

ELECTIONS 2012

Keys to the Candidates: Monroe County Auditor

League of Women Voters of Bloomington-Monroe County
October 4, 2012

Steve Saulter, D

Vivien Bridges, R

What are your qualifications for the office you are seeking?

SAULTER: Accounting degree from Indiana University. 23 years as a Field Examiner for the State Board of Accounts. Three plus years as the County Financial Director.

BRIDGES: 25 years experience in the Auditor's office doing payroll administration, abstracts, settlements (balance income/expenditures) semiannually, maintaining property records and budgeting. Worked with/for 5 Auditors.

How would you create public confidence, transparency and integrity in the auditor's office?

SAULTER: Public confidence and integrity is something you earn by actions not words. Therefore, we will continue to provide good quality service to the taxpayers of Monroe County and continue to perform the many statutory duties required of the office in a correct and timely fashion. Items we have already been doing over the past several years. We have already began addressing the transparency issue by creating a place on the auditor's web page called financial updates. Taxpayers can now view the bi-weekly claims to be approved for payment by the County Commissioners and the cash balances of the county funds.

BRIDGES: We will review all claims thoroughly; any questionable expenditure's will be brought to the attention of the Commissioners. My office will be open to the public and to other government agencies both electronically and by public visit. I will maintain fiscal integrity both professionally and personally. I will employ competent staff, train them and be sure all work is reviewed for accuracy and completeness. Public confidence will be created over time by being open to inquiry, thoroughness and accuracy in work performed and inviting questions about anything and everything that goes on in the office.

What are the three top priorities for your office and how would you address them?

SAULTER: 1. Continue to provide good quality service to the taxpayers. 2. Continue to perform the many statutory duties required of the auditor's office on a timely and correct fashion. 3. Continue to improve the issue of transparency for the benefit of the taxpayers.

BRIDGES: 1. Service to the public. All office personnel will be at work. We will be courteous and responsive to all inquiries. There will be no secrets. 2. Accurate and complete performance of our statutory duties. Every employee will be competent and well trained. All work will be checked by at least one other person. The public's money will be handled ethically and openly. 3. Cooperation with other governmental units. We should work together to streamline government in an effort to achieve economies and to avoid duplication of effort.

Keys to the Candidates: Monroe County Treasurer

League of Women Voters of Bloomington-Monroe County
October 4, 2012, last update: 10/3 @ 7:24 pm

Cathy Smith, D

Bernice Luck, R

What are your qualifications for the office you are seeking?

SMITH: Experience: ¥ Current County Treasurer ¥ 30-years Engineering ¥ Project & Financial Management, and College Teaching. Education: ¥ Master's in Engineering, Executive MBA coursework, Accounting/Finance ¥ PhD-level work, [Technology](#) Management.

LUCK: I have 20+ years in county government, 16 years as Chief Deputy Auditor, 4 years as Chief Deputy Treasurer, and presently the county payroll administrator.

How would you create public confidence, transparency and integrity in the treasurer's office?

SMITH: By continuing to hold the public trust in the highest regard. When elected four years ago, I honored this concept by providing complete transparency of operations. I make financial information immediately available, answer all taxpayer/media questions directly, with full disclosure. I will continue to have an open and honest office, fully available to taxpayers. I stand as a steadfast steward of their [funds](#). I will continue to publish a public report card on all investments, bank accounts, cash holdings, and hold public meetings to discuss this information. Anyone is welcome to examine our books at any time!

LUCK: The best way to create public confidence, transparency and integrity in the treasurer's office would be through the actions of the office. The office would adhere to state laws and county policies, would be straightforward with other county offices and taxpayers and would strive to be readily understood so that a mutual trust between offices taxpayers would be developed.

What are your top three priorities for your office and how would you address them?

SMITH: Continue to Provide Excellent Customer Service ¥ Smiling, helpful faces ¥ Treat everyone with respect, dignity and genuine kindness ¥ Personally wait on taxpayers, even after standard business hours ¥ Call my home or cell - nights/weekends ¥ Trained, competent staff ¥ No lines, No waiting ¥ Quick e-mail response ¥ Continue to Save Taxpayer Money ¥ Work harder and smarter ¥ Personally print and mail tax bills in-house, ¥Collaborate ¥ Reduce redundancy/waste ¥ Stand as a steadfast steward of your tax [dollars](#) ¥ Continue to be a Model of Best Practices ¥ Dedicated to you ¥ Committed to providing the best service ¥ Further develop E-government tools ¥ Being highly effective, efficient ¥ Striving for perfection

LUCK: County monies need to be protected. I would contact local [financial](#) institutions for advice on the most suitable, safe, and solid investment of monies. To cross train employees to ensure daily duties of the office proceed so no other office is hindered in their daily duties. Employees need to be knowledgeable about the collection of taxes and able to help taxpayers understand the taxation process. I would have training to answer any questions employees might have and to focus our attention on the operations of the Treasurer's office. Employees would answer telephone questions and not just refer taxpayers to the website.

