

# Who is Who in Government

## Municipal Government Structure

Community Foundation of Hancock County

June 27, 2024



**Community  
Foundation**  
OF HANCOCK COUNTY



**VERIDUS**  
GROUP



- Director of Government Advising and Innovation – The Veridus Group
- Former Town Manager
- Masters in Public Administration
- BA in Political Science
  
- IHSAA Football Official
  - Worked 3A state football games in 2017 & 2023
- Comedy Sportz Improv Recreational League
- Broadway Musical Fan
  - Just returned from NYC
    - Illinoise, Heart of Rock & Roll, The Outsiders, The Wiz, Hamilton, Little Shop of Horrors





- Local Governments in Indiana
- Some Key Definitions
- Townships
- Cities & Towns
  - Consolidated
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Class
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Class
  - Town
- Other Legal Units
- Municipal Funding
  - Tax Revenues
  - Enterprise Funds
  - Long Term Debt

Goal = For you to have a decent understanding of the “actors” in local municipal government, what they are responsible for, and how they receive some of their funding.

**"MAKE NO LITTLE PLANS;  
THEY HAVE NO MAGIC TO  
STIR MEN'S BLOOD AND  
PROBABLY THEMSELVES  
WILL NOT BE REALIZED.  
MAKE BIG PLANS; AIM  
HIGH IN HOPE AND  
WORK." DANIEL HUDSON  
BURNHAM**

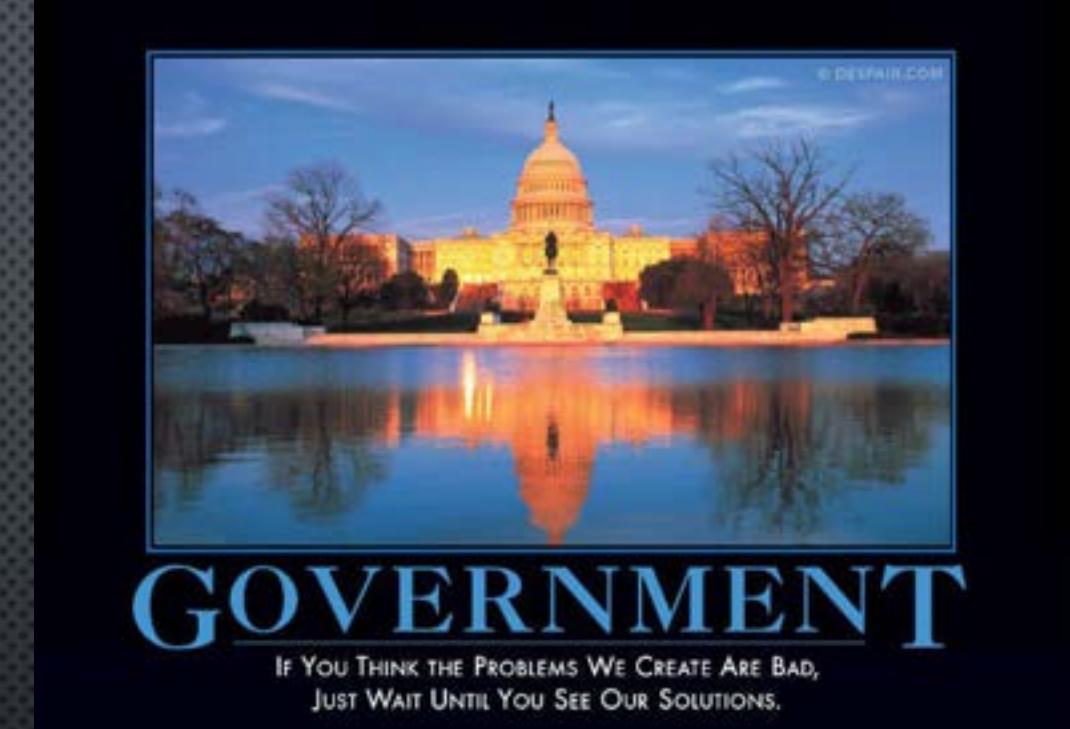


# Local Government Regulation – Title 36

- Counties
- Townships
- Consolidated City
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Class City
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Class City
- Town

\*\* May also reference, school corporations, library districts, local housing authorities, fire protection districts/territories, public transportation corporation, local hospital authorities, local airport authority, special services district.

