

June 20, 2024



GOP Chooses Beckwith for LG, McCormick Picks Goodin

Indiana Republicans chose controversial pastor and conservative activist **Micah Beckwith** to be their lieutenant governor [nominee](#) at last weekend's state convention, complicating governor candidate **Mike Braun's** campaign calculus.

And earlier today Democrat **Jennifer McCormick** chose **Terry Goodin**, a former school superintendent and state representative from southern Indiana who currently works for the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), to be her running mate.

McCormick's pick of Goodin must be ratified by Democratic delegates at the party's July 13 state convention and there will be [other candidates](#) from which to choose.

Political Fallout?

When Republican **Mike Braun** announced State Representative **Julie McGuire** of Indianapolis as his preferred running mate, he needed majority support for her among the 1,800 delegates to the party's state convention.

But after a year of campaigning for the job, Beckwith's support proved too durable to overcome and he defeated McGuire by a slim 63-vote margin, 891-828, despite a last-minute endorsement of McGuire by former President **Donald Trump**.

Subsequently, **Paige Miller**, a founder of Hamilton County Moms for Liberty, who announced an independent run for governor with unsuccessful GOP candidate **Jamie Reitenour** as her running mate, [suspended](#) the effort citing her "admiration and respect" for Beckwith.

Democrats [pounced](#) on the Beckwith nomination, which has even some Republicans [worried](#) about a close race this fall.

But McCormick's pick of Goodin is not without controversy among some Democrats over his conservative views on social issues such as abortion and gay marriage.

In the governor's race, the stage now seems set for an election that is only 20 weeks away.

Odds & Ends

Indiana GOP Chairwoman **Anne Hathaway** is [stepping down](#) along with the party's Executive Director **Joe Elsener** at the end of the month. Insider speculation around a new state chair centers on former state senator **Randy Head**.

Indiana Attorney General **Todd Rokita** was unopposed for renomination at the Republican State Convention and [came out swinging](#) - both literally and figuratively - for this fall's campaign, targeting Democrats who have yet to choose their nominee.

State Comptroller **Elise Nieshalla** released her first annual comprehensive [financial report](#) and things look to be in good order for the State of Indiana.

It's clear that **property taxes** are [under scrutiny](#) by the **State and Local Tax Review Task Force** as they prepare a report prior to the 2025 "long" or budget-writing session of the Indiana General Assembly.

Indiana University has [approved](#) a new \$110-million athletics complex for its Indianapolis campus.

Indiana's **driver's test** is apparently [too hard](#)?

Happy first day of Summer! It's starting out as a hot one!