Keys to the Candidates: Monroe County Coroner

League of Women Voters of Bloomington-Monroe County
October 4, 2012

Nicole Meyer, D

Walter L. Hatfield, R

What are your qualifications for the office you are seeking?

MEYER: Certified medicolegal death investigator. Current Monroe County Coroner - Three years. Chief Deputy Coroner - Three years prior. Paramedic. Bachelors degrees — Economics and Biology. Graduate degree - Biology.

HATFIELD: Former Chief Duputy Coroner in Howard County. Funeral Director 47 yrs., the last 30 yrs. at Day Funeral Home.

What are the top three priorities for your office and how would you address them?

MEYER: The mission of my office is conduct professional and thorough investigations to determine cause and manner of death while maintaining discretion, compassion and understanding. From my experience as coroner, I will strengthen the established, cooperative relationships with law enforcement when conducting investigations. I will work with families and supply them with needed information in a timely fashion. I will continue to be fiscally responsible, by using the best local resources to perform autopsies to determine cause and manner of death while always looking for ways to conserve funds.

HATFIELD: 1. Implement open communications with effected families. 2. Respond immediately to coroner calls. 3. Conduct autopsies locally. 1. Use a code system for immediate family to keep up with information to help the family make Important decisions. 2. First responders shouldn't have to wait extended amounts of time for the coroner to arrive. 3. Local pathologies are available to do autopsies, no need to transport bodies to Terre Haute. With taxpayers money and the family required to pay transportation back to Bloomington.

ELECTIONS 2012

Keys to the Candidates: Monroe County Commissioner, District 2

League of Women Voters of Bloomington-Monroe County
October 4, 2012

Julie Thomas, D

Nelson Shaffer, R

What are your qualifications for the office you are seeking?

THOMAS: County Councilor since 2009 (President 2011); Plan Commissioner since 2009; host monthly Residents' Breakfast meetings; small business owner and educator; resident since 1993. See juliethomas.us.

SHAFFER: Geologist with 40 years of research experience at IU, former Executive Director of the Indiana Academy of Science, officer of scientific and civic groups.

Where can county government collaborate with Bloomington city government for more efficient service?

THOMAS: City and county government have already established a successful cooperative relationship in the provision of services — for example, central emergency dispatch, animal control, and fueling fleet vehicles. I will investigate additional ways to reduce costs and improve efficiencies in providing these services. I will endeavor to ensure that the county, city and Indiana University have a coordinated emergency management plan. Additionally, I will work with city officials to identify other areas where city and county collaboration can improve services and save taxpayer dollars. An example of potential city-county collaboration for cost reduction is in the provision of parks services.

SHAFFER: The county and city could work together to promote job growth by attracting new businesses, encourage expansion of existing ones, support more Tax Increment Financing (TIF) districts and a functioning technology park. They should work together to speed permitting, to lessen restrictions that cause impediments to business growth, and make clear, fixed technical requirements for those businesses. The two could collaborate to attract tourists, convention goers, etc. They can have more combined purchasing, and intergovernmental agreements (for example, the 2-mile fringe). Evening and weekend meetings should be instituted and an expanded transit system promoted.

What two/three major issues are facing county government and how would you address them?

THOMAS: The most significant issue is declining tax revenues. One way to address this is to improve efficiencies in use of human resources by reorganizing county government. This must be an inclusive process that relies upon the knowledge and experience of our county employees. We can also increase efficiencies in our use of county buildings and vehicles, to help reduce costs. A third important issue is drafting new land use ordinances based upon the county's new comprehensive plan. My tenure on the Plan Commission has provided me with the experience to make sound and informed decisions in this area.

SHAFFER: The county should work to increase opportunities for good jobs to help keep creative young people here with less restrictive planning and permitting processes. There should be more responsible business practices regarding spending with more oversight and also a diversity of views for committee appointments with more citizen input and professional advice. The county can work to attract more visitors (and potential investors) by promoting tourism. A limestone heritage park with a venue for outdoor concerts could help with this. Monroe County could partner with surrounding counties, cities, IU, Crane and nonprofits to promote tourism and efficiency of operations.

Keys to the Candidates: Monroe County Commissioner, District 3

League of Women Voters of Bloomington-Monroe County
October 4, 2012

Iris Kiesling, D

John Newlin, R

David W. Nakarado, L

What are your qualifications for the office you are seeking?

KIESLING: Monroe County Commissioner. Bloomington City Council member. Monroe County Solid Waste Management District Board member. Bloomington Economic Development Corporation Board member.

NEWLIN: I served on the plancommission for 8 years, I am a small business owner and been in management for 40 years. I know what it takes to be successful.

