

Make Good Decisions Press Conference Speakers Bio's



State Senator Jim Merritt

Sen. Jim Merritt (R)
Majority Caucus Chair
Indiana Senate

Jim Merritt is a Republican member of the Indiana Senate, representing District 31 since 1990.

Jim is a born and raised Hoosier, who has chosen a life of devoting himself to creating a better and safer Indiana. As a State Senator, Jim embodies integrity and the ability to bring people together. Since 1990, Jim has fought for principled reforms pertaining to education, jobs, fiscal responsibility, healthcare and overall, the quality of life of his fellow Hoosiers.

Senator Jim Merritt and his wife Kelley live in northeastern Indianapolis and are the proud parents of Abby and son-in-law Josh Baker, Jennifer, and Will. Representing 130,000 constituents in District 31, Senator Merritt was first elected to the Indiana Senate in 1990. Committees Merritt serves on include Utilities, Commerce & Technology, Homeland Security & Transportation, Public Policy, Rules and Legislative Procedure, Joint Rules, and Veterans Affairs & the Military. The leadership positions Merritt holds in the Senate are Majority Caucus Chairman along with Chairmanship of the Utilities Committee and Ranking Membership of Commerce & Technology.



Kelly Mitchell, Treasurer for the State of Indiana

Kelly Mitchell was elected as the 55th Treasurer for the State of Indiana on November 4th, 2014. In this role, Treasurer Mitchell serves as the Chair of the Indiana Bond Bank, the Statewide 911 Board, the Indiana Education Savings Authority, the ABLE Authority, and as the Sole Trustee of the State Police Pension Trust, among a number of other positions. As the Chief Investment Officer for the State, she is responsible for the management of approximately five to seven billion dollars on a daily basis.

For seven years prior to becoming Treasurer, Kelly Mitchell worked in the Treasurer of State's Office as the Director of TrustINdiana, Indiana's local government investment pool. Before joining the Indiana Treasurer of State's Office, Kelly Mitchell was a County Commissioner for eight years in Cass County, Indiana. During her tenure as Commissioner, she served as President of the Board of Commissioners for five years and was named First-Term Commissioner of the Year by the Association of County Commissioners.

Treasurer Mitchell holds a B.A. in Political Science from Valparaiso University and a M.A. in Philanthropic Studies from Indiana University – Purdue University, Indianapolis (IUPUI). Treasurer Mitchell resides in Indianapolis, with her husband Larry, and they have a blended family of four children and two grandchildren.

Benjamin Hunter, Superintendent of Public Safety at IU



Benjamin Hunter began his role as superintendent of public safety at IU in January, 2017. As superintendent, he is responsible for comprehensive strategy, policy and practices for public safety across Indiana University, including the Indiana University Police Department, which has more than 135 sworn officers across all IU campuses. He also is responsible for the Indiana University Police Academy.

Hunter is an alumni of both IUPUI and the IU Police Academy. Before returning to IU, he was executive director of public safety, community relations and government affairs at Butler University. At Butler, he also served for a period as chief of staff to Butler University President James M. Danko while overseeing the university's Department of Public Safety and University Events office. His law enforcement career included a stint with IUPD-IUPUI and then 10 years with the Indianapolis Police Department before his transition to higher education law enforcement at Butler. Hunter has a deep interest in community policing, something he developed while working as a community liaison for three different deputy police chiefs at the Indianapolis Police Department (now called Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department). He also was elected to two four-year terms on the Indianapolis City-County Council, ending in December 2015.

Dr. Lori Reesor, Vice Provost for Student Affairs and Dean of Students



Dr. Lori Reesor recently joined Indiana University as the Vice Provost for Student Affairs and Dean of Students. She also serves as an adjunct faculty member in the Higher Education Student Affairs (HESA) program. Prior to IU, Reesor served as the Vice President for Student Affairs at the University of North Dakota where she was responsible for overseeing a comprehensive student services division including enrollment management, housing, health and wellness, and student life. Reesor has more than 30 years of experience within student affairs at large public institutions including the University of Kansas, the

University of Missouri-Kansas City, and Wichita State University.

Reesor holds a doctoral degree from the University of Kansas, master's degree from Iowa State University, and a bachelor's degree in business from University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. She has held numerous leadership positions within professional organizations including NASPA where she currently serves on the NASPA Foundation. Reesor currently serves on the Board of Directors for APLU. NASPA named Reesor a Pillar of the Profession in 2014 and she is the recipient of the Fred Turner Award for Outstanding Service for 2015. She is the co-editor of *Beginning Your Journey: A Guide for New Professionals in Student Affairs*.



Stevan Stankovich

Stevan Stankovich is a recent graduate with his Juris Doctor from Indiana University McKinney School of Law and his Master of Business Administration from Indiana University Kelley School of Business. Stevan also graduated Wabash College Cum Laude with his Bachelor of Arts in History and Political Science and a minor in Economics. Stevan has interned in both Indiana Governor Pence's and Indiana Governor Daniels' administrations as an Assistant General Counsel and Assistant Policy Director for the Indiana Governor's Office of Management and Budget. Stevan has also interned as an Assistant General Counsel for Indiana Governor Pence's General Counsel's Office. Stevan has traveled extensively to over 20 countries and most of the United States for education and pleasure. Stevan also enjoys volunteering and has been part of numerous volunteer organizations around central Indiana including Second Helpings, United Way, and Habitat for Humanity.

Stevan was a pledge at Delta Tau Delta Fraternity at Wabash College in 2008 when he was asked to watch over his fellow fraternity brother Johnny Smith who had been binge drinking that evening. Stevan was unaware of the signs of alcohol poisoning and was just making sure Johnny did not throw up and choke on his own vomit. Unfortunately Johnny passed away from acute alcohol poisoning that evening.

Stevan's mission now is to educate teens about the warning signs of deadly alcohol poisoning, the dangers of binge drinking, Indiana's Lifeline Law, and to basically Make Good Decisions.