



Blair Milo Biography

Blair Milo was first elected Mayor of La Porte, Indiana in 2011 and re-elected in 2015. Upon taking office, Mayor Milo focused her administration on building the most conducive climate for economic development growth, providing for sustainable infrastructure needs and fostering a community dedication toward positive lifestyle choices.

Since 2012, Mayor Milo has led a community team that has created a business environment where over \$260M in new investment and over 1100 new jobs have been created. Major projects contributing to this are the 137-acre expansion with new dual rail service in the Thomas Rose Industrial Park; the commercial redevelopment of a brownfield in the center of the city, NewPorte Landing; and the largest single jobs expansion project in La Porte's history: the addition of a second plant at Alcoa Howmet.

The new Alcoa (now called Arconic) plant makes La Porte home to the most advanced aeronautical manufacturing facility in the world. During her tenure La Porte's crime rate has decreased by 33 percent, investment in road maintenance has increased more than ten-fold, and a La Porte Ivy Tech training site has been established to connect workers with new, growing job opportunities. In early 2012 Mayor Milo formed a partnership with the City, La Porte County YMCA and IU Health La Porte Hospital to create "Fitness Fridays," a community fitness program that includes a weekly 5k walk/run with the Mayor. Since its inception the program has added partners, and in 2014 Mayor Milo initiated "Step Up Saturdays" where she traveled to a city or town in all 92 counties across Indiana to initiate a similar free 5k walk/run program to help improve Indiana's overall health. As a result, over 25 percent of participating communities intended to continue the concept and in early 2017 Mayor Milo was named "Elected Official of the Year" by the Indiana Parks and Recreation Association.

Appointed by former Indiana Governor Mike Pence, Mayor Milo serves on the State Workforce Innovation Council and chairs the Career Counseling Task Force. She has testified before the U.S. House of Representatives Republican Policy Committee on the challenges and opportunities before the American Worker. She is a member of Governing Magazine's Women in Government Leadership Series made up of 25 elected women from across the country. Mayor Milo also serves on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Regional Councils; the Indiana Advisory Alliance for the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition; the Board of Directors for Accelerate Indiana's Municipalities; and the Board of Governors for the Richard G. Lugar Excellence in Public Service Series.

Following the November 2016 election, she served on the Transition Teams of Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb and Indiana Attorney General Curtis Hill.

Prior to moving home to run for Mayor, Milo served as a Surface Warfare Officer in the U.S. Navy. She first served as the Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer then as Electrical Officer in USS Mason (DDG 87) from January 2005 until May 2007, completing two Persian Gulf deployments. She then transferred to the Destroyer Squadron 50 staff based in Manama, Bahrain and served as the Assistant Operations Officer, daily scheduler for the Northern Arabian Gulf battle space, Public Affairs Officer and as Tactical Watch Officer for the Commander. After serving in Bahrain and Iraq, Milo transferred to the Chief of Naval Operations staff at the Pentagon where she worked on the Navy's newest stealth destroyer ship class, DDG-1000, in addition to serving as the Admiral's Aide and Special Assistant to the Director of Surface Warfare.

In July 2010, Milo transitioned from active to reserve duty where she first served as a Surface Warfare subject matter expert at the Office of Naval Intelligence before transferring to the NATO Warfare Development Group in Great Lakes, IL. She holds the rank of Lieutenant Commander while serving in the Standby Reserve and was awarded the 2017 American Legion Military Person of the Year (Reserve Category) for the State of Indiana.

Blair Milo was born and raised in La Porte, Indiana and graduated from La Porte High School. She attended Purdue University where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and a commission as an Ensign in the United States Navy in 2004. In 2010, she earned a Master's Degree in Legislative Affairs from the George Washington University.