NAKARADO: Experienced in business, twenty years working within organizations required to make a profit, eight years self employed/understanding of regulations and requirements for small businesses.

Where can county government collaborate with Bloomington city government for more efficient service?

KIESLING: Monroe County and the City of Bloomington already collaborate on many services. For example, the Monroe County Building Department issues building permits and does inspections throughout the county and the city. The Monroe County Health Department inspects restaurants, on-site sewage systems, and pools throughout the county and the city. In addition, the county and the city have interlocal agreements for animal control, purchase of fuel for our vehicles, and for the 911 Unified Dispatch Center. Additional areas of cooperation in the future may include agreements for economic development, planning and zoning, public transit, I-69 issues, homelessness, and justice-related initiatives.

NEWLIN: In all areas. It is up to the county and the city to decide how much time a effort will be used along with give and take. However there is a large amount of collaborating now. Possibly to much. It looks like to me that the two governments city and county have collaborated so much that they become bigger than the people of monroe county. The government works for the people not the people for the government.

NAKARADO: Health and safety issues have many areas of overlap. The cost to provide public safety and judicial services for Monroe County requires tax dollars from all residents. Decisions to alter services within the city/county does affect both budgets directly or indirectly. County tax payer dollars spent at the Judicial Center is an example of how changes in policy affect other areas of county and city government. As Commissioner I will encourage combined goal oriented decision making and not just independent budget decisions.

What two/three major issues are facing county government and how would you address them?

KIESLING: The immediate need in Monroe County is to encourage job creation through entrepreneurship and local business growth. Using well-crafted incentives for business investments will help attract and retain industries and jobs. We can continue to help prepare citizens for the changing job market through education and training. We must create appropriate ordinances to accompany the Comprehensive Plan, and I propose hiring a consultant to help staff with this large undertaking. Significant related issues exist, including the potential development of I-69, which will require funding the construction of frontage and connector roads and other public sector improvements in the I-69 Corridor.

NEWLIN: Theft and Faud-It is the commissioners responsibility to over see all branches of government if they were looking at each departments spending and receipts and a whistle blower protection policy in place it would never got as far as it did. Property rights-government has no business dictating what you can and can not do with your land. Planning and zoning has to be amended then work with property owners, builders, realors, and engineers for sensible planning. Smaller government-cut the fat

NAKARADO: Increases in energy cost, salaries and the health care will make the task of creating practical budgets priority. Dreams and wishes of expanded government services may need to wait for sunnier days, right now rainy day funds must not be raided to expand government. Interstate 69 is going to be built, my opponent is still saying "if and when" (as recent as 9/11/12). Monroe County government officials need to engage now and make the building of this road a positive addition to our infrastructure and not let design mistakes happen during construction, because we failed to participate.

ELECTIONS 2012

Keys to the Candidates: Monroe County Council, at large

League of Women Voters of Bloomington-Monroe County
October 4, 2012

Elizabeth Lee Jones, D

Geoffrey McKim, D

Cheryl Munson, D

Brian Ellison, R

Skip Daley, R

Jennifer K. Mickel, R

What are your qualifications for the office you are seeking?

JONES: Monroe County resident 53 years; small business owner 29 years; service on Plan [Commission](#), Parks and Recreation, President — Board of Zoning Appeals. See leejoneforcountycouncil.com.

McKIM: A passion for serving the community; willingness to put in the effort to do the job well; the experience of a successful term on Council.

MUNSON: Overseeing budgets: township (16 years); research grants (38 years). County-wide community service, 1971-present. Historic Preservation Board. Plan Review Committee. Social Services Grants Committee, Chair 2011.

ELLISON: I am a global project manager for a computer company; I have experience in working with large budgets and in dealing with different groups.

DALEY: Former City Government consultant and County Council Office Director, Skip now owns a Business & Professional Development firm specialising in budget management, marketing, and planning.

MICKEL: 25 words, how absurd! 'Hometown girl', educated-arts, sciences, language, historical context, ..property owner, experienced entrepreneurial businesswoman — specializing in biological and horticultural consultation, care, design.

What are your budget priorities for Monroe County?

JONES: Maintaining and strengthening the local safety net is a high priority. I want the employees of the County to get fair wages for their work. I would like to see the Community Corrections budget increased, and find the [money](#) to buy a building for them, which saves money for the jail. The County has many aging, inefficient vehicles in their fleet that should be replaced with more fuel efficient ones. I would also like to budget for technology for a mostly paperless County government, saving much money in paper, copiers, printers, and expensive maintenance agreements.

