

**Candidates for Office on the Monroe County Ballot in the May 3, 2022, Primary Election
Unedited Responses to Questions from the League of Women Voters**

April 22, 2022

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Candidates for Indiana U.S. Senate

Thomas M. McDermott, Jr.

Party: Dem

Candidate has not yet responded.

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**Todd Young**

Party: Rep

Candidate has not yet responded.

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**Candidates for Indiana U.S. House District 9**

**Isak Asare**

Party: Dem

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Campaign email: [Isak@isakforcongress.com](mailto:Isak@isakforcongress.com)

Educational background: Indiana University, University of Oxford, UCL

Occupation(s): Co-Director, IU-Bloomington Cybersecurity and Global Policy Program

Website: [Isakforcongress.com](https://Isakforcongress.com)

Q: What qualifications and experience make you suited for serving in this office?

A: As an IU faculty member, I lead our cybersecurity and global policy program. I have worked in and with governments around the world at the local and national levels in crafting and implementing policy around emerging technologies. As the director of IU's cybersecurity clinic, I have worked with NGOs, government entities, and other stakeholders at strengthening this community's cybersecurity posture. As a minister at a local church, I have helped community members in their hardest and lowest and highest seasons. As a cancer survivor still undergoing treatment, I am intimately acquainted with and dependent upon the needs of the people in this community. I will serve all of the people in this district with respect, honesty, and hard work.

Q: Congress should do more to address climate change.

A: Strongly Agree

Q: ..... Explain your answer and how you would address climate change.

A: I advocate for comprehensive climate action policy. I think the federal government should be focused on dramatically reducing greenhouse gas emissions, ending our dependence on fossil fuels, creating high-paying jobs in green energy, and ensuring that clean air, clean water and healthy food are basic human rights. But absent comprehensive climate change legislation, there are opportunities for interim or complementary steps that can win bipartisan support in Congress, such as: carbon pricing and dividend, improving infrastructure, and increased federal investments for planting more trees.

Q: What are your priorities for Congress in terms of reproductive rights and infant and maternal mortality?

A: 1) To protect and expand access to comprehensive health care coverage. 2) To appropriate additional funds to scale up programs for safe pregnancy, delivery and postpartum care. 3) Increasing the supply of midwives with nationally recognized credentials by supporting midwifery students, preceptors, schools and programs—particularly those who intend to practice in underserved areas. 4) Investing in digital tools like telehealth to improve maternal health outcomes in underserved areas. 5) Making critical investments in social determinants of health that influence maternal health outcomes, like housing, transportation, and nutrition.

Q: Election administration must be conducted in a fair, transparent and non-partisan manner, ensuring all citizens have equal voting access and power, with results of elections decided by the freely cast votes of the citizenry.

A: Strongly Agree

Q: ..... Explain your answer and how you would address election integrity.

A: This is a government by the people, of the people, and for the people. For this reason the right to participate in democratic processes must not be limited but encouraged and supported. I think this starts with: 1) Strengthening the Voter Rights Act. 2) Ending partisan gerrymandering through establishing independent redistricting commissions. 3) Fortifying U.S. elections against foreign interference. 4) Reducing the influence of money in politics by ending Citizens United and setting spending limits on elections. And 5) making election day a national holiday.

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Jim Baker

Party: Rep

Candidate has not yet responded.

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**Stu Barnes-Israel**

Party: Rep

Candidate has not yet responded.

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J. Michael Davisson

Party: Rep

Candidate has not yet responded.

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**D. Liam Dorris**

Party: Dem

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Educational background: Vocational

Occupation(s): Metrology

Website: <https://dliamdorris.com>

Q: What qualifications and experience make you suited for serving in this office?

A: Military Background & 2nd Time Candidate.

Q: Congress should do more to address climate change.

A: Strongly Agree

Q: ..... Explain your answer and how you would address climate change.

A: Climate Change is an existential threat, and we should treat it as such. I support aggressive climate action. The only thing wrong with the Green New Deal is it doesn't do enough.

Q: What are your priorities for Congress in terms of reproductive rights and infant and maternal mortality?

A: To preserve and protect reproductive rights and personal privacy to the best of my ability. I am also supporter of universal healthcare, specifically Medicare For All. I think that healthcare is a human right.

Q: Election administration must be conducted in a fair, transparent and non-partisan manner, ensuring all citizens have equal voting access and power, with results of elections decided by the freely cast votes of the citizenry.

A: Strongly Agree

Q: ..... Explain your answer and how you would address election integrity.

A: I am for free and fair elections. I support overturning SCOTUS rulings of Citizens United, Buckley v Valeo and returning U.S. Elections to the public finance system. Money does not equal free speech, and corporations aren't people. Currently, corporate money drowns out the voice of the people.

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Matthew Fyfe

Party: Dem

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Hoosiers4Fyfe>

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Educational background: Bachelors degree at Goshen College, Masters in Edu. Policy at Vanderbilt

Occupation(s): Math teacher

Website: mattfyfe.com

Q: What qualifications and experience make you suited for serving in this office?

A: As a public school teacher, I've been a public servant my whole life and I strongly believe that's all it should take to be a public official. I'm an everyday Hoosier and I can best advocate and connect with people across our district. I'm a leader and organizer in my Union. We stand up for workers rights and advocate on a large scale for schools and students across the nation.

We need more lawmakers who understand what it's like to be an everyday citizen - who are public servants - who listen to their constituents and work to make a positive impact. There's a distinct opportunity in the 9th, and I believe this campaign has the story to connect with voters and win.

Q: Congress should do more to address climate change.

A: Strongly Agree

Q: Explain your answer and how you would address climate change.

A: I strongly agree that Congress should do more to combat climate change and create a sustainable future. In my role as a representative, I can bring awareness to, advocate for, and write policy that increases the long-term sustainability of the natural beauty found here in the ninth (as well as around the world). I'm particularly interested in the issues that directly impact Southern Indiana, such as the aging Clifty Creek power plant, coal ash waste, logging and sustainable forestry, and sustainable farming initiatives. It is our right to clean air, soil, and water.

Q: What are your priorities for Congress in terms of reproductive rights and infant and maternal mortality?

A: Reproductive healthcare is a fundamental human right. As a father of three, I've seen up close the importance of access to quality family planning services. I support policies that provide affordable and quality healthcare for all, including accessible birth control. I believe families and their medical professionals should lead the charge on medical decisions. Furthermore, infant and maternal mortality is a serious issue, especially within our state and across rural counties in the Ninth District. We can combat these issues by prioritizing health policies that make healthcare affordable and lead to better medical outcomes, decrease and eliminate medical debt, fund rural broadband to increase telehealth options and more.

Q: Election administration must be conducted in a fair, transparent and non-partisan manner, ensuring all citizens have equal voting access and power, with results of elections decided by the freely cast votes of the citizenry.

A: Strongly Agree

Q: Explain your answer and how you would address election integrity.

A: The sustainability of our democracy and election protection is paramount. Unfortunately, our politics have become polarized and misinformation has spread far and wide in recent years. As your Congressional Representative, I would support legislation that would support our democracy. We should be encouraging people to be involved by making Election Day a federal holiday, expanding same-day voter registration, and making it easier to vote safely by mail. Elected officials shouldn't just be for the wealthy or privileged, rather it should be easier for everyday folks like me to run for office.

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**Dan Heiwig**

Party: Rep

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Campaign phone: 812-707-1253

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Heiwig2022/>

Campaign email: Daniel.Heiwig@Heiwig2022.com

Educational background: MBA from Oakland City University, Indiana

Occupation(s): Army Infantry Officer

Website: [www.Heiwig2022.com](http://www.Heiwig2022.com)

Q: What qualifications and experience make you suited for serving in this office?

A: With more than 20 years of professional experience in leadership with the U.S. Military, the past 5 years working with the highest levels of Whitehouse, Pentagon, House Arms Committees, and Senate Arms Committee, I am exceptionally prepared and qualified for congress; but more qualified to serve the people of Indiana and Reclaim Our American Heritage.

Q: Congress should do more to address climate change.

A: Strongly disagree

Q: ..... Explain your answer and how you would address climate change.

A: Everyone thinks it's a binary problem when it requires more community and culture efforts. Congress has initiatives to do more about climate change, but they tend to ignore them after you vote for their reelection. The work with Indiana Farmers Bureau and Southern Indian Farmers will help our children to have a better chance at fighting against climate change.

Q: What are your priorities for Congress in terms of reproductive rights and infant and maternal mortality?

A: I am pro-life and I support adoption as an option. I want to reduce the laws that keep families from adopting. I want to help families who are suffering with CPS. I want to bring back the family culture and save a generation.

Q: Election administration must be conducted in a fair, transparent and non-partisan manner, ensuring all citizens have equal voting access and power, with results of elections decided by the freely cast votes of the citizenry.

A: Strongly disagree

Q: ..... Explain your answer and how you would address election integrity.

A: Election laws, are only a portion of the problem, campaign financing is another, but if we can do what Estonia's i-Voting system has done with blockchain technology then this problem would be fixed tomorrow.