Key to all of these is that they may sue or be sued.





- Home Rule - IC 36-1-3-4
  - Powers expressly granted by statute
  - Powers necessarily or fairly implied in or incident to power expressly granted
  - Home Rule does not provide absolute power, as state code contains provisions limiting municipalities from exercising certain powers.
- Strong Mayor – Administrative head of the municipality, proposes budget, hires/fires, sets policy direction. Elected Individually
- Council/Manager – Professionally appointed manager enacts the policy of the elected councilmembers. Administrative head of the municipality, hires/fires and advises council.



- Elected Trustee
  - Keep township records open for public inspection.
  - Attend all meetings of the township legislative body.
  - Receive and pay out township funds.
  - Administer township assistance under IC 12-20 and IC 12-30-4.
  - Perform the duties of fence viewer under IC 32-26.
  - Provide and maintain cemeteries under IC 23-14.
  - Provide fire protection under IC 36-8, except in a township that:
    - is located in a county having a consolidated city; and
    - consolidated the township's fire department under IC 36-3-1-6.1.
  - Provide and maintain township parks and community centers under IC 36-10.
  - Destroy detrimental plants, noxious weeds, and rank vegetation under IC 15-16-8.
  - Provide insulin to the poor under IC 12-20-16.
  - Perform other duties prescribed by statute.
- Trustee Advisory Board – 3 members
  - Legislative & Fiscal Body





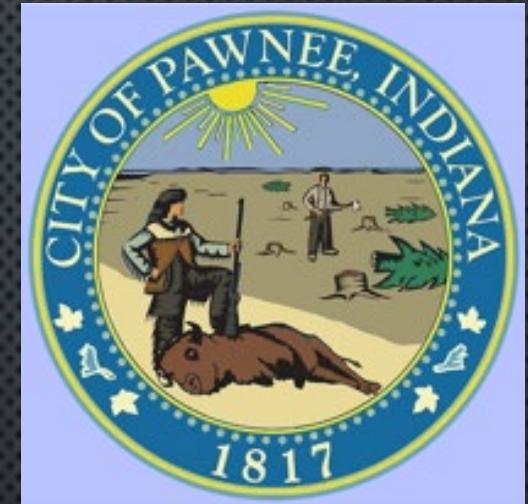
- Cities of 600,000 or more
- Cities of 34,000 – 599,999
- Cities less than 34,000
- Other Muni. of any population
  - A town may be changed into city once population reaches 2,000.
  - Requires a petition or legislative resolution and a vote by eligible citizens of the municipality.

First Class Cities

Second Class Cities

Third Class Cities

Town





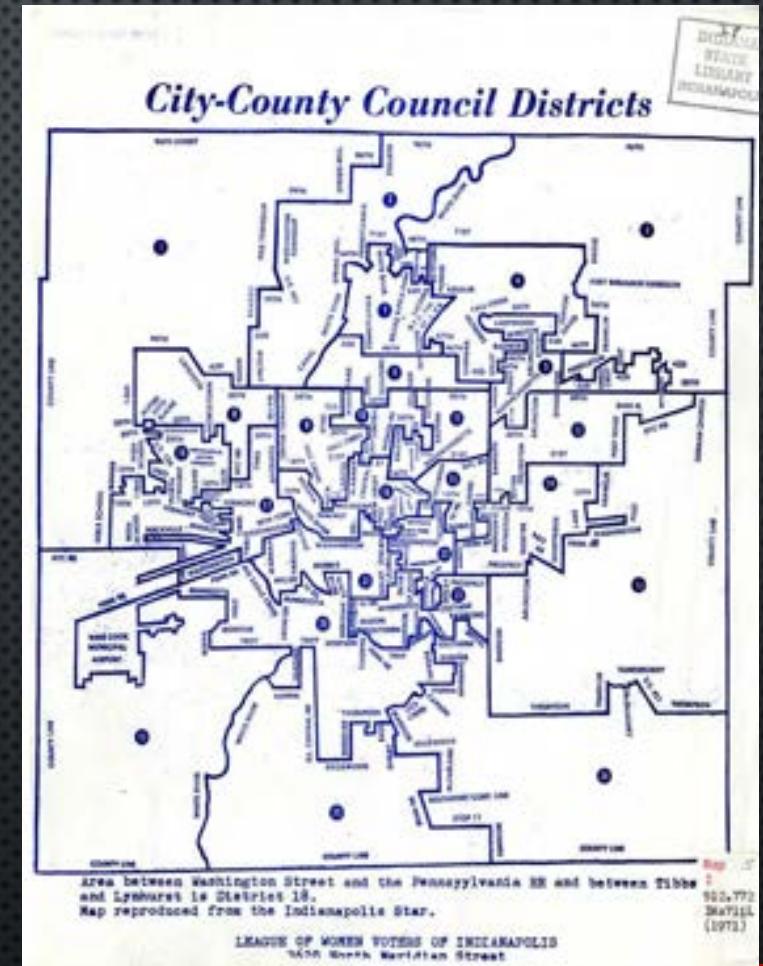
- There are none in Indiana per state statute
  - In 1969 the Indiana State Legislature passed Marion Co/Indianapolis UNIGOV laws
  - Should another city reach a population of 600,000 it would automatically move to a consolidated community with the county it resides in. IC 36-3-1-1