McKIM: My top priorities are providing our statutorily-mandated services in an efficient and effective manner, strengthening the local economy, and enhancing services for families and children. Specific initiatives include: purchasing a community corrections facility to increase alternatives to incarceration, putting more Sheriff's deputies on the streets, supporting local culture of entrepreneurship, building the County's alternative transportation infrastructure and connecting it to Bloomington's greenways network, building a sidewalk along Leonard Springs to increase pedestrian safety, enhancing and marketing the westside employment area, incentivizing brownfield

redevelopment, and expanding the convention center in ways that enhance the economic opportunities for Monroe County residents.

MUNSON: According to the Indiana Business Review, Monroe County's economic forecast is "relatively bright." For next budget cycle (2014), the county will not need to cut services if departments continue to operate frugally. My budget priorities include: public safety, including dealing with changes brought by I-69; CATS community television and Citizens' Academy (transparency in government); services for our youth (Youth Services Bureau, Parks and Recreation); and planning for growth (including expanding tourism). With team-building, we can find further efficiencies in county operations by developing structural changes from the "bottom up," with the department heads and their staff, not "top down."

ELLISON: My main priority is safety and security. We need to make sure we have the Sheriff's department is funded at the correct levels to make sure we have a safe community. The next level is to make sure we have the mandated areas funded correctly. From this point we can look at [funding](#) the items the citizens of Monroe County would like to have covered, while at the same time keeping taxes in line.

DALEY: Adopting a Zero-Based Budgeting System is imperative for our County! It is unacceptable that our County has approved deficit budgets since 2008; step one: BALANCE OUR BUDGET! My funding priorities begin with public safety and infrastructure! Where I differ from other candidates, is that I have created plan to make our county departments run more efficient and effectively. As a Council Member, I will encourage County government innovation which will lead to enormous cost savings. Additionally, I will [invest](#) in economic development, as it is vital to change our current climate to one that is supportive of business.

MICKEL: To deny the budgets: *that would create obstacle for constitutional property rights and access to business 'start-up' or to create jobs in Monroe County. I am particularly interested in free agent 'Blue Collar' jobs. *Rescind the MCCP. Break the power hold of the people who would control the land without the direct consent of the owners. *Return constitutional due process to the Courts; reassess processes at the jail to reduce budget thru' anti-recidivism plans. *Stop euthanasia for hidden profit at the animal shelter. Reform. *Reform the education of our children to create successful, thoughtful, empowered, business people.

How would you encourage citizen participation in financial decision making?

JONES: As Sophia Travis was advocating, we should have a budget prospectus available for all the public to view. I would also like to see not only the budget, but also the impact of the budget, easily available on the County web site. I think it is important there be a narrative about what the budget decisions mean that is easily available to the public. Sometimes people don't want to have to wade through numbers to figure out what the impact of government decisions will mean for them. I would participate in informal citizen meetings to hear directly from the electorate.

McKIM: Citizen participation is critical to a responsive local government, and I have been consistently dedicated to transparency and citizen engagement throughout my term. My Council colleagues and I moved the meeting times to 5:30PM to allow the public better opportunities to participate. Education and outreach, though, are also critical to citizen participation in financial decision-making. I have a blog, in53.wordpress.com — the only local government finance blog in Monroe County — in which I discuss various facets of local government finance, including budgeting, taxes, transportation, and economic development tools.

MUNSON: Budgeting is an exercise in understanding community values and setting priorities. Knowledge of where our county tax dollars go provides perspective, so I have developed a list of county services for my website www.cherylmunson.us. Citizens also need to know that their voices will be heard. When I was on the Indian Creek Township Board, I encouraged not only public comment at meetings, but was available via phone, email, or in person to learn about concerns. But the county has 11 townships, so in addition to my general accessibility I will have monthly constituent meetings announced via newspaper, website, and Facebook.

ELLISON: Well as a republican I would be able to bring in another voice and group of citizens into the process that are not involved today with the current one party rule we have in county government. We need to have a balance in

government so everyone's voice is heard. By bringing balance back to local government this should encourage more people to be involved and to have their voices heard than what we have today.

DALEY: Phase four of my highly publicized platform of Innovation is Resident Empowerment! Ideas I have brought to the table encouraging greater government transparency and increased citizen participation include: quarterly town hall meetings for Commissioners and Councilors, updating the public about current issues and topics being considered, as well as an opportunity to engage in two way dialog; semi-annual forums for the business community to participate in round table discussions; and my regularly scheduled weekend breakfast meetings. Hearing public input is only the first step. County government needs to begin acting upon the voice of the people.

MICKEL: Participation is crucial, public attention and vote, in our 'people's government'. Bloomington has CATSTV.NET archived forums, meetings, etc. to view at will. Comment with the HTOnline, mine under 'VOTEMICKELjennifer' search, for the most part. Look me up on facebook,'votemickel'. History says as soon as a society becomes comfortable with prosperity, especially at the lowest levels of income, it becomes susceptible to cons who would capture their prosperity and freedom by pacifying the people into not participating in their own defense. We find ourselves in this predicament ... witness ramrodding MCCP engineered by Stoops. I hope ... not too late.