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Erin Houchin

Party: Rep

Candidate has not yet responded.

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**D. Eric Schansberg**

Party: Rep

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Educational background: PhD in Econ (BA in Math)

Occupation(s): Econ Professor (30+ years)

Website: ericforcongress.org

Q: What qualifications and experience make you suited for serving in this office?

A: Econ professor who has taught, written and thought about public policy (particularly at the federal level) for 30+ years

Q: Congress should do more to address climate change.

A: Neither agree nor disagree

Q: ..... Explain your answer and how you would address climate change.

A: Four hurdles to clear for effective CC change:

-extent of CC

-extent of anthropogenic contributions

-benefit of govt activism on CC

-costs of govt activism on CC

I'm open to discussion on this, but the only policy I know about that fits all four is an appropriate carbon tax that offsets the social costs of pollution.

Q: What are your priorities for Congress in terms of reproductive rights and infant and maternal mortality?

A: I follow the science on abortion. But I don't see much if anything for Congress to do here (vs. state/local efforts).

Q: Election administration must be conducted in a fair, transparent and non-partisan manner, ensuring all citizens have equal voting access and power, with results of elections decided by the freely cast votes of the citizenry.

A: Strongly Agree

Q: ..... Explain your answer and how you would address election integrity.

A: Defend election integrity, especially at the state level. Preserve Electoral College so that state-level shenanigans have few national implications.

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Mike Sodrel

Party: Rep

Candidate has not yet responded.

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**Bill J. Thomas**

Party: Rep

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Campaign phone: 812-207-4763

Campaign email: BillJThomas@gmail

Educational background: BA

Occupation(s): Retired

Website: Thomastocongress.com

Q: What qualifications and experience make you suited for serving in this office?

A: - no response -

Q: Congress should do more to address climate change.

A: Neither agree nor disagree

Q: ..... Explain your answer and how you would address climate change.

A: I believe that climate change needs to be evaluated by scientists from various backgrounds...independent from biased thinking. As a nation we should do what we can to save the planet and continue to make it habitable for mankind. It is imperative that we make gradual changes and adjust as we move forward. There is no simple answer to this question...we must always look for alternatives fir the future.

Q: What are your priorities for Congress in terms of reproductive rights and infant and maternal mortality?

A: I

I firmly believe in woman's rights. I want women to make the decision based on what is best for her and her family.

Q: Election administration must be conducted in a fair, transparent and non-partisan manner, ensuring all citizens have equal voting access and power, with results of elections decided by the freely cast votes of the citizenry.

A: Strongly Agree

Q: ..... Explain your answer and how you would address election integrity.

A: Everyone needs to show photo Identification to vote.

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Brian Tibbs

Party: Rep

Candidate has not yet responded.

Candidates for Indiana State House District 60

Brittany Carroll

Party: Rep

Candidate has not yet responded.

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**Peggy Mayfield**

Party: Rep

Candidate has not yet responded.

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**Candidates for Indiana House District 61**

**Matt Pierce**

Party: Dem

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Campaign email: [pierce.campaign@comcast.net](mailto:pierce.campaign@comcast.net)

Educational background: Indiana University-Bloomington BA 1984, JD 1987

Occupation(s): Senior Lecturer, Indiana University

Q: What qualifications and experience make you suited for serving in this office?



A: My service on the Bloomington City Council, as a congressional staffer, Principal Clerk of the Indiana House of Representatives, and as a state representative has made me a more effective legislator. However, my most important qualification is understanding the values of the Bloomington community. Equal rights under the law, economic opportunity for everyone, a quality education for every child, and protection of the environment are among the views residents want heard at the Statehouse.

Q: Indiana funds for K-12 education should go only to public schools.

A: Strongly Agree

Q: ..... Explain your answer and how you would address school funding.

A: Taxpayer dollars should not be siphoned away from traditional public schools. The state cannot support both a public school system and private schools. I have consistently opposed these privatization efforts.

Q: What role, if any, should the legislature have in determining elementary and secondary school curriculum?

A: The legislature should only establish broad curriculum goals and leave it to professional educators to determine the details of what will be taught in the classroom. I opposed efforts to limit discussions in the classroom about sensitive topics. I trust our teachers.

Q: Indiana should do more to address climate change.

A: Strongly Agree

Q: ..... Explain your answer and how you would address climate change.

A: I have long been a proponent of renewable energy and moving to a carbon-free energy economy as quickly as possible. I support closing coal-fired power plants and promoting technologies to store electricity generated by wind and solar power. Indiana's previous net metering law should be reinstated so homes feeding excess electricity into the power grid receive the true value of the energy provided, making residential solar systems more affordable.

Q: What are your priorities for Indiana in terms of reproductive rights and infant and maternal mortality?

A: I support a woman's constitutional right to make her own reproductive health decisions and have opposed efforts to place an undue burden on that right.

The state must do more to reduce maternal and infant mortality, particularly its disproportionate impact on black women. Indiana is at the bottom of the list when it comes to funding public health programs. I support significant budget increases to address these public health problems. Sadly, the legislature won't even require employers to accommodate pregnant women in the workplace. More needs to be done to support families after a child is born.

Q: Election administration must be conducted in a fair, transparent and non-partisan manner, ensuring all citizens have equal voting power, with results of elections decided by the freely cast votes of the citizenry.

A: Strongly Agree

Q: ..... Explain your answer and how you would address election integrity.

A: I have opposed efforts to make voting by mail more difficult and support making this option available to all voters. I will also oppose any efforts like we have seen in other states to move control of elections away from bipartisan election boards. False allegations of voter fraud are being used as an excuse to make voting harder with the hope it will give one party an advantage in future elections.

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## **Candidates for Indiana State House District 62**

### **Penny Githens**

Party: Dem

Campaign email: pennyforindiana@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PennyforIndiana>

Occupation(s): Monroe County Commissioner

Educational background: BS in chemistry and math education; MS in educational psychology

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Twitter: <https://twitter.com/PennyforI>

Website: <https://pennyforindiana.com>

Q: What qualifications and experience make you suited for serving in this office?

A: I am currently a Monroe County Commissioner. For those who are unfamiliar with the structure of county government, Commissioners serve as the legislative and administrative branch of the county. I have held positions as a project manager for federally-funded health and education policy research projects, participated in educational program development, served as an volunteer educational advocate for special education students for over 20 years, served on the boards of the Autism Society of Indiana and the South Central Indiana Chapter of the Autism Society of America (now defunct), taught chemistry and math as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Kenya, and led the successful effort to have health insurance mandated for autism in Indiana.

Q: Indiana funds for K-12 education should go only to public schools.

A: Strongly Agree

Q: ..... Explain your answer and how you would address school funding.

A: Taxpayer funds should ONLY go to public schools. Public schools take all students, education all students, transport students, and feed students. Small, rural schools are often the hub of the community, and we need to do more to sustain our rural schools.

We need to increase salaries for teachers and other school personnel. Instead of giving a tax break to Hoosiers, and instead of reducing the state income tax, we should be putting that money toward teacher salaries.

I want to see maximum student-to-teacher ratios established for general and special education, and for the therapists.

Q: What role, if any, should the legislature have in determining elementary and secondary school curriculum?

A: Virtually none. What is needed, however, are more career-ready training programs throughout the state. Why, for example, should students need to travel from Martinsville to Bloomington to attend one of the programs at the Hoosier Hills Career Center? (<https://www.mccsc.edu/hoosierhills>) And, why aren't there more "farm facing" programs available in our rural schools? These are the types of education challenges I think the legislature should be addressing.

Q: Indiana should do more to address climate change.

A: Strongly Agree

Q: ..... Explain your answer and how you would address climate change.

A: With the influx of new federal funds, we should create a passenger rail system throughout the state. A commuter rail system in and around Indianapolis is a must. We need to allow our rural transit systems to purchase electric buses and vans, and supply them with the necessary charging stations and solar panels to generate the electricity to power these vehicles. We need broadband throughout the state to reduce commuting. We need electric vehicle charging stations throughout the state, and private enterprises, like gas stations, should be able to install solar panels to generate electricity.

Q: What are your priorities for Indiana in terms of reproductive rights and infant and maternal mortality?

A: I believe each woman should have autonomy over her own body.

When it comes to infant and maternal mortality, Indiana's track record is abysmal, especially for women of color. Medicaid, and Medicaid eligibility, should be expanded to cover all pre-, peri-, and postnatal medical visits and expenses, with the postnatal period extending to one year after the birth of the child. The coverage should include the treatment of postpartum depression, which annually affects an estimated 3 million women in the U.S.

We are seeing more babies born to women with substance use disorders. Too often women with a drug addiction do not seek pre-natal care because of the laws currently on the books in Indiana. Let's concentrate on the babies.

Q: Election administration must be conducted in a fair, transparent and non-partisan manner, ensuring all citizens have equal voting power, with results of elections decided by the freely cast votes of the citizenry.

A: Strongly Agree

Q: ..... Explain your answer and how you would address election integrity.

A: I fully support fair, transparent, non-partisan and easily accessed voting for all citizens.

