



Attract --- Retain --- Expand Business Investment

I am passionate about fostering economic growth in Vigo County and I'll work tirelessly to attract new businesses and create job opportunities. I will actively market the county to businesses, showcasing our advantages such as location, resources, workforce, and quality of life. This can be done through targeted advertising campaigns, participation in trade shows and business conventions, and leveraging social media and online platforms.

I will engage with our business community to understand their needs and concerns. This can be done through regular meetings, town halls, or forming advisory committees comprised of business leaders. By maintaining open lines of communication, commissioners can better address issues affecting businesses and tailor policies to support their growth.

Here are some of my areas of focus:

Business Attraction and Retention: Actively work to attract new businesses to Vigo County by highlighting its advantages such as its central location, skilled workforce, and supportive business environment. Additionally, focus on retaining existing businesses by providing incentives, streamlined permitting processes, and support services.

Develop Business-Friendly Policies: Commissioners should work to create a regulatory environment that is conducive to business growth. This could involve streamlining permitting processes, reducing bureaucratic hurdles, and offering incentives such as tax breaks or grants for new or expanding businesses.

Support Small Businesses: Small businesses are the backbone of the local economy. Offer assistance programs, such as grants, loans, and technical assistance, to help small businesses start, grow, and thrive. Foster a supportive ecosystem for entrepreneurship by providing networking opportunities and resources for business owners. I will provide support to small businesses through initiatives such as business incubators, mentoring programs, and access to capital through loans or grants. The future of Rose-Hulman Ventures, or, "Innovation Grove" as it will be called once our community gets a grant that is in process through the Lilly Foundation, is a great place to start. Innovation Grove will be near the airport, attracting entrepreneurs to call our community home.

Public-Private Partnerships: Foster partnerships between the public sector, private businesses, and nonprofit organizations to leverage resources and expertise in economic development efforts. Collaborate on initiatives such as business incubators, industry clusters, and workforce training programs.

Diversify Industries: Reduce dependence on any single industry by promoting diversification. Encourage the growth of emerging sectors such as technology, healthcare, and advanced manufacturing. Support initiatives that foster innovation and entrepreneurship in these sectors.

Streamline Regulations: Review and streamline regulations to make it easier for businesses to operate and grow in Vigo County. Simplify permitting processes, reduce bureaucracy, and eliminate unnecessary barriers to business development.

Long-Term Planning: Develop a comprehensive economic development strategy with input from stakeholders across the community. Set clear goals, benchmarks, and timelines for implementation, and regularly monitor progress and adjust strategies as needed.

Use Resources Across the State: Shelbyville, IN had a great economic development plan, and the mayor there just joined a consulting firm in Indy called TPMA as senior director of Indiana economic and community development. He will help communities develop their own strategies for economic growth and I'd like to pick his brain to see his thoughts on Vigo County's future.

There is another independent economic development leader called Ginovus that I would like to talk to about site selection, incentive procurement and incentive compliance. While they mainly work with the businesses, I think it is important to understand what incentives are out there that we can offer to perspective companies.

<https://www.growwabashcounty.com/about> Wabash County has created an organization called Grow Wabash County that I would like to model and possibly learn from. Grow Wabash County strategically combines the county-wide economic development organization and Chamber of Commerce. It is a one-stop-shop for business development efforts. The team focuses on the five main pillars of service: business development, entrepreneurship, livability, workforce development and investor services. Grow Wabash County provides local incentives and other benefits to businesses looking to locate or grow here. Leveraging partnerships with regional assets and local municipalities, Grow Wabash County collaborates with Wabash cities and towns to deliver the most vibrant and sustainable economic development possible.

By attracting new businesses, supporting local entrepreneurs, and investing in infrastructure, we can create jobs and opportunities for everyone. A small public investment can lead to a large private investment. Businesses that expand or open up shop in our community create good, high paying job opportunities

The more successful our businesses are, the more tax revenue we all benefit from

Together, we can build a brighter future for Vigo County. But I can't do it alone – I need your support! Join me in this journey toward progress and prosperity. Let's make Vigo County the best it can be.