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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Hodges stepping down as Charlestown's mayor in November**

Release Date: Oct. 27, 2026

CHARLESTOWN, Ind. – City of Charlestown Mayor Treva Hodges shared with her staff members this morning that she will transition out of her role as mayor, effective Monday, Nov. 30, 2026.

"Charlestown is my home," said Hodges. "I will forever be grateful for the opportunity you gave me to serve, and I am proud that history will list me forever as a mayor of Charlestown."

Hodges said it is time to take on a new challenge, which she plans to announce at a later date. Over the coming month, Mayor Hodges will remain in office to assist in the transition to an interim mayor, who will be selected through a caucus of the Clark County Democratic Party. The next mayoral election is slated for 2027.

"We are fortunate to have an incredible group of staff members who will ensure that the day-to-day operations of the city continue without disruption," said Hodges. "You have my word that I will ensure a seamless transition."

Elected in 2019, Mayor Hodges began her first term in 2020, immediately thrust into leadership during the Covid-19 pandemic. Since then, she was re-elected to begin a second term in 2024.

Mayor Hodges brought a fresh wave of ideas and a determination to complete projects from a 2016 master plan and used guidance from the 2021 parks master plan to improve many aspects of Charlestown. A revival of Charlestown was kick-started, putting together plans and policies to strengthen the city.

A good number of the projects have been supported by grants and special funding. Under Mayor Hodges's leadership, the city has tallied an astounding \$44.2 million in funding, saving the taxpayers on projects like the new wastewater treatment plant, road and sidewalk projects, police upgrades, housing, and traffic improvements. Parks projects like the accessible Greenway Park playground, disc golf, The Commons construction, and an upcoming Family Activities Park expansion were at least partially funded through grants.

Annual events have been enhanced in the city, making opportunities like Charlestown Christmas City a destination for visitors to the region. Creating new events and opportunities like the Food Truck Challenge, Community Days, Charlestown Honors Banners program, expansion of Founders Week, and more have led to added opportunities for all residents. Public art has been embraced, small businesses have been supported, and a community liaison program is among the additions to benefit resident's quality of life.

Creating a consistent brand for Charlestown and promoting Charlestown has led to increases in new activities, businesses, housing development, and tourism. Renovations to City Hall, the Arts & Enrichment Center, Greenway Park, the City Square, and the addition of The Commons have created a welcoming front door to Charlestown. Website enhancements and live-streaming meetings have led to increased transparency.

"Together we have accomplished some truly remarkable achievements," said Hodges. "I am deeply honored to have served as your mayor through our revival."