Paper ballots should be used in all elections across the state. I am in favor of “no excuse” absentee ballots for all citizens. My true preference is to institute a “vote by mail” system, with easy drop-off boxes for marked ballots. “Vote by mail” increases voter participation and would save Indiana millions of dollars every election. Everything possible should be done to increase early voting and decrease wait-times at polling locations.

Voter intimidation should be a felony.

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Dave Hall

Party: Rep

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Occupation(s): Insurance Agent

Educational background: AAS - Industrial Technology

Mailing address: 11454 W US HWY 50 Norman IN 47264

Website: Votedavehall.com

Q: What qualifications and experience make you suited for serving in this office?

A: I have a proven, real-world track record as a conservative representative. I’m in my second term as an at-large county councilman, where I’ve represented all of Jackson County. I’m also serving in my second term on the Jackson County REMC board of directors. We serve over 20,000 households in parts of 10 Southern Indiana Counties, including Monroe, Brown and Jackson. I have been a small business owner for over 20 years, farm 500 acres of corn and soybeans and volunteer as a special deputy at the sheriff’s department. This broad range of experience makes me very well suited to represent the needs of our district at the statehouse.

Q: Indiana funds for K-12 education should go only to public schools.

A: Disagree

Q: Explain your answer and how you would address school funding.

A: I’m a product of the public school system and my children are there now. I believe the ADM funding should follow the student and that parents should be empowered to choose the best education environment for their children.

Q: What role, if any, should the legislature have in determining elementary and secondary school curriculum?

A: Parents have the right to know what their children are being taught and should also have the opportunity to give input on age appropriate school curriculum. The legislature should protect the rights of parents.

Q: Indiana should do more to address climate change.

A: Agree

Q: Explain your answer and how you would address climate change.

A: The energy market has been reacting to consumer demands by transitioning to cleaner sources for the last several years. As a result, many aging coal plants have been retired or slated for early retirement. At this time, I believe in an “all of the above approach” while transitioning to cleaner energy production over time. Advances in small modular reactors (SMR) can play a key role in developing a carbon free base load, while maintaining reliability, if we want to continue to responsibly reduce carbon emissions.

Q: What are your priorities for Indiana in terms of reproductive rights and infant and maternal mortality?

A: I believe all innocent human life has value and should be protected. A leading cause of maternal mortality in Indiana is substance use disorder. As a councilman I helped start a work release center in my home county. It will house up to 50 women and offers counseling from a drug addiction therapist, life skills classes and the opportunity to work full time in a clean and safe environment. There is no one size fits all approach to solving drug addiction and abuse but we must continue to remove hurdles and empower people to regain control of their lives.

Q: Election administration must be conducted in a fair, transparent and non-partisan manner, ensuring all citizens have equal voting power, with results of elections decided by the freely cast votes of the citizenry.

A: Strongly Agree

Q: Explain your answer and how you would address election integrity.

A: Voters want the assurance that our elections in Indiana are safe and secure. Our laws require elections to be administered by a bipartisan election board in each county with the County Clerk serving as the Secretary. Each process is overseen by bipartisan teams from the initial request of a ballot up until the time the ballot is officially counted. Voters can register online, by mail, as well as several in-person options. I believe the state should encourage counties to print paper ballots as a physical confirmation of electronic votes cast for more accurate audits and transparent results.

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**Greg (No Bull) Knot**

Party: Rep

Candidate has not yet responded.

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Brad Swain

Party: Dem

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Occupation(s): County Sheriff; Farmer; Adjunct Lecturer Ivy Tech

Educational background: AS law enforcement, FBI National Academy, IN Law enforcement academy

Mailing address: Brad Swain for District 62 PO Box 3096 Bloomington IN 47462

Website: www.bradswainfor62.com

Q: What qualifications and experience make you suited for serving in this office?

A: With over 36 years in public service, dealing with citizens under less-than-ideal circumstances as Sheriff, and working with legislative issues for the last decade, I am familiar with public-safety issues and how my experience can positively impact legislative initiatives. As Sheriff, I have worked with community groups to implement mental-health treatment and addiction solutions; various other treatment programs for inmates in our jail. Police reform, safety of women and children are issues I address daily.

Serving as a child mentor several times, and leading civic service clubs has kept me in touch with the challenges facing our counties.

As a multi-generation farmer, I understand the need to balance environmental concerns with farming.

Q: Indiana funds for K-12 education should go only to public schools.

A: Agree

Q: Explain your answer and how you would address school funding.

A: Public schools are open to all students without regard to income or eligibility; public tax dollars fund education in these schools. Parents have every right to send their children to private/parochial school-and it makes sense they incur the additional costs for this choice. Public money ensures public schools provide the best for our children as well as accountability and minimum standards for a complete education. School-funding needs to be addressed by using available funds for public schools and paying teachers a living wage.

Q: What role, if any, should the legislature have in determining elementary and secondary school curriculum?

A: The legislature as a body is not expert in curriculum building, nor should it be. Curricula need be crafted by those who are appropriately educated in content and highly trained in youth development and educational techniques. It is the legislature's job to provide adequate funding for public schools to implement approved curricula, providing a well-rounded education to our children

Q: Indiana should do more to address climate change.

A: Agree

Q: Explain your answer and how you would address climate change.

A: Environmental laws should be properly funded for enforcement. Alternative energy options are highly desirable and are achievable through tax refunds and similar incentives. The legislature made poor choices when it put disincentives on electric/hybrid vehicles and took away incentives for residential solar panels; these laws need to be reversed. As Sheriff, I've purchased green vehicles to help reduce carbon emissions as well as costs to the county and would advocate for other agencies to do so.

Q: What are your priorities for Indiana in terms of reproductive rights and infant and maternal mortality?

A: Mortality rates in Indiana for infants are 20% higher than the rest of the country, while rates for black infants increased in 2020. Maternal rates are worse: In 2021, Indiana was third highest in the country, with 43.6/100,000 deaths. Thirty-three counties in the state have no hospital or hospitals with obstetric services. We must assist rural hospitals to remain open, increase educational openings for nurses and doctors, and provide incentives for newly graduating healthcare professionals to work in underserved areas. Reproductive rights are healthcare decisions between a woman and her doctor; the legislature must not infringe upon rights guaranteed by the Constitution.

Q: Election administration must be conducted in a fair, transparent and non-partisan manner, ensuring all citizens have equal voting power, with results of elections decided by the freely cast votes of the citizenry.

A: Strongly Agree

Q: Explain your answer and how you would address election integrity.

A: Free and fair elections are the hallmark of our democracy and must not be infringed upon, diluted, or otherwise cast into doubt. It is important not to shrink, but to expand the franchise to vote whenever possible; automatic voter registration is one way to ensure all who want to vote legally can do so. With appropriate safeguards, mail-in ballots, early voting, and expanded voting hours all provide citizens with every opportunity to cast their ballots. Legislatures are not empowered to change the will of the voters – ballots cast and counted, as “one person, one vote,” is the intent of the Co

Candidates for Monroe County Commission, District 1

Elizabeth "Lee" Jones

Party: Dem

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=lee%20jones%20for%20monroe%20county%20commissione>

Occupation(s): Self employed - farmer& greenhouse operator, County Commissioner

Educational background: 6 years at IU. ABD

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Campaign phone: 812-322-6732

Website: <https://leejonesforcommissioner.com/bio/>

Q: What qualifications and experience make you suited for serving in this office?

A: I am the incumbent. Before I was elected County Commissioner in 2018 I served on the County Council for 6 years. This has given me a deep understanding of how County Government functions. Before that I worked for the City of Bloomington, at the same time serving as a Party officer for ten years. For the last four years of that time I was Chair of the Democratic Party. I grew up in Bloomington, and for most of my adult life I have lived in the County outside of the City limits. I know this Community very well, and have been actively involved since I was a teenager.

Q: What is your top priority for this office and how would you address it?

A: My top priority is Criminal Justice Reform. Our jail is severely over crowded. I have worked with a group of citizens to open the Stride Crisis Center which is a place for people in crisis from mental health situations or substance abuse to go where they will be offered services instead of incarceration. This has helped to reduce the jail population. I also worked to commission a Criminal Justice Review study which has given us a road map for decreasing the jail population. I am now leading the Criminal Justice Reform Committee made up of Commissioners and Council members which is working to make these reforms happen. The judges are working on systemic reforms separately. Eventually these two groups will join together.

Q: What will you propose as a way to reduce waste in the county?

A: Reducing organic waste would be the most successful method of minimizing what gets sent to the landfill. Organic waste makes up forty percent of the material sent there. The Solid Waste Management District has created a public/private program for citizens to drop off their kitchen food scraps for composting at several trash transfer stations in the county. This is a growing program, but it needs to be expanded more. Grocery stores and restaurants are the source of much of the organic waste. A pick up program could facilitate diverting this material for composting.

There is no convenient way for apartment dwellers to re-cycle. The Solid Waste Management District is considering various means to make recycling more convenient for them.

Q: How can the county work more effectively with city and town officials?

