



September 22, 2009

P.O. Box 11014  
Fort Wayne, IN 46855

Allen County Councilwoman Paula Hughes, Chair  
Allen County Personnel Committee  
City-County Building  
One Main Street  
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802

**Steven R. Shine**  
Chair

Dear Paula:

**Elvis E. Netterville**  
Asst. County Chair

As Chairman of the Allen County Republican Party, I feel compelled to address the issue of a proposed pay increase for Allen County Voter Registration's politically appointed Board members. I have requested that this letter be read into the record at the September 22, 2009, meeting of the Personnel Committee of the Allen County Council.

**Candice R. Fries**  
Vice Chair

The Allen County Voter Registration Board has both a Republican and Democrat Board Member. The Democrats, through their Chairman and Board appointee, have requested that a substantial salary increase be granted to the respective party appointees. The Allen County Republican Party, however, adamantly opposes this pay raise for the reasons set forth below.

**Jerry D. Zuber**  
Secretary

**Robert W. Lee**  
Treasurer

First and foremost, such a pay increase for our Voter Registration Board Members is not appropriate at this time. The current compensation of \$45,090.00 per year is more than adequate for a position that, while important to the smooth operation of our election system in Allen County, does not require a time commitment warranting such a substantial increase in salary. The Voter Registration Board Members serve the voters well and should therefore be compensated accordingly. However, as the Republican Board Member, Barry Schust, has stated, a raise of approximately \$10,000.00 per year is excessive and is nothing more than a selfish hoarding of scarce county resources.

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Second, it is highly inappropriate for a political appointee to request a pay increase from the County. While other County employees are accountable to elected officials and, hence, the taxpayers, the Voter Registration Board Members answer directly to the Chairman of their respective parties. As the Chairman of the Allen County Republican Party, I am disappointed by the request of the Democrats to use the County's precious financial resources in such a self-serving manner. It certainly does not help the cause, either, that the Democrat Board Member who would benefit from the pay increase is also an officer within the Democrat Party, whose Chairman supports such a pay increase. This does little to instill confidence in the political system.

The Personnel Committee should reject the Democrat proposal to increase the salary of the politically appointed Voter Registration Board Members. In light of the current difficult economic times in Allen County and the strong belief held by taxpayers that government spending should be reduced rather than expanded, I oppose in the strongest terms this pay increase measure and ask the Personnel Committee to vote against the Democrat proposal.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Steven R. Shine, Chairman  
Republican Party of Allen County

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