## Indianapolis/Marion County

- Indianapolis/Marion County Consolidated 1970
- Elected Offices from City/County merged
- Maintains Home Rule associated with 1<sup>st</sup> class cities
- Mayor – Strong
  - Appoints dept heads
  - Prepares budget
- City/County Council Members
  - Modify and adopt the budget
  - Create and adopt legislation
- Sheriff – Jail and civil processing (divorce, protective orders, etc.)
- County Treasurer – receive tax payments
- County Auditor – distribute tax funds received
- County Assessor – assess property in county





Population 34,000 – 599,0000

Requires Vote of City Council to move from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup>

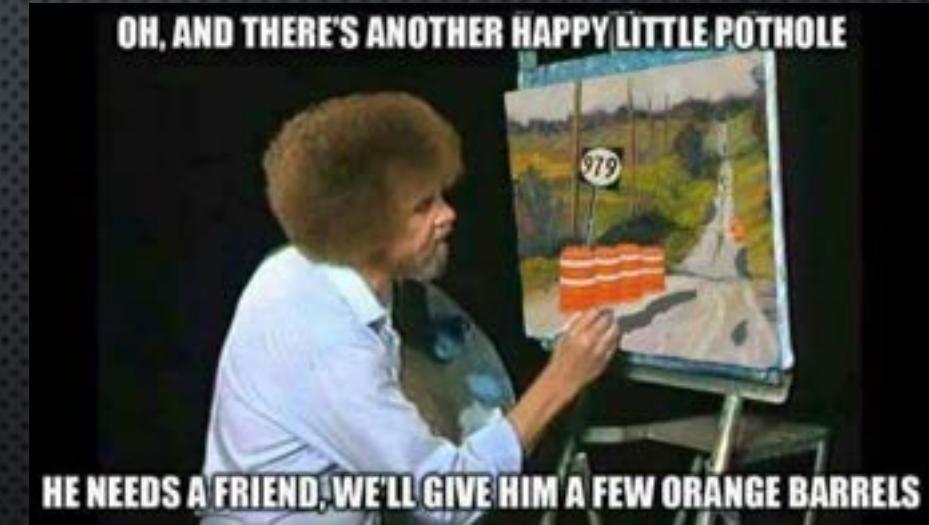
- Strong Mayor
- Council legislates and acts as fiscal body – 9 members
  - Elects a President and Vice President from membership to preside at meetings
- Elected Clerk – Keeper of Records
- Appointed Department heads by Mayor:
  - City Controller
  - City Civil Engineer
  - Corporation Counsel
  - Chief of the Police Dept.
  - Chief of the Fire Dept.
  - Others as allowed by statutes
- Board of Works – 3 or 5 members appointed by the Mayor
  - Responsibility includes Utilities, Streets, Right of Ways
- Board of Safety – 3 or 5 members appointed by the Mayor
  - Responsibility includes Fire, Police





## Population 2,000 – 34,000 (or more)

- Strong Mayor
- Council legislates and acts as fiscal body – 5 or 7 members
  - Mayor presides at council meetings and may vote to break a tie
- Elected Clerk/Treasurer – Keeper of Records & Fiscal Officer
- Appointed Department heads by Mayor:
  - City Civil Engineer
  - City Attorney
  - Chief of the Police Dept.
  - Chief of the Fire Dept.
  - Others as allowed by statutes
- Board of Works & Safety made up by Mayor and 2 or 4 appointments by the Mayor
- By Ordinance, the City may employ a City Manager to act as the executive in place of the mayor.