A: I believe this is an exaggerated situation. The county and the city have worked together effectively in many ways. There has been excellent cooperation between us during the pandemic. We worked together to fund the United Way's Heading Home Project to tackle the issue of affordable housing and un-housed people. We are also cooperating on funding Beacon's new homeless shelter. We have cooperative agreements regarding the animal shelter and building inspections and in many other situations.

Sometimes the goals of the county and city don't match up which can cause disagreements. This is some of the purpose of checks and balances in our government. Unfortunately, disagreements tend to be much bigger news than areas of agreement.

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**Perry Robinson**

Party: Rep

Candidate has not yet responded.

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Dominic Thompson

Party: Dem

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DominicforCommissioner>

Educational background: B.A. in Law and Public Policy from Indiana University - Bloomington

Campaign email: DominicforCommissioner@gmail.com

Mailing address: 620 W Howe St. Bloomington IN 47403

Website: www.DominicCommissioner.org

Q: What qualifications and experience make you suited for serving in this office?

A: As the first LGBTQ+ County Commissioner in the state, I would bring my personal experience of coalition building and my experience serving our county civically and politically in the following ways:

- * Chair of the Board of Housing Quality Appeals for the City of Bloomington (3 terms)
- * Executive Board Member of the Monroe County Affordable Housing Advisory Commission. (1 term)
- * Executive Board Member of Stonewall Democrats of South Central Indiana (2 terms)
- * Vice-Chair of Monroe County Young Democrats (1 term)

Q: What is your top priority for this office and how would you address it?

A: My top priority is creating affordable housing that works for the different communities in our county. As Commissioner, I would tackle this issue in three steps:

- * Zoning higher density housing in communities that want it and it makes sense.
- * Subsidising non-profits in the county such as Habitat for Humanity to create more single-family housing to address our housing shortage.
- * Using American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds to invest in our county infrastructure to ensure that we can make it easier for future homes to come to our community and we don't overextend our current services.

Q: What will you propose as a way to reduce waste in the county?

A: As Commissioner, I am dedicated to making sure we are working to achieve long-term solutions and build infrastructure that lasts. A large cost to voters is when our government commissions project that are short-term bandaids, which we often see with roads and bridges. These short-term solutions cost the county more money in the long run. With funds from the American Rescue Plan, we can invest in long-term solutions to ensure we aren't paying more in the long run.

Q: How can the county work more effectively with city and town officials?

A: As Commissioner, I understand the need to build relationships with all other municipal governments. By creating a county government that is more responsive to the needs of all county residents, including those that live in Bloomington or Ellettsville, we can create common goals to tackle issues we both face.

Candidates for Monroe County Assessor

Judith Sharp

Party: Dem

Candidate has not yet responded.

Candidates for Monroe County Circuit Court Clerk

Nicole Browne

Party: Dem

Mailing address: P.O. Box 3415 Bloomington IN 47402

Q: What qualifications and experience make you suited for serving in this office?

A: It has been my honor and privilege to serve in the Monroe County Clerk's Office for more than ten (10) years, since January of 2012, when I was first appointed Chief Deputy Clerk. I remained in that role until March of 2016 when I was caucused in as the Monroe County Clerk following the resignation of my predecessor.

Q: What are your top three priorities for this office, and how would you address them?

A: My top three priorities would be to consolidate all things related to elections under one roof in the Johnson Hardware Building. I will continue to publicly elevate the role of the Deputy Clerk and its value so that those who serve in those roles are compensated closer to their Court Reporter counterparts. I also plan to continue my efforts to upgrade the tools necessary to empower Deputy Clerks to do their jobs effectively and efficiently.

I have and will continue to publicly advocate to the Monroe County Commissioners and Monroe County Council to elevate these priorities. There are very few things that can be accomplished without the assistance, support or input from the County Clerk's Office

Q: How would you describe your managerial approach to the office?

A: I would largely describe my managerial approach as consultative in nature. I feel it is important to have feedback from my colleagues when considering the implementation of plans that impact office culture. I believe in equipping my colleagues with the tools that they need to perform their duties and then giving them the space to perform those duties until or unless additional direction or guidance becomes necessary. Because Deputy Clerks have long been on the bottom rung of the pay hierarchy, I often lose quality employees for higher paying opportunities elsewhere in Monroe County Government and in the private sector. For that reason, I strive to maintain a supportive work environment in an effort to retain their invaluable skill sets

Q: Election administration must be conducted in a fair, transparent and non-partisan manner, ensuring all citizens have equal voting power, with results of elections decided by the freely cast votes of the citizenry.

A: Strongly Agree

Q: Explain your answer and how you would address election integrity.

A: Because the County Clerk is responsible for overseeing all elections, it is imperative that s/he present as the face of election integrity. I am proud to work with a bipartisan Election Board and Election/Voter Registration team who support transparency when it comes to elections in Monroe County. We avail ourselves of all election training opportunities afforded to Indiana's County Clerks to ensure that we are clear on current legislation and best practices when it comes to election integrity. With Monroe County being a paper ballot county, together with our election vendors, we are alrea

Candidates for Monroe County Prosecuting Attorney

Erika Oliphant

Party: Dem

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ErikaOliphantForProsecutor>

Website: erikaoliphant.com

Campaign email: erikaoliphantforprosecutor@gmail.com

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/voteforerika>

Educational background: Maurer School of Law, J.D., 2009; IU, Bachelor of General Studies, 2003

Occupation(s): Prosecuting Attorney

Mailing address: P.O. Box 1852 Bloomington IN 47402

Q: What qualifications and experience make you suited for serving in this office?

A: Prior to my election to the office of Prosecuting Attorney in 2018, I served as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney in Monroe County for nine years. I began my career prosecuting misdemeanor and traffic offenses, before moving to a felony caseload in 2012. I have served as

the prosecutor representative on the Drug Treatment Court Team, the Veteran's Court Team, the Mental Health Court Team, and the Re-Entry Court Team. Currently, I serve on the Monroe County Community Corrections Advisory Board, the Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council, the Stride Center Multidisciplinary Team, the Monroe County Child Fatality Review Team, and the Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council Board of Directors.

Q: What are your top three priorities for this office, and how would you address them?

A: (1) Resources for effective prosecution of violent crime.

This year, I received grant funding from Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council to establish and maintain a High Tech Crime Unit in partnership with IU. The unit will allow us to process digital evidence, providing more and better evidence in serious cases. (2) Diversion. In my first term, I expanded prosecutor-led pretrial diversion to include non-violent drug felonies. I also worked with community leaders to create the Stride Center, a diversion alternative to arrest for low-level offenders facing mental health or substance use crises. (3) Crime prevention. I intend to work with community leaders to prevent violent crimes and expand resources for mental health treatment.

Q: Racial disparity is a problem in the county's criminal justice system.

A: Agree

Q: Explain your answer and how you would address racial disparity in the criminal justice system.

A: Research and data have proven that people of color are disproportionately represented among criminal defendants in the justice system. In order to advance equity, I commissioned Indiana University researchers to study racial and ethnic disparities in the Monroe County justice system. The results of this study, due in July 2022, will be used to develop and advance policies to reduce these disparities. Further, to increase transparency and test the efficacy of these policies, the data will be made available to the public.

Candidates for Monroe County Recorder

Ashley Cranor

Party: Dem

Mailing address: 111 W Southern Drive Bloomington IN 47403

Campaign email: ashleycranor@gmail.com

Website: cranor4recorder.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cranor4recorder>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/Cranor4Recorder>

Educational background: Education: Master in Public Health from Indiana University, Bloomington, I

Q: What qualifications and experience make you suited for serving in this office?

A: My qualifications and experiences for Monroe County Recorder are many and directly relevant to the job of the office. I have been serving as your Chief Deputy Recorder for over seven years. The scope of my duties are managing staff management, budgets, and basic duties of the office. I am the liaison to the state records department and work closely with the real estate industry. In addition, I received my Masters in Public Health with a focus on policy and programming, which has served me well with engaging the community and improving delivery of service.

Q: What are your top three priorities for this office, and how would you address them?

A: Public records are siloed, in different mediums and all across the county. I will build upon my collective experiences to increase public and private engagement to centralize records through the use of technology and others methods. I will focus on recognizing and preserving our local heritage by seeking input from listening to marginalized groups who have often had their perspective and heritage left out of our county records and history. Lastly, I will expand access and awareness of our county resources, such as the Fielder Archives, by building partnerships with public institutions and at-large community groups to centralize public records, providing transparency.

Q: How would you ensure that information is being reported and secured responsibly?

A: The Recorder's office has been utilizing redaction software, blacking out of sensitive data, since the 1990's. We have several internal processes that staff go through with clients to ensure information, such as ssn's, protected individuals, such as judge's, are protected. Documents such as military discharges, are not available to the public to access, yet we can assist the veteran. In addition, we have multiple back up redundancies in place, such as microfilm and the cloud, and comprehensive plans in case there is a disaster of any kind. The recorder's office has held and protected your county land records since 1817 and I will continue.

