ST. JOSEPH COUNTY INDIANA
OPINION POLL

Presentation to St. Joseph County Council
March 10, 2020
A “BLIND” POLL
CONDUCTED OVER 10 DAYS

JAN. 31 – FEB. 10, 2020
OPINION POLLING VS. CANVASSING

-- Source: Merriam Webster
definition of

CANVASSING

“to solicit votes, subscriptions, opinions, or the like.” More specifically, canvassing is a term used most often in politics to refer to the act of going door-to-door and soliciting support for a cause or candidate.

-- Source: Merriam Webster
An activity in which many people are asked the same questions in order to find out what most people think about something

-- Source: Merriam Webster
ST. JOSEPH COUNTY INDIANA
OPINION POLL
background and a sense for the numbers
32%
249 million - 328 million
Population growth 1990 - 2020
Population growth 1990 - 2020
- Empty homes

(1,000 in 1,000 days)
- Empty homes
  (1,000 in 1,000 days)
- Empty school buildings
  (exacerbated by vouchers)
- Empty homes  
  *(1,000 in 1,000 days)*  
- Empty school buildings  
  *(exacerbated by vouchers)*  
- Increased tax burden on fewer people
STANDARD POLL/SURVEY
quantitative data percentages
1,150 people polled in a nation of 327 million people

0.0003 percent of the population
Three ten thousandths of one percent

0.0003 percent of the population
700 people polled in a 10-county region with over 900 thousand people

0.07 percent of the population
Seven hundredths of one percent

0.07 percent of the population
336 people polled in a county with over 270 thousand people

0.1 percent of the population
One tenth of one percent

0.1 percent of the population
Are you male or female?
What is your age?
Are you white, African American, Hispanic or other?

- White: 87%
- African American: 8%
- Hispanic: 2%
- Other: 3%
Are St. Joseph County Leaders doing enough to keep our children here when they grow up by attracting new businesses and good jobs to the area?
Q6

Are you in favor of creating good new jobs by preparing a clean, high-tech area in the county where large new companies can prosper and grow?

- Yes: 72%
- No: 17%
- I don't know: 11%
Q7

Do you favor the development of such a clean, high tech area in Olive Township just west of the South Bend city limits?
Q8

Do you live in a part of the county where you feel free to express your support for a project like this?

- Yes: 69%
- No: 22%
- I don't know: 17%
RESPONDENTS WHO ANSWERED ‘NO’ TO QUESTION REGARDING ABILITY TO SPEAK FREELY WHERE THEY LIVE
Which of the following towns do you live closest to?
VERBATIM RESPONSES
in comment fields
VERBATIM COMMENTS
from respondents who say they live in or near New Carlisle

- I live in the area where the proposed project would be, and am greatly opposed to it. There are plenty of vacant buildings in South Bend, plus open space across the street from the SBPD on Sample Street. There is no need to destroy viable farmland and potentially contaminate the aquifer that is under the town of New Carlisle.

- Get rid of tge liberal tree hugging lunacy that has turned South Bend into crap hole

- I feel free to NOT support an Industrial park near New Carlisle, put it in SB Innovation Park

- This is the most asinine question ever!!!! Where’s the choice to say you are totally AGAINST this one man show and ruination of prime farmland!!!!!
VERBATIM COMMENTS
from respondents who say they live in or near New Carlisle

☐ I feel free to express my dissent for this project. It would destroy our most precious, valuable resource in the nutrient abundant soil and replace it with a high pollutant, outdated industry.

☐ No IEC

☐ And I am also FREE to express my displeasure to this boondoggle idea that wastes taxpayer monies for a pie in the Sky idea

☐ In general I support the idea for the area, but I have grave concerns about taking land away from decades of family farms and removing so much land from agricultural use and off tax rules. How are we sure potential companies won't harm the environmental?
VERBATIM COMMENTS
from respondents who say they live in or near New Carlisle

Pressure to go along with others

I find the vitriol from the OSAA group reprehensible, but also intimidating. At the risk of sounding small minded “these people” are going to go too far one time and I don’t want it to be at the expense of my family. I’m in favor of the IEC, but I don’t want them to know that in fear of retaliation.

What will our children do for jobs? The people against IEC are nasty to everyone. We can’t tell anyone in town we support it. Jobs are really important to our future.

They go to everyone’s house and say stupid things about the good jobs that we need. Its not safe to speak up.
VERBATIM COMMENTS
from respondents who say they live in or near New Carlisle

☐ The Open Space and Ag group is so aggressive. I’m afraid to voice my opinions publicly in support of the IEC for fear of retaliation from them.

☐ Anti-IEC people are rude and hate everyone who supports it. We can’t speak up or they call you stupid. They came to our house and told us that smokestacks like Gary Indiana were coming unless we fought the IEC. They went around to everyones house saying that. Ridiculous.

☐ People against the IEC are very vocal to those of us FOR the IEC. Their intimidation tactics keep us from expressing our views.
GEOGRAPHIC PARTICIPATION
Which of the following towns do you live closest to?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANSWER CHOICES</th>
<th>RESPONSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>South Bend</td>
<td>44.94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mishawaka</td>
<td>23.22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Granger</td>
<td>7.87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roseland</td>
<td>2.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyatt</td>
<td>0.37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Liberty</td>
<td>0.75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walkerton</td>
<td>0.37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osceola</td>
<td>4.49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Carlisle</td>
<td>13.48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lakeville</td>
<td>0.75%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WOMEN
Are you in favor of creating good new jobs by preparing a clean, high-tech area in the county where large new companies can prosper and grow?
Do you favor the development of such a clean, high tech area in Olive Township just west of the South Bend city limits?
MEN
Q6

Are you in favor of creating good new jobs by preparing a clean, high-tech area in the county where large new companies can prosper and grow?

- Yes: 72%
- No: 20%
- I don't know: 8%
Do you favor the development of such a clean, high tech area in Olive Township just west of the South Bend city limits?
AFRICAN AMERICAN
Q6

Are you in favor of creating good new jobs by preparing a clean, high-tech area in the county where large new companies can prosper and grow?

100%

Yes
Do you favor the development of such a clean, high tech area in Olive Township just west of the South Bend city limits?
Why the recent radio ads?
SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

2 years of untruths injected into public discourse creating a fictional picture of the real IEC

1) 22,000 acres
2) Trucks thru cities & towns
3) Gary-style smokestacks
4) Pollution
5) Backroom deals
6) Taking land from people
7) Best farmland in the world
8) Few jobs will come
9) No public input
10) $72 thousand ad campaign
SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

2 years of untruths injected into public discourse creating a fictional picture of the real IEC

1) 22,000 acres
2) Trucks thru cities & towns
3) Lots of smokestacks
4) Pollution
5) Backroom deals
6) Taking land from people
7) Best farmland in the world
8) Few jobs will come
9) No public input
10) $72 thousand ad campaign

1) 7,200 acres
2) Untrue. 3 hwys., 3 rail. & Int. Airport
3) High Tech Park
4) Water/Sewer from Co. (Farm runoff)
5) Defamatory
6) Untrue (including Blad family)
7) USDA ranked 48th in state. Ukraine, Portland, Napa, Iowa
8) Came close to Toyota plant – leader in hybrids, clean
9) Untrue. Participants merely disagree about how to refer to their participation – ‘not as steering committee members’
10) Untrue. $7,800
QUESTIONS?