## Towns are any other municipality of any population :

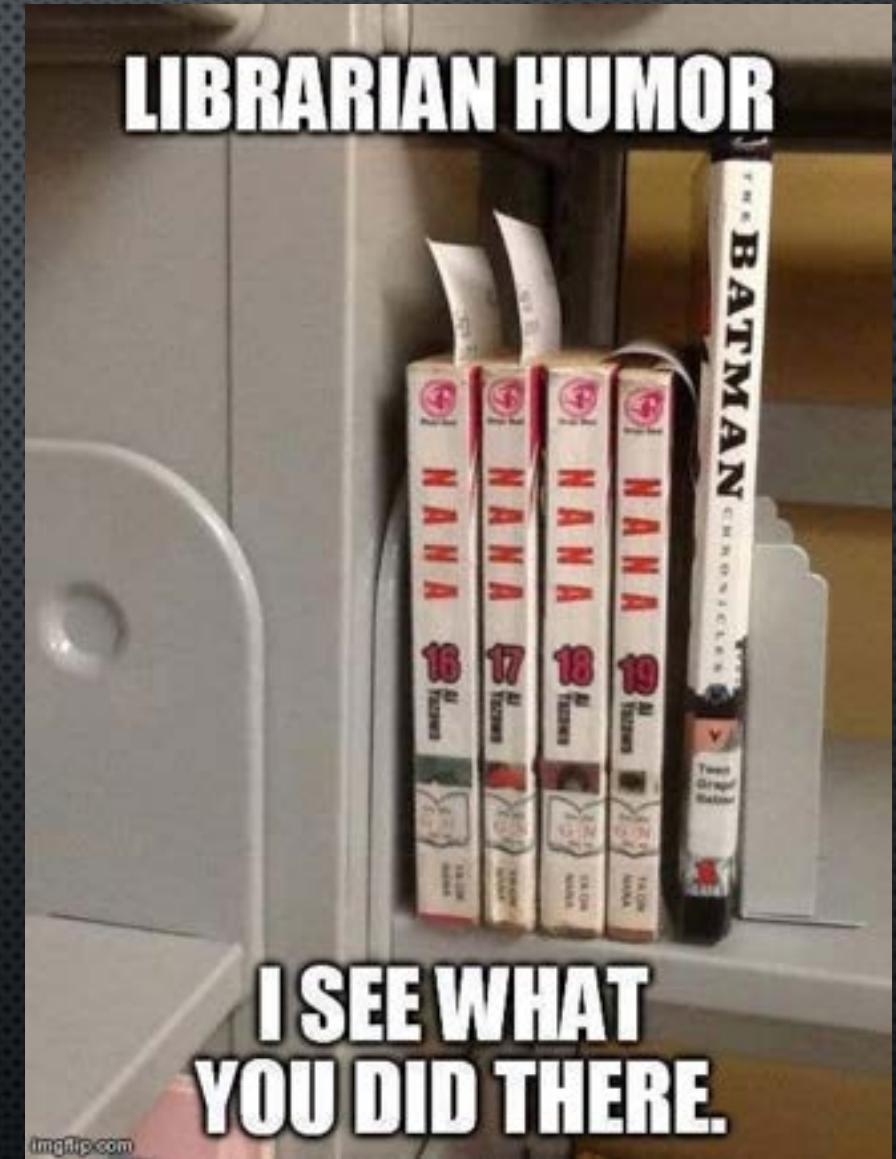
- Legislative, Fiscal and Executive Body – at least 3 no more than 7
  - Body elects a president and vice president
- Elected Clerk/Treasurer – Keeper of Records & Fiscal Officer
  - Is an ex-officio of council if needed to vote to break tie
- The legislative body may employ a Town Manager to be the administrative head of the government
- The Legislative Body shall appoint a Town Marshal who will act as the police chief.
- The Legislative Body shall appoint and fix salaries for other employees as needed.
- Town's larger than 34,000 may approve an ordinance establishing the position of controller and appoint this position as the fiscal agent. (Plainfield Rule)
  - Adopting this ordinance shall create a new elected position of Clerk

I live in a town where a traffic jam is four cars behind a riding lawn mower, driven by a suspended licensed driver.