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### **Amy Swain**

Party: Dem

Mailing address: P.O. Box 1632 Bloomington IN 47402

Campaign phone: 812-606-7272

Campaign email: amyswainforRecorder@gmail.com

Website: <https://amyswain-recorder.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/amyswainforRecorder>

Twitter: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/amyswain/>

Educational background: Business degree from Indiana University

Occupation(s): Marketing Director

Q: What qualifications and experience make you suited for serving in this office?

A: Voters twice elected me to serve 4-year terms on my Township Board, which elected me President.

I'm adept at cultivating positive, professional relationships with internal and external audiences. Currently, I serve as liaison for the Better Business Bureau, Indiana Chamber of Commerce, and numerous vendors.

My IU business degree directly relates to this office.

I led large departments that directly interacted with the public, handling invoicing, collecting payments, payroll, budgets, hiring/training staff, and working with other departments to provide services and plan for the future.

I have extensive technology skills. I converted public records with all addenda to electronic form, which I put into a searchable database for public use.

Q: What are your top three priorities for this office, and how would you address them?

A: 1. A professional, welcoming atmosphere that's accessible to all who interact with our office, including staff members. I'll talk with those who do business with the office, both internally and externally, to help improve any inefficiencies in service.

2. Ensure a well-trained, knowledgeable staff that's in compliance with all statutory obligations. Stay up to date on changes through State Board of Accounts, Recorder's Association, and communication with the Assessor's and Auditor's Offices, among others.

3. A smooth transition. Communicate with the Auditor (payroll), process year-end reports and collections, check internal controls, talk with the County Council (budget) and Commissioners (contracts). Attend newly-elected officers' training.

Q: How would you ensure that information is being reported and secured responsibly?

A: Simplifile software is used to record documents. Recently, CSC was added, which helps with e-filing requirements and works with Simplifile on secure sites.

Doxpop is a secure site used to retrieve records by 46 Recorder's Offices in Indiana. Anyone can subscribe to its property alerts, free of charge, to receive email updates whenever a name or property information is entered on a new land record.

The Recorder's Office records documents after making sure they meet essential requirements.

The Recorder's Office indexes records then validates the indexes. No one should validate their own work. Physical copies are retained according to the Recorder's Retention Schedule.

Use recording software that includes Social Security number redaction.

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Paul White Sr.

Party: Rep

Candidate has not yet responded.

Candidates for Monroe County Sheriff

Steve Hale

Party: Dem

Mailing address: 637 Militia ct Ellettsville IN 47429

Campaign email: Smh5385@gmail.com

Campaign phone: 812-606-7494

Facebook: facebook.com/stevehaleforsheriff

Educational background: Graduated from Rensselaer Central HS, attended Indiana University

Website: haleforsheriff.com

Occupation(s): Deputy at Monroe County Sheriff's Office

Q: What qualifications and experience make you suited for serving in this office?

A: Being a candidate who has been employed by the MCSO for 20+ years with my first 7 years spent working in the jail (3+ years as Captain), I understand the unique issues and needs of MCCC staff and inmates alike. I'm now a Sergeant with the road division, and appreciate the inner workings of patrol, and understand how to minimize the hazards we face daily. Aside from being a deputy, I am also the only candidate who is a married father with 2 young children. I know well and share in the issues and concerns that parents face in today's society. Also being the only candidate that is a local business owner, having made it through the pandemic, I understand the importance of a budget and making every dollar count.

Q: What are your top three priorities for this office, and how would you address them?

A: There are many issues I will plan to tackle as Sheriff, but 3 that I feel are very important are addressing the Mental Health Crisis, the drug epidemic, and increased training in areas where we are currently lacking. When it comes to the Mental Health Crisis, I want to work with other agencies and local providers to help establish better options for families and individuals in need. When it comes to the drug epidemic, I want to do all we can to stop the flow of drugs into our county. I plan to develop an interdiction team of deputies to intercept these drugs before they ever reach our community. With training, I want to focus on areas such as increasing the number of Spanish speaking deputies, and de-escalation and diversity training.

Q: What changes, if any, should be made in how the sheriff's office interacts with ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement)?

A: When it comes to concerns on ICE, I would be happy to address specific questions, but in general we would continue to operate within guidelines of federal law. I would intend on implementing additional training so that our deputies can learn to speak Spanish and in turn help alleviate fears and uncertainties of those who do not have English as their first language and improve our ability to communicate with them. Basic communication can go a very long way in establishing relationships.

Q: Racial justice is an important consideration in policing.

A: Strongly Agree

Q: Explain your answer and how you would address racial justice in policing.

A: I strongly agree that racial justice is extremely important now more so than ever. As sheriff I would strive to not only offer racial justice but equality in application of the law to each individual person.

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**Ruben D Martí**

Party: Dem

Mailing address: P.O. 102 Bloomington IN 47402

Campaign email: [campaign@rubenforsheriff.com](mailto:campaign@rubenforsheriff.com)

Campaign phone: 812-322-4575

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SupportRuben>

Educational background: Baruch College-Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

Website: <https://www.rubenforsheriff.com/>

Occupation(s): Captain with the Indiana State Police

Q: What qualifications and experience make you suited for serving in this office?

A: Ruben Martí is a 31-year veteran with the Indiana State Police and currently serves as a Captain in the Office of the Superintendent. Captain Martí has trained many law enforcement officers throughout the state on Gangs, De Escalation, Excited Delirium and on Cultural Awareness for Law Enforcement. He has also provided a public speaking program on the topic of Improving Police and Community Relations in underrepresented communities through the state. The focus of the program is to foster a progressive commitment to the community. The program has been successful, benefitting all participants, including law enforcement officers, departments and the public. This past year, Captain Martí, was appointed as the first Equity and Inclusion Officer

Q: What are your top three priorities for this office, and how would you address them?

A: 1. Increase Public Safety

This should be the ultimate goal of law enforcement, and I believe it's accomplished by:

Being transparent

Increasing accountability

Acknowledging the challenges our community is facing and discussing them with residents

Working hand-in-hand with social service programs

Working to gain public trust

2. Reduce the Rate of Recidivism and Reentry in the Justice System

This is possible through:

Providing diversion programs

Working hand-in-hand with social service programs that provide support to individuals who have recently left jail or prison

Education

Training

3. Increase Training for all Sheriff's Office Employees

Crisis Intervention and De-escalation Techniques

Cultural Awareness for Law Enforcement

Implicit B

Q: What changes, if any, should be made in how the sheriff's office interacts with ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement)?



A: The Sheriff's Office fundamental duty is to serve the community; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against victimization, the weak against oppression or intimidation and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the Constitutional rights of all people.

Sworn law enforcement officers are those who have taken an oath to support the Constitution of the United States as well as the Constitution of the State of Indiana.

Sworn officers also have the responsibility to ensure the safety and quality of life of the communities we serve. We do not have the authority to enforce immigration laws enacted by the United States Congress.

Q: Racial justice is an important consideration in policing.

A: Strongly Agree

Q: ..... Explain your answer and how you would address racial justice in policing.

A: I have spent 31 years as an officer with the Indiana State Police. I choose a career in law enforcement as a means of improving the relationship between law enforcement and the various communities in which I serve. During my career, I have volunteered on several community boards and committees, I have provided hundreds of training programs regarding diversity to police officers and the community alike.

I also have the honor of being appointed as the first Equity and Inclusion Officer with the Indiana State Police. Captain Martí, is bilingual in both English and Spanish.

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Angie Purdie

Party: Dem

Mailing address: 3640 E Dora Rd Bloomington IN 47408

Campaign email: apurdie4sheriff@gmail.com

Campaign phone: 812-219-3232

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PurdieforSheriff>

Educational background: Indiana University Bachelor of Science- Public Administration- SPEA

Website: <https://purdieforsheriff.com/>

Occupation(s): Probation Officer, Court Administration, County Administrator

Q: What qualifications and experience make you suited for serving in this office?

A: BS Public Affairs- Indiana University O' Neil School of Public and Environmental Affairs with a concentration in Criminal Justice.

Certified Adult Probation Officer-Substance Abuse Counselor, Indiana Office of Court Services, and the Indiana Judicial Conference.

Certified Court Manager- National Center for State Courts.

I have 15 years criminal justice experience as a probation officer; a position that supports people convicted of crimes using evidence based, innovative, and progressive programming. I have three years in court administration and currently 9 years in County Administration serving as the Board of Commissioners COO of the County.

Q: What are your top three priorities for this office, and how would you address them?

A: Establish a Resident's Advisory Board comprised of community members and those most impacted by the CJS, who will have input in the departmental policies, procedures, and training of Deputies and Correctional Officers. Implementing community-oriented Policing (COP), changing the focus from reactionary to supportive and requiring ongoing assessment of our practices to ensure ALL are being served and not falling back into our comfortable "white" interactions.

Improve the transparency of the Sheriff's Department, utilizing the jail management software to accurately collect data and report data to the public and the Sheriff Resident's Advisory Board.

Q: What changes, if any, should be made in how the sheriff's office interacts with ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement)?

A: Eliminate the use of ICE Detainers, and this is a policy that would be reviewed by the Sheriff Resident's Advisory Board.

