



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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***MATT STRITTMATTER ENDORSES LUKE MESSER FOR CONGRESS***  
*Former Wayne County Sheriff Exits 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Race and Endorses Messer*

(Shelbyville, IN)—Today, Republican Luke Messer's campaign for Indiana's 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District continued to build momentum as former Wayne County Sheriff Matt Strittmatter withdrew from the race and announced his support for Messer.

Strittmatter released a statement saying, "Over the last year, I have been exploring a run for the United States House of Representatives sixth congressional district seat. During that time, I have met many great Hoosiers and heard their concerns about the direction of our nation. Connie and I have been humbled by the support and encouragement of so many friends. This path of exploration has unexpectedly provided what we believe to be a better way, for me to continue to serve Hoosiers, but will not allow my continued run for Congress.

It is appearing as though the Republican primary ballot will offer several choices to consider for the nominee for the 2012 general election. With that said, I will be supporting my good friend, Luke Messer. Luke is a good man and is uniquely qualified to represent our Hoosier values in Washington, DC. I have known Luke for more than a decade and his commitment to the Conservative Republican principles of limited government and fiscal responsibility are steadfast. He and Jennifer will represent Indiana and the 6th district well."

Luke Messer responded to the Strittmatter endorsement with a statement of his own. "We are very excited to have Matt Strittmatter join our team," said Messer. "Matt is a strong conservative with a proven record in public service. He has many friends and supporters throughout the 6th Congressional District and we are honored by his support. Matt will no doubt continue to make a big difference for his fellow Hoosiers in whatever he chooses to do next."

**About Luke Messer**

Luke Messer, 42, is the current Executive Director of Hoosiers for Economic Growth and served in the Indiana General Assembly from 2003-2006. During his tenure in the legislature, Messer earned a 100% rating from Indiana Right to Life, an "A" rating from the NRA, and was best known for authoring nationally recognized high school drop-out reform legislation. Messer is also a former Executive Director of the Indiana Republican Party, serving from 2001-2005.

In 2010, Luke Messer came within 2 percentage points of defeating a 28-year incumbent Congressman in a seven-way primary for Indiana's 5th Congressional District. Redistricting has drawn Messer's home back into the 6th Congressional District. Luke grew up in Greensburg, and he and his wife Jennifer are raising their two daughters and a son in Shelbyville. Luke also served as an elder at his church and is the author a children's book about Indiana entitled Hoosier Heart. To learn more about Luke Messer's campaign, log on to [www.lukemesser.com](http://www.lukemesser.com).