## Other Statutory Boards with Municipal Powers

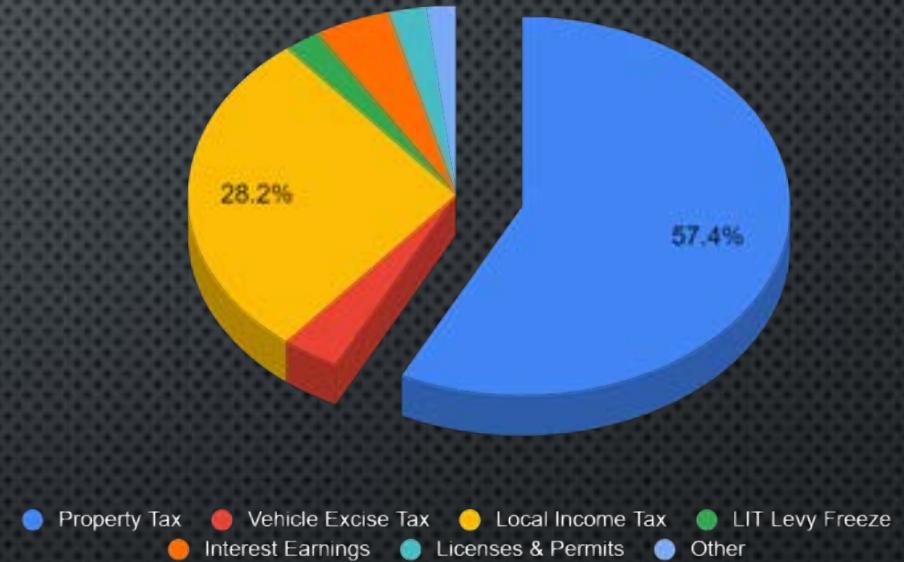
- Park Board – Tasked with Construction, Management of Parks & Recreation areas
- Redevelopment Commission – Created to help prevent urban sprawl
- Plan Commission – Outlines the use of the property within the district
- Library Boards – Multiple types, some have bonding power while others are subservient to a larger government structure.
- Schools – Have been spun away from Townships to govern K-12 education
- Airport Authorities – deals with boats
- Solid Waste Districts – deal with solid refuse outside of a city/town.





# How Municipalities Fund their operations – General Fund:

- Property Taxes – Capped in State Constitution
  - 1% Residential
  - 2% Rental/Farmland
  - 3% All other Property
- Local Income Tax
- Motor Vehicle Taxes – Gas Tax
- Local Road & Street – Vehicle Registration/Wheel Tax
- CEDIT/EDIT – County (Economic Development Income Tax)
- Other miscellaneous taxes – Alcoholic Beverage, Cigarette, County Innkeepers Tax, Financial Institutions Tax





## Funding Sources – Enterprise Funds

- Utility Revenue
  - Water
  - Sanitary Sewer
  - Storm Sewer
  - Electric
  - Natural Gas
- Refuse/Trash





- Bonding
  - General Obligation Bonds
    - Property Tax
  - Revenue Bonds
    - Enterprise Funds
- Referendum
  - Projects over \$5,000,000 subject to petition / remonstrance
- Build Operate Transfer
- Tax Increment Financing (TIF)





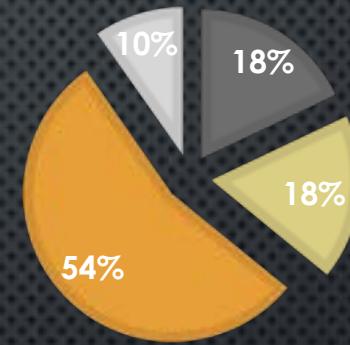
- But For Test
- Base Value
- Increased Value

