

For Immediate Release
Representative
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Dixon for State

Contact: Bill Dixon
candidate
Billdixon6035@gmail.com

SYRACUSE, Indiana – Bill Dixon, candidate for State Representative in the 22nd District, representing parts of Kosciusko and Elkhart Counties, makes the following statement:

I fully support Governor Eric Holcomb and his decision to open the state's economy in five stages, potentially timed to fully reopen the economy on July 4, 2020. Kosciusko and southern Elkhart Counties are fortunate to have avoided a wide spread of COVID-19, as evidenced by low hospitalization rates.

We only need to look as far as North Manchester, where 46 people employed in a single retirement community tested positive for the disease just this week, to realize that our less densely populated environment makes cases of the disease less likely, but when a case shows up it can spread quickly. As Dr. Lindsay Weaver, Chief Medical Officer of the Indiana Department of Health said at the Governor's press conference on Friday, we wear masks not so much for our own protection, as for the protection of others, given that many people who catch the disease don't know it for a period of time.

As the state opens an additional 50 testing sites over the next two weeks, expanding upon the 84 already in place, our good fortune in having avoided widespread hospitalizations from COVID-19 likely means a greater distance to travel if we need to be tested. If at any point you believe you may have contracted COVID-19, contact your doctor or the county health department right away. Call them on the phone; don't go to them unless instructed to do so.

I have noticed a certain smug superiority gaining ground as both political extremes weaponize the wearing of a mask. There should be no time or patience for this attitude from either side. This is not about expressing a view. In fact, wearing a mask isn't about you at all. It is about not giving germs you may or may not have to someone you may or may not know. Think of it as similar to driving on the right side of the road; yes, you could drive on the left side of the road, but it offers you no advantage, and by staying to the right accidents are avoided. Does it stop every accident? If there is something in my lane can I never go into the other lane? Am I a better person if I only drive on the right in all cases always? Am I a better person if I rebel and only drive on the left? We know the answers. These questions are the kind of sophistry that political extremism drives us toward. They apply similarly to old behaviors as well and new ones.

Hoosiers, and rural Midwesterners in general, are known for a high degree of common sense and avoiding drama. Let's not let the rantings of a few extremists deny us that moniker.

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