

## ELECTIONS 2012

# Keys to the Candidates: Monroe County Commissioner, District 2 (Democrats)

Compiled by the League of Women Voters of Bloomington-Monroe County and produced by The Herald-Times  
April 5, 2012, last update: 4/16 @ 3:44 pm



### DEMOCRATS:

**Randy G. Paul**

**Mark Stoops**

*What are your qualifications for the office you are seeking? (25 word limit)*

**PAUL:** I have been a community activist for over 20 years, advocating for union workers, rights of the disabled, MCPL Trustee, and ACLU local President.

**STOOPS:** Three years as Commissioner and current president, eight years on the Monroe County Council. A proven voting record pursuing progressive initiatives and getting results.

*What is the first step in implementing the recently adopted Comprehensive Plan? (100 word limit)*

**PAUL:** The Comprehensive Plan enters its next phase which involves studying the urbanizing areas of the county in order to develop appropriate ordinances. The more difficult challenge is to heal the wounds that have occurred over two issues: property rights and the environment. I was raised on a large dairy farm and as a farmer learned that property rights and the environment don't have to conflict. It's been said you can take the boy out of the country, but not the country out of the boy. If elected I can bring both sides together for the next phase of planning.

**STOOPS:** The next step will be creating ordinances based on the direction given by the new Comprehensive Plan. The ordinances are the laws we will put in place to direct development in the county and are a very important part of the process. We will be focusing special attention on the higher density areas near Bloomington, Ellettsville, and the smaller outlying communities — areas in which tax payer funded infrastructure already exists to handle more people and economic activities. Rural areas will remain largely rural and the ordinances associated with rural development will be designed to achieve that goal.

*In light of recent headlines, do you believe county government should be reorganized? (100 word limit)*

**PAUL:** Our county government MUST be reformed, and I support the KERNAN / SHEPARD Report. Consider these facts: Our county government was formed in 1816. James Madison was President! The main transportation was HORSES! Taxpayer dollars are being wasted and thus the poor are left without needed services. In a state-wide audit in 2008 400 million dollars was collected and only 15% of those taxes went to the poor, 45% was spent on administrative costs. If the Legislature won't act it's up to local officials to build support, and if I'm elected this will be a top priority for me as Commissioner.

**STOOPS:** There are many elected positions within county government that should be appointed/hired positions ie: Treasurer, Auditor, Surveyor, Coroner, Sheriff, Recorder, and Assessor. These positions require highly technical knowledge but, except for Sheriff and Assessor, require no qualifications to run for office. Elected officials are just good at getting elected — it doesn't mean they have any real experience or moral attributes for the job they are elected to. Because of this county government is ponderous, expensive, and inefficient. In our departments with salaried managers we have been able to attract highly qualified, committed, and experienced people.

## ELECTIONS 2012

# Keys to the Candidates: Monroe County Council At Large (Democrats and Republicans)

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April 5, 2012, last update: 4/16 @ 3:45 pm



### DEMOCRATS:

**Jeff Carson**

**Warren Henegar**

**Geoffrey McKim**

**Julie L. Thomas**

**Sophia Travis**

**Scott Wells**

### REPUBLICANS:

**Skip Daley**

**Brian Ellison**

**Christopher D. Kilander, no reply**

**Jennifer K. Mickel, no reply**

*What are your qualifications for the office you are seeking? (25 word limit)*

**CARSON:** My qualifications include my commitment to serve with integrity, honesty, fairness in my leadership and a focused to protect our citizens financially, physically and emotionally.

**HENEGAR:** Incumbent county council; 8 years as a county commissioner

**McKIM:** Have served effectively on the Monroe County Council since 2009, and as Council President in 2010 and 2012.

**THOMAS:** Current Councilor and past President; Service on Plan Commission, Plan Review Committee, Plan Commission Executive Committee, Metropolitan Planning Organization, Fleet Subcommittee. Educator; Active community volunteer.

**TRAVIS:** Former County Councilwoman, Council President and Plan Commissioner, authored Resolutions establishing County Government best practices, 28 years in Monroe County, compassionate and effective leadership.

**WELLS:** Served previously on the County Council, Plan Commission, Comprehensive Plan Committee, Hoosier Environmental Council (elected Board Member). I helped write the Cellular Tower Ordinance.

**DALEY:** I have consulted a Mayor and managed a County Council Office; as a business owner, I worked in budget development, fiscal management, and strategic planning.

**ELLISON:** I have lived on a farm in Kokomo and been in Bloomington the past 10 years, so I understand issues that can affect the county.

*How should the county respond to decreasing tax revenues? (100 word limit)*

**CARSON:** We should look for other opportunities to create revenue. One idea that I would like to share is the possibility of using existing buildings or property that is available in Monroe County to generate revenue. For instance, the old Wal-Mart building could be used for work release center, troubled youth intervention, juvenile detention and counseling center. We could bring that revenue into Monroe County, while creating jobs for our citizens.

**HENEGAR:** Restricting county expenditures to county revenue. This may include overtime, reducing county employees by about 10%.

**McKIM:** The Council will be forced to make difficult choices about impending cutbacks. I will continue to insist essential services like a fair justice system, law enforcement, and programs for families and children be preserved. I will advocate strongly for the plan I have presented to achieve a sustainable budget. We also must be creative in supporting a strong local economy. I support a tax abatement policy to incentivize living-wage jobs and enforce accountability, leveraging TIF and transportation funds to improve parks and trails, and seizing opportunities presented by possible Convention Center expansion to fund amenities that benefit county residents.