### Example (Mixed Use Building)

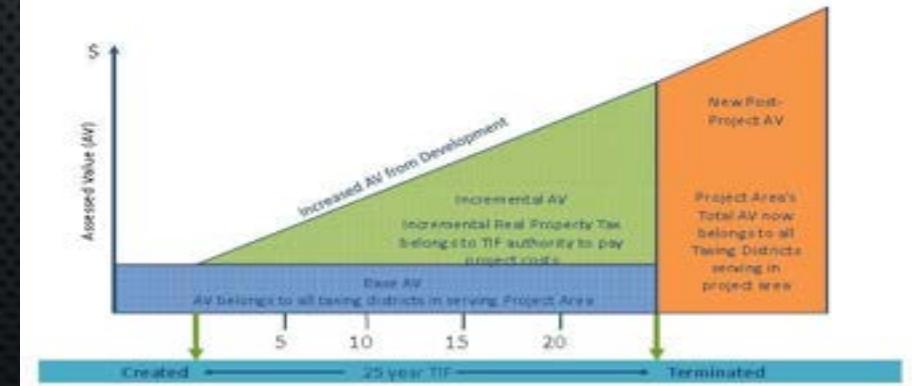
- 2024 Empty Field AV -\$300,000
  - Pay Taxes - \$8,565
- 2025 New Project AV – 10,000,000
  - Pay Taxes - \$285,510
- New PT – Old PT = Increment
  - $\$285,510 - \$8,565 = \$276,945$
  - Increment used to pay for debt of project.

## DISTRIBUTION OF TAX RATE IN MCCORDSVILLE

- Vernon Township
- Town of McCordsville
- Mt. Vernon School
- Hancock County



## How a TIF District Works





When you are Lucky Enough to get Elected





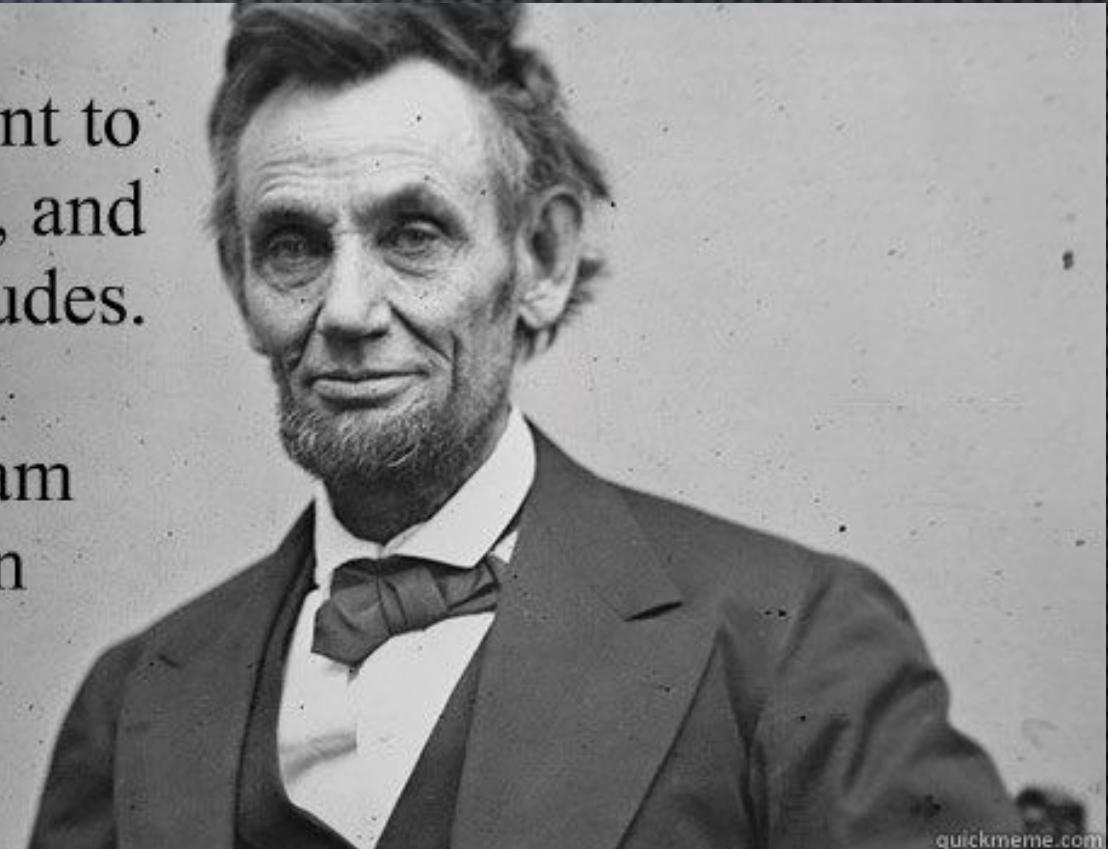
Thank You

## Contact Information

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Be excellent to  
each other, and  
party on dudes.

- Abraham  
Lincoln



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