ELECTIONS 2012

Keys to the Candidates: Indiana General Assembly

League of Women Voters of Bloomington-Monroe County
October 4, 2012

SENATE DISTRICT 40

Mark Stoops, D

Reid Dallas, R, no reply

What are your qualifications for the office you are seeking?

STOOPS: Four years as Monroe County Commissioner and current president, eight years on the County Council. Proven voting record pursuing progressive initiatives and getting results — ElectMarkStoops.com.

Do you support Indiana's participation in the federal Affordable Health Care Act?

STOOPS: Absolutely yes. Currently Indiana only provides coverage for people up to 28% of the poverty level, which means everyone from 29% to 100% of the poverty level gets no healthcare coverage at all. This is a dismal record for our state and results in over one billion [dollars](#) in uninsured expense to taxpayers every year. Expanded Medicaid would allow us to provide quality healthcare to our citizens with incomes up to 138% of the poverty level (\$32,000 for a family of four). For residents with higher incomes the ACA provides a sliding scale reimbursement for the cost of health insurance.

How would you support public schools and higher education?

STOOPS: Cuts of over \$600 million to school budgets have resulted in fewer teachers and much larger class sizes. The state is now planning on grading schools A-F, on a curve. This means 1/3 of schools will automatically fail and be subject to state sanctioned take-over by private corporations, with very little oversight. Every year more schools will be placed in the lower end of the curve. Other legislation creates a "teacher mill", a private firm to provide inexpensive teachers for the private operators. We must reverse this legislation, restore [funding](#) for more teachers/lower class sizes. Also, vote for Glenda Ritz, Ritz4ed.com

HOUSE DISTRICT 46

Jim Mann II, D

Bob Heaton, R (no reply)

What are your qualifications for the office you are seeking?

MANN: As a government teacher, union representative, and baseball umpire, I have learned the importance of listening to people to find their needs and act accordingly.

Do you support Indiana's participation in the federal Affordable Health Care Act?

MANN: The John Gregg-Vi Simpson idea to create a hybrid health care exchange is an appropriate option to this issue. There is merit in permitting dependents to remain on their parents' insurance program until age 26. Also, insured Hoosiers will have access to regular care from their doctors which should reduce the number of people visiting hospital emergency rooms. I am concerned about the [financial](#) impact on small business owners.

How would you support public schools and higher education?

MANN: We need to allow for our teachers to teach and students to learn! The graduation rate of Edgewood High School was as high as 95% before experiencing funding cuts made by the Indiana Legislature and the governor. We must allow local school leaders to determine the most effective way to educate our children. Also, I support funding full-day kindergarten. One way to help higher education is to establish firm and constant plans and not change them throughout the implementation period.

HOUSE DISTRICT 60

Peggy Welch, D

Peggy Mayfield, R, no reply

What are your qualifications for the office you are seeking?

WELCH: State Representative: Ways and Means, Health, State Budget Committees. Practicing cancer nurse, IU Health Bloomington. College degrees in education and nursing. peggywelch.com for more information.

Do you support Indiana's participation in the federal Affordable Care Act?

WELCH: I support a program that: provides for cost-effective solutions to expand health insurance coverage for our approximately 900,000 uninsured Hoosiers; retains and attracts healthcare providers; includes personal responsibility in healthcare choices; and most importantly, improves healthcare outcomes for Hoosiers. There are many unanswered questions about ACA that are affecting Indiana's ability to make decisions regarding Medicaid expansion, type of healthcare exchange, and benefits to be included in insurance plans. [Cost](#) of implementation and operation will factor into decisions. Also, there are expected changes to ACA in the 2013 Congress.

How would you support public schools and higher education?

WELCH: My goal has been to create an environment in which students and teachers can be successful. I believe every child can learn and teachers are professionals. Equal resources for students must be provided to each school corporation. Varied educational tracks need to be offered to best serve the students' futures. High-stake tests need to be de-emphasized. Professional development should be restored. A preschool policy must be adopted and supported. Indiana needs to support quality and varied missions and appropriate adequate resources for our higher education institutions. I'm concerned Indiana is headed down a path of mediocrity to achieve standardized performance.

HOUSE DISTRICT 62

Jeff Sparks, D

Matthew Ubelhor, R, no reply.

What are your qualifications for the office you are seeking?

SPARKS: I have over 30 years public education experience. Twenty plus in Vocational Agriculture and 12 as a school principal. I also have taught graduate courses in Education since 1993.

Do you support Indiana's participation in the federal Affordable Care Act?

SPARKS: I do support the federal Affordable Health Care Plan. As a school administrator, I see daily the need of our children's access to quality, affordable healthcare. The financial burden of the uninsured is already being passed on to the insured and those able to pay. I think every Hoosier should be concerned about the health and well-being of our children.

