

# Reske pitches common solutions

**By Matt Troutman | Posted: Wednesday, September 26, 2012 4:00 am**

Democrat Scott Reske spoke about balance, his varied career and finding common ground with Republicans as he made his campaign pitch on Tuesday to the Marion Rotary Club.

Reske faces Republican Susan Brooks and Libertarian Chard Reid in the 5th Congressional District race.

Mayor Wayne Seybold had made a bid for the race on the Republican side after Rep. Dan Burton announced his retirement, but he placed fourth in the spring primary.

Rotary member David Abernathy helped coordinate Reske's visit. He said it was important for the club's members to get to know the candidates outside campaign literature.

"I think people in the club appreciate the fact we have major candidates coming through," he said.

The Rotary Club hosted Democratic and Republican gubernatorial candidates John Gregg and Mike Pence. It will host Brooks on Oct. 16.

Reske served 28 years for the Marine Corps and Marine Corps Reserve as a helicopter pilot. In civilian life, he runs a civil engineering firm. He is a state representative from District 37, which covers Anderson and his hometown of Pendleton.

One of his initiatives in the Legislature was an economic development corridor along Interstate 69.

"The one mayor that jumped all over it was Mayor Seybold," he said, pointing out the Dollar General and Wal-Mart Distribution centers took advantage of tax abatements through the legislation.

Reske said that was one example of his ability to reach across the aisle to find common solutions. He said the nation has become so polarized it has stopped solving problems.

For example, he said the national debt was a "huge drag" on the economy and would have to be addressed. But he said it was wrong to say Social Security and Medicare are part of the problem and they needed to be protected.

"First of all, Social Security and Medicare have nothing to do with the debt. It's a separate issue," he said, pointing out each has its own trust fund.

The debt was largely an issue of revenue, Reske said, and not so much due to new programs. He said the country needed to "slowly grow its way out of" debt and he supported measures to help increase small business in order to "get the economy back online."

"Small businesses are half our gross domestic product and yet they pay twice as many taxes," he said.

“Fourteen times the number of usable patents come out of small business compared to big business.”

Reske said he would support a federal balanced budget amendment with exceptions for war and economic crises. He noted that states like Indiana with balanced budgets before the 2008 financial crisis fared better than others.

Referring to recent failed legislation in Congress, Reske said he strongly supported an equal pay for equal work law. He also said women’s access to health care should be protected.

Rotary members asked a variety of questions on national and state issues. One member asked Reske whether he fell on the side of taxing the rich to help solve the deficit rather than spurring growth by reducing taxes.

Reske said he was a “balance guy” who sought solutions that worked for both sides of an issue. He said rather than raising taxes on people with incomes of \$250,000 and above, perhaps the threshold should be raised to \$1 million in order to not harm small business owners and farmers.

“If you pick a side and argue for the trees and you’re the other side and you argue for the forest, in reality both have got to be in balance with each other or they both suffer,” he said.

After the meeting, Reske said Brooks “absolutely” follows the extremes of the Republican Party line.