



P.O. Box 1217 ✧ Goshen, IN 46527 ✧ (574) 773-3571 ✧ julieforsheriff.com

A proven leader, Dijkstra announces her intention to be the next sheriff

GOSHEN — The successes of the past seven years must be continued, Julie Dijkstra said Friday, and opportunities exist to do even more at the Elkhart County Sheriff's Department.

"I am proud to stand here as chief deputy. Mike Books and I have accomplished a lot together these past seven years, and today we have a department respected across the county, state and nation for our professionalism," Dijkstra, a Republican, told supporters while announcing her 2010 candidacy on the steps of the county courthouse. "When you have a successful operation, it is important to have continuity of leadership. We have accomplished a lot. But we can do more."

Dijkstra has been chief deputy and the leader of day-to-day operations at the Elkhart County Sheriff's Department since 2003. For 16 years, she has served in the administrations of three sheriffs, overseeing training, legal compliance and personnel matters. She became a police officer in 1986 after beginning her career as a jail officer.

"We can do more to hire qualified individuals and be reflective of the community in which we live," she said.

"We can do more in corrections to ensure the investments we've made with inmate programming do what we expect and end the cycle of people committing crimes and going to jail.

"We can do more with courts and prosecutors, so they have all the information they need to bring closure to cases as quickly as possible, and affected families and the local justice system are not burdened unnecessarily."

Dijkstra stated a sheriff cannot be focused on a single issue, and her credentials make her the most qualified candidate to seek the office.

The Republican primary will take place May 4, 2010.

Dijkstra is a lifelong resident of Nappanee and has a bachelor's degree from Ball State University. She is an elder at Grace Point Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Nappanee, and a board member with Safe Kids Elkhart County, Salvation Army of Goshen and the Elkhart Area Career Center public safety committee.

She is married and has three sons.

During the next two weeks, Dijkstra will take her message to every city and town in Elkhart County. At each event, residents will have the chance to meet the candidate and ask questions. The schedule:

- **Bristol** — 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 5, at the fire department, 405 E. Elkhart St.;
- **South Elkhart/Concord Township** — 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 7, at the fire department, 23625 C.R. 18;
- **Millersburg** — 6 a.m. Friday, Oct. 9, at Checkers Cafe, 112 S. Jefferson St.;
- **Nappanee** — 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 12, at Nappanee Center, 302 W. Market St.;
- **Wakarusa** — 7 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 13, at Happy Days Cafe, 920 E. Waterford St.;
- **North Elkhart/Osolo Township** — 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 15, at the fire station, 24936 Buddy St.; and
- **Middlebury** — 7 a.m. Friday, Oct. 16, at Village Inn, 107 S. Main St.

Residents will find more information about Dijkstra and where she stands on issues at julieforsheriff.com.