How would you support public schools and higher education?

SPARKS: I would fight for public monies going only to public schools. I would ask that every public school student in Indiana receive the same financial support from the state, regardless of their school, community or status. I would work to restore the respect and dignity of our public schools and teachers. And every Indiana student should be able to pursue their future through an expanded, balanced curriculum, not a test!

ELECTIONS 2012

Keys to the Candidates: Monroe Circuit Court Judge, Seat 3

League of Women Voters of Bloomington-Monroe County
October 4, 2012

Alphonso Manns, D

Francie Hill, R

What are your qualifications for the office you are seeking?

MANNS: I hold degrees in science, law, and public affairs. I practiced law in Indiana for over thirty years, including criminal as well as civil cases.

HILL: Incumbent Circuit Court Judge (6 years), Juvenile Court Referee (6 years), 32 years lawyer, Associate Professor IU Law, Consultant Indiana Supreme Court, developed CASA program.

How will you address overcrowding at the jail?

MANNS: Judges must be concerned with community safety. There are two (2) types of criminal offenders: violent and non-violent. Violent offenders must be separated from the general public and sentenced for a reasonable period of time within the range of penalties and the judgment of the court based upon the evidence required by law, which means invariably incarceration, but with opportunities and incentives for rehabilitation, and eventual release to live responsibly in a free society. Non-violent offenders should be given the opportunity to participate in community alternative sentencing programs in lieu of incarceration, but subject to appropriate sanctions and rehabilitation.

HILL: When consistent with community safety and defendant accountability, I will use the following to reduce overcrowding and insure compliance with bed limits under the federal consent decree: (1) Pretrial detention policies to avoid incarceration of non-violent offenders; (2) Daily and weekend bail reviews to release appropriate, non-violent offenders; (3) Sentencing alternatives through community corrections; (4) Problem solving courts, including Drug Court, Mental Health Court, and Veterans' Court for targeted rehabilitation efforts; (5) Community education and networking to increase mental health and addiction services; (6) Seek Department of Correction funding to re-establish county work release program.

What would be your specific goals for your tenure as judge?

MANN: I will strive to enhance and maintain public confidence in the administration of justice. This requires consistent professional distinction by adhering to the canons of judicial ethics and full commitment to the fundamental principles that underlie our judicial system. I will uphold the integrity and independence of the judiciary, avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety, and perform the duties of the office impartially and diligently with maximum effort to fulfill judicial obligations. Those duties include a thorough assessment of the office and make appropriate recommendations to improve the quality of services related to judicial administration,

HILL: My goals are: (1) Maintain efficiency and best practices in all my court cases; (2) Collaborate with community volunteers to provide legal assistance to the growing number of people who cannot afford attorneys; (3) Develop affordable investigative tools to ensure informed decision making in custody cases involving domestic violence, drugs, and mental health issues; (4) Conduct legal education forums for lawyers, CASAs, and mental health providers serving children; (5) Seek grants to reinstitute Children's Door program for safe visitation exchanges; (6) Complete revision of Supreme Court Parenting Time Guidelines and new Parallel Parenting Plan for high-conflict families.

ELECTIONS 2012

Keys to the Candidates: MCCSC board

League of Women Voters of Bloomington-Monroe County
October 4, 2012

DISTRICT 2:

Randy C. Barrett

John David Crane

Sue Wanzer

DISTRICT 4:

David Sabbagh

Donovan Walling

DISTRICT 5:

Keith K. Klein

"Mr. David" Wierhake

DISTRICT 2

What are your qualifications for the office you are seeking?

BARRETT: B.S., M.S., and Ed.S. degrees. 38 years educational experience. Three grandchildren attending school in MCCSC. Randy and his wife Alice are members of SOCC.

CRANE: Graduate of Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology '90; Managing partner of local structural engineering firm since '98; father of (soon to be) 4 year old.

WANZER: ¥ Leadership role with MCCSC and other boards ¥ Fairview volunteer ¥ Broad understanding of MCCSC, community and education ¥ Former university administrator ¥ Ability to listen, learn, negotiate outcomes

In view of declining state support, what are your strategies for funding public education?

BARRETT: Budgets should be approved to put the maximum number of dollars in the classroom. It's proven fact, that the teacher in the classroom is the most effective tool for student learning. Because of my experience in completing several school budgets, I know ways to increase general fund support.

CRANE: Difficult to answer given the phrasing of question. Form(s) DOE SA545 suggests increasing amounts (2009 \$57,420,727 — ADM 10,584; 2010 \$59,105,416 — ADM 10,300; 2011 \$60,340,924 — ADM 10,315 '11; 2012 \$60,898,427 — ADM 10,327). DOE CFR also suggest increasing amounts (2009 \$58,691,312; 2010 \$60,180,946; 2011 \$61,465,804; 2012 EST\$62,023,306). In general, the manner in which funding is now derived should be considered to be more evenly distributed to Indiana residents across socioeconomic classes than other basis of funding. It would seem logical that the resources of all entities funded by taxpayers should be linearly proportional to the general economic well-being of the citizenry.

