and supporting research are available at [Voters for a Green Indiana](#).

**About Voters for a Green Indiana:** Voters for a Green Indiana is a nonpartisan group of volunteers who take climate change seriously. We believe candidates who understand the ongoing energy and climate challenges are best qualified to lead us through these changes. Our goal is to inform voters about candidates who accept climate science, understand this is an important local & global issue, and support policies and actions to reduce carbon pollution.

<https://www.votersforagreenindiana.org/>

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