

**Keys to the Candidates**  
**Compiled by the League of Women Voters of Bloomington-Monroe County**  
**for the**  
**2016 General Election**

**Indiana House of Representatives, District 46**

Bill Breedon (D)

Bob Heaton (R)

***1. What are your qualifications for the office you are seeking?***

**BREEDON:** I know what it is like to live from paycheck to paycheck, and raise a family. I worked my way through college and seminary, have a B.A. and an M.Div. in Religion and Philosophy, and did 30 hours of graduate studies as an Associate Instructor in Criminal Justice at IU. I am a retired minister, a political activist and am committed to justice and equality for all. I have lived in District 46 22 years.

**HEATON:** No response.

***2. What are your top three priorities for your office and, if elected, how will you address them?***

**BREEDON:** a. Support public education. Introduce legislation to end the regimen of testing that benefits corporate interests at the expense of students and teachers. There is no such thing as standardized children. Stop the flow of tax dollars to private schools through the voucher program. Let teachers teach.  
b. Restore Hoosier Hospitality and guarantee equal rights for all by repealing RIFRA, a law that has cost our state millions of dollars. Discrimination is not a Hoosier value. We need to honor the separation of church and state.  
c. Create living wage jobs: Repeal Right to Work, support collective bargaining.

**HEATON:** No response.

***3. How and by whom should redistricting be done?***

**BREEDON:** Redistricting should be done by a non-partisan commission made up of equal numbers of Republicans, Democrats and Independents. There are already states with non-partisan redistricting programs, so we don't have to re-invent the wheel. 125 words are not enough to explain the mechanism, but it can be done, and should be done. Gerrymandering has to end.

**HEATON:** No response.

**4. *What is the impact of vouchers on the Indiana constitution's requirement for "a general and uniform system of Common Schools, wherein tuition shall be without charge, and equally open to all"?***

**BREEDEN:** School vouchers have a negative impact on public education. My wife and I home-schooled our children for several years. We were fortunate to be able to do so, but we did not ask the taxpayers of Indiana to subsidize us. We chose to live simply in order to be full time parents. The majority of parents in our state are not able to home-school and also provide for the economic needs of their families. School vouchers are being used by the Republican Party to destroy the public education system that has served our state well for generations. Private charter schools should be privately funded. Public charter schools should allow for public access of all records, meet state teacher certification requirements, and allow collective bargaining.

**HEATON:** No response.

**5. *What role do you think the Indiana General Assembly should play in addressing climate change?***

**BREEDEN:** The General Assembly should be working to make Indiana a leading state in alternate fuel and energy sources for the future. The Pentagon has identified climate change as among the top threats to national security. The scientific community is nearly unanimous in the opinion that human activity is changing our climate and threatens to destroy life as we know it. Captain Kirk and Spock cannot save us. Climate change deniers are on the payroll of the fossil fuel industry and committed to short-term profits. For the sake of all of our grandchildren we must demand that the General Assembly work for the people rather than for corporate profits. Sustainability must be the priority and making it so will create living wage jobs for Hoosiers.

**HEATON:** No response.

**6. *What should the balance of power be between the state and communities in such matters as environmental protection and gun regulation?***

**BREEDEN:** It is time for those who talk about smaller government to put their votes where their mouths are. The Republicans in the General Assembly claim to be for small government until local communities want to protect their environments and their citizens by common sense. I believe local communities should have the right to set environmental standards to protect local areas from factory farms or other environmental hazards. I also believe in common sense gun regulation. I own a gun, but I do not need 50 round magazines or assault weapons. Anyone who does is not a hunter, but a potential killer. The Second Amendment includes the words, "Well regulated." You don't need a Ph. D. to read it.

**HEATON:** No response.

***7. What is the influence of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) on legislation in Indiana and what are the pros and cons of that influence?***

**BREEDEN:** ALEC is toxic to democracy. Lazy legislators receive these pre-written bills in the Republican controlled states. Extreme right-wing lawyers paid by corporate interests write the bills. There are no “pros” to the influence of ALEC. Our legislators often use our tax money to go to their conventions that are closed to the public. The General Assembly of Indiana is supposed to serve the people of Indiana, not corporate interests. I will not accept the idea that a corporation is a person until Texas executes one, and I will not accept corporate money, nor attend ALEC conventions.

**HEATON:** No response.