

ORDINANCE NO 2026 - 4

AN ORDINANCE OF THE LAPORTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DESIGNATING CERTAIN AREAS WITHIN LAPORTE COUNTY AN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT ZONE(S) PURSUANT TO I.C. § 6-1.1-12.5-4, *ET. SEQ.*

WHEREAS, in accordance with I.C. 6-1.1-12.5-4, the LaPorte County Commissioners may establish an infrastructure development zone in certain areas of LaPorte County by designating a geographic territory therefor, and

WHEREAS, a public hearing on this Ordinance was held on July 1, 2026, after publication of notice of such hearing in the manner prescribed by I.C. 5-3-1, and

WHEREAS, the infrastructure development zone shall be designated only in unincorporated areas of LaPorte County, and

WHEREAS, the tax exemption for certain infrastructure shall only include the installation of new fiber to homes, businesses, schools and publicly owned buildings. The exemption shall not be available for maintenance and refurbishment to existing facilities, land that the infrastructure is located on, fiber to cell towers, satellites, data centers or long haul/pass through fiber infrastructure, and

WHEREAS, the infrastructure development zone shall include a business personal property tax exemption available to companies for certain infrastructure associated with the development of broadband technology for up to five (5) years, and

WHEREAS, the exemption shall only be available to broadband infrastructure projects that are completed within 5 years from the date of passage of this section, and upon approval of the County Commissioners, and

WHEREAS, The County Commissioners is desirous to support broadband connectivity throughout the County areas,

WHEREAS, the LaPorte County Commissioners hereby find, pursuant to I.C. 6-1.1-12.5-4(3), that: (A) adequate eligible infrastructure, as defined in I.C. 6-1.1-12.5-1, is not currently available within the Zone described herein; and (B) providing a property tax exemption to a person for investing in eligible infrastructure within the Zone will provide (i) opportunities for increased availability of broadband service and advanced services within the Zone, and (ii) economic development benefits within the Zone, and

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE LAPORTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, THAT:

SECTION 1. Designation of Zone. There is hereby established and designated as an Infrastructure Development Zone, pursuant to I.C. 6-1.1-12.5-4, the following geographic territory: all

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unincorporated areas of LaPorte County, Indiana, as such unincorporated areas exist on the date of adoption of this Ordinance, excluding all real property located within the corporate boundaries of any incorporated city or town situated within LaPorte County. A map depicting the Zone, including the boundaries of all incorporated cities and towns excluded therefrom, is attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference; and

SECTION 2. Scope of Exemption. The exemption authorized under this Ordinance applies only to eligible infrastructure, as defined in I.C. 6-1.1-12.5-1, consisting of new fiber-optic infrastructure installed within the Zone to serve homes, businesses, schools, and publicly owned buildings. The exemption authorized under this Ordinance does not apply to, and no exemption shall be granted for: (i) maintenance or refurbishment of existing facilities; (ii) the land upon which eligible infrastructure is located; (iii) fiber infrastructure serving cell towers; (iv) fiber infrastructure serving satellite facilities; (v) fiber infrastructure serving data centers; or (vi) long-haul or pass-through fiber infrastructure that does not terminate in service to an end user within the Zone; and

SECTION 3. Duration of Exemption. The exemption authorized under this Ordinance shall be available for a period of up to five (5) years from the date the exemption is granted as to a particular parcel of eligible infrastructure, and shall be available only for eligible infrastructure projects that are completed within five (5) years from the date of passage of this Ordinance and that are approved by the County Commissioners; and

SECTION 4. Prior to claiming an exemption under this Ordinance, all companies shall provide to the Office of Building Commissioner all required building permit information (excluding permit fees) that identify specifically, the general contractor, any subcontractors, project limits, and any incursion into public right of way; and


SECTION 5. All companies claiming exemption under this Ordinance agree to remit to the County 15% of the total estimated tax savings over 10 years upon approval of this exemption and or as agreed to by the company and the County; and

SECTION 6. Severability. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance is, for any reason, held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance. The LaPorte County Commissioners hereby declare that they would have adopted this Ordinance and each section, subsection, sentence, clause, and phrase thereof irrespective of the fact that any one or more other sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, or phrases be declared invalid or unconstitutional.

SECTION 7. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval as required by law.

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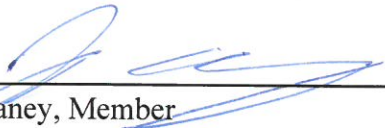
Passed and adopted this 1st Day of July 2026



Steve Holifield, President

Absent

Connie Gramarossa, Vice President



Joe Haney, Member



ATTEST

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