WANZER: Public education must remain public — I will continue to fight the “voucher” and privatization movement as I did with the resolution I introduced opposing vouchers for private education. Education must be the highest priority of state funding SEmD we must continue to lobby the legislature to increase funding, improve salaries and reduce class sizes. At the same time, we must continue to work with our local community to find funding sources such as our Foundation and the past Referendum. I helped initiate the Referendum, believing that property taxes are the appropriate way for a community to fund public education.

What needs would you focus on as a school board member?

BARRETT: Develop policies that support teaches, innovation, and technology in the classroom. All policies should be in the best interest of Kids and their learning.

CRANE: I would focus on ensuring that the allocation of resources reflects the priorities of the community. I would also help work towards the goal of reducing all expenditures that do not directly “teach” children. Making sure that the school buildings, over a \$300M capital investment, receive proper maintenance would also be a priority. Currently only approx \$3.8M of approx \$11M budgeted for mx ACTUALLY goes towards maintenance of buildings.

WANZER: ¥Continue to strengthen the working relationship with the Superintendent ¥Ensure that environments are safe, nurturing and welcoming where each child finds an appropriate fit ¥ Develop new and effective ways to involve faculty in all levels of decision-making ¥ Continue to oppose the over-reliance on standardized test scores ¥ Create more effective ways for parent and public participation ¥ Ensure that education is developmental, taking all needs of each child into consideration ¥ Equalize health insurance payments so that the lowest paid do not pay the highest amounts ¥ Generate creative cost savings that will maintain or increase subject areas without decreasing numbers of teachers.

DISTRICT 4

What are your qualifications for the office you are seeking?

SABBAGH: Lifelong educator: IU, Purdue, Ivy Tech, Bowling Green. Operated hi-tech business, directing, educating employees and staff. Deeply involved in the community: NFPs, City Council.

WALLING: A parent and grandparent, I was a public school teacher for sixteen years, a curriculum administrator for seven, and an education publisher for thirteen.

In view of declining state support, what are your strategies for funding public education?

SABBAGH: Report to the community the positive results and questionable uses of the referendum. Limited funding is likely, care must be taken in choices so we continue improvements. Support PLC's, improved teacher collaboration, using data to individualize student learning programs. Enhance partnerships with other community groups in improving early childhood education programs. Encourage the state and nation to increase investments in public school education. Begin preparing for another possible referendum. It is critical we analyze student outcomes resulting from decisions made and programs implemented to continually improve strategies.

WALLING: School boards are responsible for advocating the community's interests not only within the school corporation but also to state and federal authorities that often issue unfunded or underfunded mandates. But providing high-quality education also requires careful attention to current resources, including thoughtful analysis of education goals and needs, how best to deliver services, and comprehensive evaluation of programs and activities to ensure that funds are appropriately allocated and taxpayer money is well spent. Federal, state, and local resources are finite; goals must be prioritized to guarantee that schools deliver the best possible education for all students.

What needs would you focus on as a school board member?

SABBAGH: I would focus on the educational achievements of all our students. The education of our students is my reason for running for the school board. I am a collaborator and consensus builder, and would support MCCSC administrators and teachers in their efforts toward continual improvements in student outcomes. Our school professionals and our community can work together to benefit schoolchildren. I support on-going evaluations of our policies and goals keeping our focus on children first. I have the background and skills to help lead this effort for MCCSC.

WALLING: School boards, by definition, are policymaking bodies. Members are responsible for representing the needs and interests of the community, not a personal agenda. The overarching focus is on learning and how the board can help to ensure that teachers and students are provided the structures and resources to make high-quality education for all children a reality. Listening to the public and crafting policies that frame how the district goes about this important work in a way that best reflects the community's needs and interests are vital, as is making policy-driven decisions about issues of the moment.

DISTRICT 5

What are your qualifications for the office you are seeking?

KLEIN: ¥ Know the issues ¥ Assistant professor ¥ Education Degree ¥ Taught middle and high school ¥ Value education ¥ Long time community leader ¥ Excellent advocate for students, citizens and corporation.

WIERHAKE: Substitute teaching requires "60 hours college credit." My B.A. in Journalism (IU) with ten-plus years as "guest educator" (NEA title — angry or not) inspiring students.

In view of declining state support, what are your strategies for funding public education?