Q: Racial justice is an important consideration in policing.

A: Strongly Agree

Q: Explain your answer and how you would address racial justice in policing.

A: To explain my answer go to Equal Justice Initiative (eji.org). the Sheriff's Department must be active in the protection of all people in our care. We must provide ongoing DEI training for all Deputies, jailers, and staff members. I will utilize organizations such as the Equal Justice Initiative to provide ongoing trainings and guided discussions .It is my intention every deputy and jailer will visit as part of their ongoing education, the Legacy Museum and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery Alabama.

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**Joani Stalcup**

Party: Dem

Mailing address: 8014 W. Chaffin Chapel Rd. Ellettsville IN 47429

Campaign email: joani.stalcup@co.monroe.in.us

Campaign phone: 812-345-5353

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Joani-Stalcup-for-Monroe-County-Sheriff-109140915021139>

Occupation(s): Monroe County Coroner, Med Record Coordinator Ceneterstone

Q: What qualifications and experience make you suited for serving in this office?

A: I have worked beside law enforcement for the past 17 years in the role of a Deputy Coroner/Coroner, investigating deaths. I am the current elected Monroe County Coroner. What most people don't know about the Coroner is that technically they are the highest ranking law enforcement officer of the county. Being in the role of Sheriff is a lot like being Coroner when it comes to managing a budget, overseeing deputies, and managing day to day

operations. I have worked in public service for 22 years. I currently sit on the Indiana State Coroners Training Board and was appointed by the Governor of Indiana into that role. I have worked in the field with officers and have an understanding of their needs and the needs of the public.

Q: What are your top three priorities for this office, and how would you address them?

A: First I want to address the current mental health and substance use crisis. Substance use and mental health go hand in hand. I want to create positions for social workers specialized in mental health and substance use to offer the county citizens the same resources the city offers their community and create a policy in reference to the STRIDE diversion program. Second, I want to go back to community policing and getting the deputies involved with the community. We need to break the stigma that police are bad people and bridge the gap between the community and officers. Third, diversity. I want to create an environment of inclusion, recruit more officers with diverse backgrounds. As well as diversity training for all employees.

Q: What changes, if any, should be made in how the sheriff's office interacts with ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement)?

A: To my knowledge the current interaction with ICE from the Sheriff's office is only in the event someone is arrested of a serious crime posing a threat to the public, ie; murder, rape, child molesting, aggravated assault or attempted murder, or a serious crime against another person. If a person arrested has committed a serious crime, regardless of their ethnicity, they are considered a danger to the public. I would continue to only interact with ICE in these situations for the sake of public safety. If the crime committed is a non-violent, non-serious crime, I would not see the need for ICE to be involved as the state law permits.

Q: Racial justice is an important consideration in policing.

A: Strongly Agree

Q: ..... Explain your answer and how you would address racial justice in policing.

A: By definition racial justice means systematic fair treatment of people. Mandatory diversity training for all officers and employees under my direction as sheriff. In addition should there ever be a situation of a racial injustice accusation, a thorough investigation of the incident by an outside agency would be conducted and based on the outcome of the investigation, action would be taken accordingly, including criminal charges if applicable and termination. I have zero tolerance for racism or racial profiling especially in policing.

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Troy Thomas

Party: Dem

Mailing address: PO Box 7282 Bloomington IN 47407

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Campaign phone: 812-325-6216

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/troythomasforsheriff>

Website: <https://troythomasforsheriff.com/>

Occupation(s): Lieutenant Monroe County Sheriff's Deputy

Q: What qualifications and experience make you suited for serving in this office?

A: Troy is uniquely qualified to serve as Sheriff, his entire career has been training him for this opportunity. Troy started his service to Monroe County in the jail and then joined the Patrol Division, becoming the first African American patrol deputy in the history of Monroe County. Troy has risen through the ranks of the Sheriff's Office from patrol deputy to Detective, Sergeant, Lieutenant and Captain. He has led the Detective Division and Patrol Division. Throughout his 26 years with the Sheriff's department Troy has worked to modernize the department as policing and community needs evolve. In addition to his work with Monroe County, Troy has trained hundreds of officers across the state as an instructor at the Academy.

Q: What are your top three priorities for this office, and how would you address them?

A: Full detail of what, why and how for Troy's top initiatives can be found here:
<https://troythomasforsheriff.com/initiatives/>.

Troy is prioritizing enrichment of community engagement by increasing accessibility of the department through technology and outreach.

Pursuing alternatives to arrest and prosecution is also a top priority for Troy. Training, conversations, local partnerships and the use of social workers are all pieces of the plan to ensure the ultimate goal of utilizing alternatives to arrest is to reduce recidivism and increase efficiency and overall safety.

Troy is also committed to diversity recruitment and transforming the Sheriff's office into one more reflective of the community.

Q: What changes, if any, should be made in how the sheriff's office interacts with ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement)?

A: Currently the Sheriff's Office only engages in ICE holds when the individual is a serious, violent felon. As Sheriff, I would continue the current practice of not proactively sharing information with ICE unless it met that level of seriousness.

Q: Racial justice is an important consideration in policing.

A: Strongly Agree

Q: Explain your answer and how you would address racial justice in policing.

A: Racial justice is a critically important consideration in policing because of the disproportionate impact of the criminal justice system on non-white communities. Racial justice is not only about the equal treatment of all individuals, but goes further to take deliberative steps to prevent injustice and ensure fair treatment. Troy's commitment to racial justice permeates his identified priorities. Specifically, the prioritization of transparency, diversity recruitment and training, enhanced jail programming and utilizing alternatives to arrest are all intentional steps toward this goal.

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**Nathan Williamson**

Party: Rep

Mailing address: P.O. Box 507 Ellettsville IN 47429

Campaign email: nathanwilliamsonforsheriff@gmail.com

Campaign phone: 812-381-1427

Educational background: AAB Business Management

Website: nathanwilliamsonforsheriff.com

Occupation(s): Sergeant for the Monroe County Sheriff's Office

Q: What qualifications and experience make you suited for serving in this office?

A: I can say that growing up I did not dream of being a police officer, I did not develop that passion until later in life when I began to follow a desire to help others. I have spent over sixteen years in various management roles in my professional career. I worked at a publishing company for nine years and was responsible for over fifty employees. I then spent two years working in a pharmacy as the store manager. These two management experiences helped me develop my skills as an experienced leader. I have 11 years as a Sheriff Deputy with 7 of those as a Sergeant. In addition to my work experiences, I think my strong family values and the support system I have at home is key to me being successful in the role of sheriff.

Q: What are your top three priorities for this office, and how would you address them?

A: A Safe and Civil Monroe County is important for a community to feel safe in their homes and when they walk down the street. Diversity and Inclusion are fundamental to a positive and respectful community, thus why I have made both top priorities of my administration. Community Engagement, the concept is simple – be proactive, engaged, and resourceful corporate citizens through actions, not words. This is the commitment the Monroe County Sheriff's Office including deputies, administrative employees and myself would have to this community under my direction. The Monroe County Sheriff's Office offers more than protection, we are fellow citizens of Monroe County, and fostering these relationships will allow us to be an integrated community.

Q: What changes, if any, should be made in how the sheriff's office interacts with ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement)?

A: U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement should only be involved with the Monroe County Sheriffs Office when we are dealing with a dangerous and violent criminal that has been taken into custody and should not be released back into our community. Small infractions or small criminal charges would not prompt a call to ICE.

Q: Racial justice is an important consideration in policing.

A: Strongly Agree

Q: ..... Explain your answer and how you would address racial justice in policing.

A: I agree the lack of racial justice in policing and our society as a whole has been an issue that has needed and will continue to need addressing. One of my priorities is promoting diversity and being diligent and proactive about how my administration will interact with the diverse population of Monroe County. Increased diversity, inclusion and cultural awareness training for all Deputies, office employees, and administration is extremely important in promoting

inclusivity and acceptance across the population that call Monroe County home. See my website for more info on my priorities.

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#### **Candidates for Monroe County Judge 10th Circuit, Division 5, Seat 4**

##### **Mary Ellen Diekhoff**

Party: Dem

Occupation(s): Judge, Monroe Circuit Court

Mailing address: 504 Staats Drive Bloomington IN 47408

Campaign email: diekhoffm@sbcglobal.net

Educational background: Juris doctorate degree, Maurer School of Law

Q: What qualifications and experience make you suited for serving in this office?

A: I am in my eighteenth year as the Judge of Monroe Circuit Court 5.

Professional Involvement:

Indiana Judges Association

Board of Directors, Judicial Conference of Indiana

Chair, District 10 Pro Bono

Indiana Public Defender Commission

Indiana Pre-Trial Release Committee

Indiana Problem Solving Court Committee

Board of Directors, Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program

Q: What are your top priorities for improving the administration of justice in Monroe County?

A: To continue to explore and enhance collaboration between the court system and other community agencies, as we have with Problem Solving Courts, the Stride Center and the New Beginnings Program.

Q: Racial disparity is a concern in the county's criminal justice system.

A: - no response -

Q: ..... Explain your answer and how you would address racial disparity in the criminal justice system.

