

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.