KLEIN: The main strategy is to better educate the legislature and the general public of the considerable strengths public education brings to our citizens. Public education is losing a public relations battle that it is not contributing to the successes of society. The negative perception of public schools is leading to a decrease in public support evidenced in: demands to reduce funding, offer alternatives including vouchers to private schools, and provide national tests to guarantee that teaching and learning are taking place. These perceptions need to be reversed and that is part of a board member and the administration's job.

WIERHAKE: On my website — my-mccsc.org — in larger-than-life print, I spell out my proposed “Three R’s plus One” approach to addressing the challenges we face in the ever-changing arena of public education: Review. Rethink. Reduce. Rebuild. Would the ‘old guard’ support this progressive manifesto? If their M.O. showcased these last several years is any predictor of the future, then you have your answer. Is ever-increasing funding ‘fundamental’ to meeting the educational needs of our children? No. Are we responsible for making up the deficit brought on by declining state support? Or is our charge to work efficiently with those ‘god-given’ dollars?

What needs would you focus on as a school board member?

KLEIN: ¥Educators need to educate the American public about the real truth of the value and success of education and the role that MCCSC plays in this success. ¥ Educators must become politically savvy, and I would help our educators to increase confidence in this area. ¥ Work on how to achieve more positive outside publicity from people who believe in public schools. ¥ Ensure data that reflects the MCCSC schools accurately. ¥ Ensure that it is widely recognized that public schools are still the most viable means to meet the needs of those students least served in American society.

WIERHAKE: ¥ Cautious integration of new technology into the palette of instruction e.g. “A balance between iPads and iCan Use My Brain.” ¥ Upgrading computer infrastructure and redesigning MCCSC website. ¥ Welcoming public comment beyond “You’ve got three minutes.” e.g. more open forums to bring the public on board regarding issues such as \$2M bond for iPads or extended day.¥ Serious review of administrative salaries/benefits to hopefully level the compensation playing field that currently gives administrators a ‘sky’s the limit’ advantage over the ‘nickel and dimed’ teachers and support staff — including substitute teachers. ¥ Later school day start time for middle and high schools.

ELECTIONS 2012

Keys to the Candidates: R-BB school board

League of Women Voters of Bloomington-Monroe County
October 4, 2012

RICHLAND TOWNSHIP

Mathew C. Shockney

Debra Walcott, no reply

What are your qualifications for the office you are seeking?

SHOCKNEY: Served on an education committee at a private school, was elected to their school board, and occupationally has overseen fundraising, building projects, and budgets.

In view of declining state support, what are your strategies for funding public education?

SHOCKNEY: RBBCSC must keep costs down, adopt accurate budgets reflecting real needs with reasonable goals, and long range plan with reality not false hope. RBBCSC must keep, recruit, and grow enrollment through quality education and extracurriculars since state funding is attached to students. RBBCSC needs accurate numbers for those qualifying for free and reduced lunch to get the additional funding multiplier. RBBCSC needs to market and

brand our success and vision to attract new students, grants, and private donors. RBBCSC should look at ways to rent facilities when not in use. We need creativity not higher taxes.

What needs would you focus on as a school board member?

SHOCKNEY: I listed much of what I would focus on in the above question. My overall focus is to listen to those I represent and make well informed decisions based on my values.

AT LARGE

Larry Thrasher

Brian K. Werner

What are your qualifications for the office you are seeking?

THRASHER: Familiar with work of Board and community. Ellettsville business owner 20 years. Worked for RBBCSC over 20 years. Served on RBBCSC school board 8 years.

WERNER: Studied psychology at IU Bloomington; 16+years' public service experience as a police officer; father of two daughters in RBBCSC; very involved in school activities.

In view of declining state support, what are your strategies for funding public education?

THRASHER: Do not raise taxes-spend your money on the best educational leaders possible from available pool of superintendents, principals, and teachers. Partnering with local businesses and industry. Spend money on WHAT WE NEED NOT WHAT WE WANT.

WERNER: Regardless of deficits or surpluses, expense reduction committees should work regularly to identify potential savings at every level of the district, as well as include long-term forecasting with every budget process. We need to utilize historical trends and data with forward-looking estimates over more than just a few budget cycles. We should identify and understand drivers of past trends, and how they apply today and beyond. The goal is smaller incremental adjustments to the proposed budgets to achieve a balanced budget annually, instead of large swings from a budget crisis one year to a surplus the next.

What needs would you focus on as a school board member?

THRASHER: Technology is a must in today's educational institutions, so our students will be able to compete in the global economy. Be wise with our money and COMMON-SENSE.

WERNER: Leadership, both within the administration and on the board. My vision for the school board is one of a "think tank" mentality, where ideas can be presented by everyone and molded by the group into one solution. Administrative leadership should encourage involvement by all board members to build a consensus rather than division, as the job of the board is to ask questions, be involved and represent the people. A sound financial footing is also critical, as well as continued improvement of technology integration and streamlining, for educational purposes and possibly cost-saving measures.