A: As a judicial officer, it my sworn duty to adhere to the Judicial Canon of Ethics which requires that every individual who has a matter involving the courts be treated in a fair and impartial manner. I have strived to adhere to this principle in my tenure as a judge, and will continue to do so.

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#### **Candidates for Monroe County Circuit Court Judge Division 6 Seat 1**

##### **Holly M Harvey**

Party: Dem

Occupation(s): Attorney (1997-2016); Judge, Monroe Circuit Court (2017- present)

Mailing address: PO Box 3083 Bloomington IN 47402

Educational background: Indiana University (B.A., 1994); IU Maurer School of Law (1997)

Q: What qualifications and experience make you suited for serving in this office?

A: Prior to taking the bench in 2017, I spent nineteen years in private practice, focusing on civil litigation and family law. As a judge, I have handled civil real estate, contractual and tort litigation, while also working with families in domestic relations and juvenile CHINS matters. My substantive legal experience makes me well suited for judicial office. My leadership roles in the Indiana State and Monroe County Bar Associations and community involvement give me the ability to see cases from multiple perspectives, which enhances my ability to make well informed decisions on difficult cases.

Q: What are your top priorities for improving the administration of justice in Monroe County?

A: As just one of ten judicial officers who must work as a unit on matters of criminal justice, I can only contribute to what the Board of Judges has identified as a primary need. Generally speaking, I would continue to advance our Board's efforts at ensuring and improving access to the courts for parties who are not represented, and to maximize community resources to assist parties who are dealing with mental health and substance abuse crises.

Q: Racial disparity is a concern in the county's criminal justice system.

A: - no response -

Q: ..... Explain your answer and how you would address racial disparity in the criminal justice system.

A: As a judge it is my duty to resolve the issues of each case in a manner that is not biased against any racial or ethnic minority, and apply the controlling law to the facts of the case.

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## **Candidates for Monroe County Circuit Court Judge Division 7 Seat 7**

### **Allison M Chopra**

Party: Dem

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Educational background: B.A., M.S., JD, all from IU Bloomington

Occupation(s): Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

Q: What qualifications and experience make you suited for serving in this office?

A: I have a lengthy history of community service and a high level of legal experience that will give me the ability to make solid decisions for our community as Judge. I began my community service in the Indiana Army National Guard at age 17. I was a downtown business owner and served on the Bloomington Urban Enterprise Association. Since then, I've completed Bloomington Citizen's Academy, Leadership Bloomington Monroe County, and the Indiana Democratic Party's Emerging Leader Program. I have served as a "Big" for Big Brother's Big Sisters. I was a Bloomington City Council Member from 2016-2020. Representing the State of Indiana, I have handled cases to jury trials involving domestic battery, child molest, and murder.

Q: What are your top priorities for improving the administration of justice in Monroe County?

A: As a whole, I believe the Monroe County Judges and attorneys are administering justice quite well. That said, I do have personal priorities that I will implement in my court room. First, I will be a firm judge. Litigants in my court room will know what to expect. They will know that I will say what I mean and mean what I say. As one judge that I look up to says, "I don't make threats. I make promises." Of course, a no-nonsense approach must be mixed with fairness and a Judge who is respectful and listens to all parties regardless of their ability to pay, and I will. Finally, I will be an efficient Judge. Monroe County courts, like most others, have very heavy caseloads. It is my goal to reduce the caseload in my court.

Q: Racial disparity is a concern in the county's criminal justice system.

A: Strongly Agree

Q: ..... Explain your answer and how you would address racial disparity in the criminal justice system.

A: Racial disparity has been a problem with our justice system since its inception. It is still a concern. Everyone has implicit biases about race - assumptions, and predispositions that we are not even aware of. So, first we must be aware that we have implicit biases. Then, we need to check them. Judges must ask themselves: Am I making this decision because I am making assumptions about this person based on race? We must proactively ask this question each day. I will have a note on my bench reminding myself to ask this question regularly.

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Carl Lamb

Party: Rep

Candidate has not yet responded.

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**Emily A Salzmänn**

Party: Dem

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Educational background: JD from Indiana University Maurer School of Law

Occupation(s): Attorney

Q: What qualifications and experience make you suited for serving in this office?

A: Not only am I an experienced lawyer in both the criminal and civil courts here in Monroe County, but I also have judicial experience. I have sat in as judge pro tempore 36 times for four different local courts when their judges were unavailable. Through my fluency in Spanish, I have been able to serve more of the citizens of Monroe County both as an attorney and as judge pro tempore. Because I handle a variety of criminal and civil issues in Monroe County, I am comfortable with whatever docket of cases will be assigned to this seat. Through my work in paid, pro bono, low bono and appointment cases, I work with a diverse group of citizens in this county and I know the issues they face because I handle them on a daily basis.

Q: What are your top priorities for improving the administration of justice in Monroe County?

A: The administration of justice faces different issues between the criminal and civil courts in this county. The biggest issues facing the criminal courts are housing instability, substance use and mental health issues. My priority as judge will be to use any community resources and services that are available to assist individuals who are tackling these problems. The biggest issue facing the civil courts is access to justice. Use of remote proceedings and use of mediation services for a greater variety of cases are tools I would use to increase this access and address the large number of small claims and evictions cases.

Q: Racial disparity is a concern in the county's criminal justice system.

A: Agree

Q: ..... Explain your answer and how you would address racial disparity in the criminal justice system.

A: Racial disparity is an important concern for the justice system. In every case that comes before me I will hear a full and fair airing of the issues and apply the law evenly among all parties. This is the foremost duty of a judge. However, I would also make a point to be aware of the equity of my decisions made within this framework. The awareness that there is racial disparity within the system is critical to keep in mind in order to reach a just decision. I am committed to making fair and just decisions in the cases that come before me regardless of race, or any other factor.

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April Ann Wilson

Party: Dem

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Educational background: B.A., Notre Dame; J.D., IU; M.A. in Russian & East European Studies, IU

Occupation(s): Felony Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Monroe County Prosecutor's Office

Q: What qualifications and experience make you suited for serving in this office?

A: My professional and personal experiences have prepared me to serve Monroe County with compassion, fairness, and integrity. I have over 11 years of legal experience as a deputy prosecutor, deputy attorney general, paralegal, and legal assistant. I have civil and criminal litigation experience, civil and criminal jury trial experience, and I have practiced in federal and state courts throughout the State of Indiana. My lived experiences bring equal value. I have been a nineteen-year-old single mother, the partner of a service member during multiple deployments, and a law student while raising young children. I have learned and lived the values of compassion and community. These are values I carry with me today.

Q: What are your top priorities for improving the administration of justice in Monroe County?

A: As a judge, my priority would be to treat each person with whom I interact with dignity and respect, to listen carefully to each case with an open mind, and to reach a fair and impartial resolution, without bias or prejudice. Additionally, as someone who has had to manage the challenges of childcare and transportation with limited resources, I hope to reduce the number of pretrial conferences and ensure that every hearing starts in a timely manner to lessen the impact of numerous and delayed proceedings. I also hope to expand the use of technology to increase accessibility.

Q: Racial disparity is a concern in the county's criminal justice system.

A: Agree

Q: Explain your answer and how you would address racial disparity in the criminal justice system.

A: Ensuring the fair and equitable treatment of every individual is the foundation of justice and, therefore, a concern for all. I will continue to treat each person with whom I interact with dignity and respect, to listen carefully to each case with an open mind, and to reach a fair and impartial resolution, without bias or prejudice. I previously have participated in implicit bias training and would support training for all justice officials, staff, and participants.

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**Karen Elise Wrenbeck**

Party: Dem

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Educational background: University of Michigan B.S., Indiana University J.D.

Occupation(s): Deputy Public Defender, Monroe County Public Defender's Office

Q: What qualifications and experience make you suited for serving in this office?

A: We need more public defenders on the bench, and I'm the only candidate with this experience. I've represented thousands of clients in criminal and civil cases: felonies, misdemeanors, child welfare, family law, contempt, juvenile delinquency, and more. My clients often struggle with mental health crises, substance use disorder, and poverty. Being a public defender has taught me skills necessary to be a qualified judge, including explaining legal issues in plain language, deescalating upset parties, and delivering difficult news.

I'm the President of the Monroe County Bar Association. I was on the Monroe County Mental Health Court team for 2 years. I supervise my office's internship program for social work and law students.

Q: What are your top priorities for improving the administration of justice in Monroe County?

A: First, I will encourage accessibility through the use of Zoom hearings whenever possible. Zoom hearings remove barriers, so parties can attend without worrying about childcare, transportation, or taking time off work. I will also establish a public e-filing station, where unrepresented litigants can submit their court filings electronically.

Second, I will seek to innovate by serving on Indiana Supreme Court committees to develop reforms and pursue opportunities for us to lead as a pilot county for new programs. I will support evidence-based programs like problem-solving courts.

Finally, I will run an efficient courtroom. I will consider all evidence, then issue my decisions in a timely manner and (whenever possible) in writing.

Q: Racial disparity is a concern in the county's criminal justice system.

