

Kevin Knuth

Allen County Council

Press Release:

For Immediate Release

Contact – Kevin Knuth- 424-9690

Email- kevin@kevinknuth.com

Website- www.kevinknuth.com

Knuth calls for stop to City/County plan to outsource Information Technology offshore Announces “Earn and Learn” program

Fort Wayne, IN – Allen County Council At-Large candidate Kevin Knuth today responded to news reports that the City of Fort Wayne and Allen County governments are preparing to outsource their information technology management to a foreign corporation. The two finalists for the new contract are based in India and France.

The current information technology contractor, ACS, has been informed that their contract will not be renewed at the end of 2008. ACS has held the contract for 15 years and is paid about \$5 Million annually.

“Sending taxpayer dollars from Allen County to overseas companies makes no sense, especially in our current economic situation,” said Knuth. “It makes more sense to keep the \$25 Million here in Allen County- where it will bolster our local economy.”

Knuth also offered solution to the information technology management problem that will keep taxpayer dollars in our local economy and help create a better trained workforce. The “Earn and Learn” program would require the City/County to hire a small information management staff who would oversee paid interns drawn from local colleges that offer information technology degrees. “My idea is to create a training facility within city/county government. The big obstacle facing graduates is lack of experience. The opportunity for these students to learn the ins and outs of large computer networks would leave them better prepared for future employment,” said Knuth.

Knuth works for a technology provider and says that the lack of an experienced workforce is troubling. “There are jobs in the I.T. sector. But few candidates have experience working on large computer networks. The City/County network rivals those used by large corporations. It would be a fantastic training ground.” Though the internships would be paid positions, Knuth believe it would still save taxpayers money and keep those dollars in our local economy.

“Local students will buy their clothes here. They will pay rent, here. They will buy groceries and gas here. Foreign companies will not spend their money here,” stated Knuth

The proposed contract still needs to earn the approval of City and County Council. It is expected to be before those bodies by mid August.

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