

A Letter to the Citizens and Public Officials of Fountain County

On the Importance of the Comprehensive Plan Revision

The future of Fountain County is not a matter of chance—it is a matter of planning. And today, we are called to do just that: to shape, with care and intention, the growth and development of our county through the formation of a revised Comprehensive Plan. This is not merely a procedural step; it is a defining act of leadership.

The Indiana Code gives us more than permission to plan—it gives us purpose. IC 36-7-4-201 lays out the very heartbeat of why a Comprehensive Plan exists. It is to ensure:

- “That highway systems be carefully planned,”
- “That new communities grow only with adequate public way, utility, health, educational, and recreational facilities,”
- “That the needs of agriculture, forestry, industry, and business be recognized in future growth,”
- “That residential areas provide healthful surroundings for family life,” and
- “That the growth of the community is commensurate with and promotive of the efficient and economical use of public funds.”

In short, the State of Indiana has made its position clear. The law exists to:

“Encourage units to improve the health, safety, convenience, and welfare of their citizens and to plan for the future development of their communities.”

This is a call to action. A declaration of local responsibility. And let there be no doubt: Fountain County will plan for Fountain County.

Planning Director Jon Schrock will be leading this critical revision. Mr. Schrock brings experience and a clear, steadfast commitment to the long-term interests of Fountain County. He understands that planning is not about control—it is about vision, cooperation, and responsibility. We place our full faith and confidence in his leadership. A visionary leader must be backed by a united team. We call on every department head and elected official to offer their full support—proactively, constructively, and without delay. The plan must be shaped not by default, but by deliberate contribution from those entrusted with the daily care of our public institutions.

Under IC 36-7-4-505, the law requires:

“A statement of objectives for the future development of the jurisdiction; a statement of policy for the land use development of the jurisdiction; and a statement of policy for the development of public ways, places, lands, structures, and utilities.”

This is not an exercise in paperwork. It is a legally grounded, morally necessary, community-driven effort to guide our county into a future defined by health, opportunity, and local character.

The Advisory Plan Commission, empowered by IC 36-7-4-201, must serve as more than an administrative body. It must be the conscience of long-term planning. It must steward our land, protect our values, and stand guard over the next generation’s ability to thrive in a county that is functional, affordable, beautiful, and rooted in the best of our traditions. We are not following someone else’s blueprint. We are building our own.

Let this be the moment we rise to meet our responsibilities with unity and courage. Let it be the moment we stop merely reacting—and start designing our destiny.

We are proud to begin this journey under the steady hand of Director Schrock. We will build a Fountain County that honors its past, understands its present, and boldly prepares for its future.

Sincerely,

KW Rice
Aaron Fruits