A: Agree

Q: ..... Explain your answer and how you would address racial disparity in the criminal justice system.

A: It's clear that historically our nation's legal system has disproportionately affected members of marginalized communities. I'm absolutely concerned about this issue in every court system, and I believe we should seek transparency: our court system should be studied to examine the extent of any disparities. As judge, it would be my obligation to follow the law and protect everyone's constitutional rights. I'll also be responsible for running my courtroom. I will treat everyone before me with dignity and respect, and I will not tolerate any type of mistreatment or derogatory comments.

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## Candidates for Monroe County Council, District 1

**Jim Allen**

Party: Rep  
Candidate has not yet responded.

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**Peter J Iversen**

Party: Dem

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Educational background: Lawrence University (Undergrad), IU O'Neill School (Graduate)

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Campaign phone: 812-345-7486

Occupation(s): Development Officer with the IU School of Public Health

Q: What qualifications and experience make you suited for serving in this office?

A: For over the past three years, I served the residents in the first district in the Monroe County Council. This time is important because we saw a public health pandemic, an economic downturn, and societal changes, the likes of which we have never seen. Nonetheless, our economy is emerging resilient. Our public health infrastructure was the strongest in the state. And the Monroe County reserves are strong all while we invested \$2 million to make staff salaries competitive, where every Monroe County employee earns \$15/hour or more! During this time we allocated important dollars as grants to support working families through Township Trustees and kept local businesses from failing. These unique experiences qualify me for reelection.

Q: What is your top priority for the Council and how would you address it?

A: I am running for re-election to Invest in Community. My plan is to invest in three top areas: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Climate Crisis Resilience; and Public Health. I lay out detailed plans in a speech I gave earlier this year and is posted here: <https://peteriversen.org/peters-persepective/7qsl8k25jaq62geis1zoo0miaeo95z>. I also lay out these areas in a specific section at [www.PeterIversen.org](http://www.PeterIversen.org): <https://peteriversen.org/issues>.

Q: What are the next steps in helping the local economy and workforce recover from the COVID-19 pandemic?

A: As the Council's liaison to the Monroe County Health Department, and an employee of the IU School of Public Health, I am uniquely qualified to answer this question. In detail:  
ARPA funds will be invested to ensure that childcare is affordable and accessible.  
ARPA funds will also expand transportation.  
We will continue to invest in combating racism which is a Public Health Crisis.  
We will invest in evidence-based criminal justice reform.  
We will invest in sexual health.  
We will invest in harm reduction and defend the evidence based practice of syringe exchange services.

We will invest in affordable housing.

Finally, we will continue to invest in the Health Department so that we learn lessons and prepare for the future.

Q: How would you invest food and beverage tax revenue in rebuilding our county's tourism industry and workforce?

A: As the Council liaison to the Monroe County Convention and Visitors Commission, I understand how important tourism is to our community. And it's why I feel that our economy is so resilient as I wrote: <https://peteriversen.org/peters-persepective/2-indications-the-local-economy-is-strong>.

The Food and Beverage tax was created in Monroe County to support a new Convention Center. This work was impeded by the pandemic, but I am happy to share that a productive working relationship exists to restart those talks.

During the pandemic, we saw the investment of food and beverage revenue to keep our community resilient with the County's grant program and debt relief. I gladly supported these efforts to invest local dollars in local employers.

Q: Monroe County should do more to address climate change.

A: Strongly Agree

Q: ..... Explain your answer and how you would address climate change.

A: As the Council liaison to the Monroe County Environmental Commission, we must invest in evidence-based practices to say that the Anthropocene is here and that we are already experiencing a climate crisis. That is why it is my goal to:

Hire Monroe County's inaugural sustainability Director to maintain a focus in this critical area; & Conduct Monroe County's inaugural community wide greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory, collecting vital data; &

Write and implement Monroe County's inaugural Climate Action Plan which will build on the Resiliency Report and the GHG inventory to set measurable outcomes.

Q: What is your position on Bloomington's proposed annexation of parts of Monroe County?

A: - no response -

Q: How can the county work more effectively with city and town officials?

A: The County works incredibly closely with city and town officials in a wide array of areas. This includes areas such as public health, planning, parks & recreation, highway and roads, law enforcement, the jail, the courts, and more.

We can work even more effectively by focusing on areas where interests overlap.

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## Candidates for Monroe County Council, District 2

**Kate Wiltz**

Party: Dem

Educational background: I have an M.S. in Natural Resources from Ohio State University.

Occupation(s): Project Manager, Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands, Indiana Univ.

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Q: What qualifications and experience make you suited for serving in this office?

A: I have served on the Monroe County Council for just over three years, during which I have learned much about local government and leadership. My “day job” is as a project manager for the Eppley Institute at Indiana University. Both the work at IU and the County have given me a keen appreciation for the challenges our community faces and the services and support that government provides in meeting these challenges. I have worked on our County’s environmental commission, the Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Convention and Visitors Commission, the Sophia Travis Community Services Grants Committee, and many others. Across these settings, I have prioritized evidence-based approaches and sound budgeting to meet our community’s needs.

Q: What is your top priority for the Council and how would you address it?

A: My top priority is elevating the quality of life for those in our community who have been hit hardest by the Covid-19 pandemic and the associated economic impacts. This includes careful stewardship of the millions of dollars of American Recovery Act funding that we have received. As we continue to navigate the pandemic, I am hopeful that we will use this federal support to improve services to our unhoused population, reform our criminal justice system, and support families and businesses who are trapped in an unviable economy. Most specifically, I am working toward a reimagined justice center with expanded programming, alternatives to incarceration, and preventative mental health services.

Q: What are the next steps in helping the local economy and workforce recover from the COVID-19 pandemic?

A: As we prioritize funding, we continue to incentivize private investment in biotech and other businesses who want to expand locally. Including workforce housing and transit as part of corporate investment is critical to ensuring that those on whose labor these companies depend are able to thrive in Monroe County. Another way the County can assist in Covid recovery is to support quality, affordable childcare for working families. Finally, supporting our tourism industry will be important to our future. Visitors to our community come for IU events, parks, trails, and recreation on Lake Monroe. We must continue to protect our natural resources as sources of tourism revenue, health, and environmental benefits.

Q: How would you invest food and beverage tax revenue in rebuilding our county's tourism industry and workforce?

A: We have already used food and beverage tax dollars to replace revenue lost during 2020 by businesses that collect this tax. We provided grants to restaurants and lodging facilities across the county, and we supported the Monroe County Convention Center with a direct payment to their operating funds. Continued investment in our parks, trails, and recreation facilities will result in essential quality of place for our residents and attract tourism to our area. To this end, we must also take steps to protect Lake Monroe as the sole water source for Bloomington residents and a recreation destination. These combined efforts will allow tourism-adjacent businesses such as restaurants, hotels, and retailers to thrive.

Q: Monroe County should do more to address climate change.

A: Strongly Agree

Q: ..... Explain your answer and how you would address climate change.

A: To build resilience to increasingly devastating weather events, we have looked at the specific conditions and locations in our county that are most susceptible. We must now examine current and future land use & economic and racial disparities in these areas to implement targeted zoning and (stormwater) infrastructure. Also, we must support landowners. Our SWCD added a position to help implement cost-share programs and best practices in both rural and suburban areas. I hope to continue building on these projects to strengthen the health of our community as it faces climate change.

Q: What is your position on Bloomington's proposed annexation of parts of Monroe County?

A: Annexing urbanizing areas around a city is a natural part of economic expansion and population growth, but it should not be done without the input of the affected residents or government entities. Bloomington's initiative was announced unilaterally without conversation with the county or other taxing units. Unfortunately, years without incremental annexation resulted in perceived urgency and a greater need; but a large annexation by the city will negatively impact the county's revenue and subsequent budget for countywide services, including the courts and justice system. The County's elected officials do not have any influence on annexation's outcome. We will continue to do financial strategic planning to prepare for its impacts.

Q: How can the county work more effectively with city and town officials?

A: The city and county can work effectively on cross-jurisdictional issues like environmental sustainability, economic development, housing insecurity, justice, and mental health. These initiatives work well when coordinated with a third, nongovernmental party, as was recently done with the United Way Foundation for the Heading Home Initiative. Other partners who enable effective collaboration with city and town officials are the Community Justice and Mediation Center (CJAM) and the Bloomington Economic Development Corporation (BEDC). Combining the efforts of the city and county's nonstatutory boards and commissions, (e.g., environmental and sustainability, human rights, and affordable housing) is another way to empower our collaborations.

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**Candidates for Monroe County Council District 3**

**Martha (Marty) Hawk**

Party: Rep

Candidate has not yet responded.

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**Candidates for Monroe County Council, District 4**

**Jennifer Crossley**

Party: Dem

Candidate has not yet responded.

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**Candidates for Ellettsville Town Council, Ward 4**

**Dan Swafford**

Party: Rep

Candidate has not yet responded.

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**Candidates for Ellettsville Town Council, Ward 5**

**Pamela Samples**

Party: Rep

Candidate has not yet responded.