

## THE DAVIS PLAN | **REDUCE CITY BUDGET BY \$5 MILLION**

Mayoral candidate Rick Davis announced today he will implement a Budget Reduction/Tax Payer Relief Plan if elected as Evansville's next Mayor.

After combing through the City's 2012 Budget, Davis determined the Budget can be reduced by a minimum of 3.2% -- exempting public safety -- which will result in about \$5 million in savings. Davis pledged to make his cuts this during his first fiscal year in office.

Davis emphasized that corrective action must be taken immediately to eliminate excessive and unnecessary spending that currently exists within Evansville's City Budget.

Davis said while some savings will be through attrition, most of the savings will come from eliminating wasteful and unnecessary expenditures and, most importantly, that an accumulation of expenditures has accumulated -- much of it driven by politics -- that need to be addressed.

Davis criticized the existence of lucrative contracts between campaign contributors and the City and stated that this practice will be a thing of the past in his administration. Davis also said that contracts between office holders and the City certainly create the appearance of impropriety and will be subject to much scrutiny under his administration.

Davis also pointed to expensive consulting arrangements and pointed out an example; the out-of-town "interim" department heads such as the job of Utility Director for Evansville Water and Sewer currently held by an Indianapolis resident with political ties to the current administration. Davis further pointed out the apparent "double dipping" by the current City Attorney who is both on an annual salary and is billing the City on an hourly basis. This practice would end under the Davis administration.

Davis stated that his opponent, Lloyd Winnecke, has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in advertising trying to convince voters that Davis wants to increase taxes. Davis stated that "nothing is further from the truth." Davis stated that, during the past several months, he and his committee members have been meeting with Certified Public Accountants and one of the top government budget analysts in the Country to determine ways in which the City's Budget can be reduced to prevent tax increases.

Davis slammed Winnecke, stating that "Winnecke's claim that I want to raise taxes is, at best, dishonest" and stated that Winnecke increased the county's budget by nearly \$18 million as a county councilman. Davis pointed out that Winnecke has strong support from political insiders because they believe under a Winnecke administration that special deals will continue. Davis also pointed out that, as a member of the Vanderburgh County Council for nine (9) years, Winnecke voted to increase his salary by a total of 24%. Davis stated that, as a result of Winnecke's out of control spending, about 800 County employees were left with no pay increase this year and, as recently as yesterday, County employees learned they will be forced to pay more toward their health insurance premiums, thereby resulting in a net decrease in pay.

Davis has invited his opponent, Lloyd Winnecke, to make a similar pledge that, if elected, he will reduce the City Budget (exempting public safety) by 3.2% or more during his first year in office. Davis stated that, regardless of who is elected as next Mayor of Evansville, the citizens deserve a commitment from each of the candidates that they will do everything within their power to avoid any tax increases.