**THOMAS:** We have already cut expenses in County government. However, the majority of the County's budget is spent on personnel. I will not support a reduction in benefits or pay for county employees so cutting personnel is the only remaining option, best achieved through attrition and long-range planning (avoiding wholesale layoffs). The county health clinic has saved taxpayers \$750,000 and our employees also save on co-pays and prescriptions. The solar panels installed will net the county approximately \$18,000 each year. We must continue to invest in infrastructure that will save money in the long run (e.g. alternative fuel vehicles).

**TRAVIS:** I believe the budget should create a picture that reflects the values of the people of Monroe County. Protecting programs that support community services funding, Parks, victim's assistance in the Justice System, and worker's rights and morale must be a priority in creating a budget that is fair. Dynamic initiatives such as Fuel Conservation were drafted in resolutions written by me during my previous term and cost-savings have been proven - — in addition to encouraging cooperation among departments towards efficiency and creativity. Those measures are strategies that I encourage through transparency of process as a first response to revenue constraints.

**WELLS:** Reduce spending immediately. The Operating Budget of about \$29.3 Million has run severe Deficits: 2011, -\$2.5 Million and 2012, -\$3.0 Million. In 2011, the County Option Income Tax decreased by over \$2 Million. This budget is NOT sustainable. If trends continue, by 2014 the county's revenue reserves will be gone.

Raise revenues. Because of the ever escalating fuel costs, all Fees that are collected and go into the General Fund should be increased because all services provided are connected to those increases in fuel costs. Example: Inspector travels to site to check non-compliance issues. Return to 'Fiscal Sustainability through Transparency'.

**DALEY:** The implementation of Innovation within our government will reduce costs and ultimately increase the quality of services. The bigger picture, however, is to better support the private sector so that well-paying jobs can be offered to our nearly 6,000 unemployed residents. Making our community a more attractive place for locating business and creating channels of communication with existing business owners to determine the best means of support, will ultimately increase commerce as well as the movement of our local economy. With jobs brought to this community and more effective County leadership, we can recover from our economic difficulties.

**ELLISON:** The county needs to figure out how to improve job growth. If we don't improve the job environment in the county we will never have enough funding for the government everybody wants. With the state and federal government controlling a lot of land in Monroe County the homeowners are the ones that take the hit. We need to figure out ways to help balance the load, or we will have to look into ways on how to cut the level of county government we currently have to balance the books.

*In light of recent headlines, do you believe county government should be reorganized, and if so, how? (100 word limit)*

**CARSON:** I'm in favor of looking for opportunities to reorganize county government if will make it more effective and efficient. Also, it will be important to strengthen the checks and balance system in place to ensure proper handling of funds, member budgets and expenditures. I do not pretend to have all the answers, but I'm willing to roll up my sleeves and get to work to figure things out for the better. Monroe County is my home now. I want what is best for my family and yours.

**HENEGAR:** Yes. Implement the current plan for limited re-organization by having more employees under the Commissioners. Long term, it is imperative that the State passes legislation that will allow, at least, one elective county executive and a common council.

**McKIM:** Actions of the Legislature and the weak economy mean a new era for county governments; we cannot continue to do things the way we have. The Council must receive input from many, and be mindful of statutory responsibilities of each elected official. But the Council ultimately has the responsibility to ensure that the county budget aligns with the priorities of our unique community. We are too early in reorganization discussions to know the end result. But goals I have publicly articulated — financial system integrity, staffing level flexibility, service to the public, and fairness to county employees — should drive reorganization discussions.

**THOMAS:** County government reorganization is inevitable due to decreasing tax revenues. There are multiple areas where reorganization can take place. For example, many offices have financial managers and office administrators — these are positions that may be shared across multiple departments. It is vital that suggestions for reorganization come from staff and department heads — these are the people in county government who know how to fulfill their job requirements (sometimes these are statutory) and how to best serve the public.

**TRAVIS:** I truly believe that the checks and balances inherent in the current arrangement of County Government is by design. It is intended to make processes slower and thorough, involving numerous stakeholders, including numerous officials elected for and by the people. If the current set up is explored towards improving communication, ensuring job security and sustainability for professionals and support staff, then I would encourage and foster very proactive, and open, dialogue about change. My role would be to vigilantly encourage that all discussions regarding reorganization adhere to Open Door Policy and I would encourage employees and citizens to participate.

**WELLS:** Certainly, government could be made more efficient. There are about 15 different departments. Where there are overlapping redundancies within different departments, combine them into one saving taxpayers' money. But the "matrix" proposal by councilors Kelson and McKim on January 24th was to remove politics out of elected offices and achieve Personnel cost savings through attrition. The problem is the county must reduce about \$600,000 ASAP. Waiting for the 'attrition effect' to reduce Personnel spending costs would take many years. We cannot wait that long. Department Heads must be included on cost savings ideas to return to 'Fiscal Sustainability through Transparency'.

**DALEY:** Our County Government does need to be re-organized; however, our incumbent leadership provided a restructuring proposal which was reactionary to the highly publicized abuse of power instead of properly creating a plan with bipartisan input and State representation to ensure our efforts are in accordance with Indiana Code. Unfortunately, we have a 'plan' which was designed behind closed doors and eliminated input from our local conservative elected officials. Additionally, this 'plan' looks to address a problem for which no systemic analysis has been conducted. This concept is attempting to solve issues which have yet to be properly identified or defined.

**ELLISON:** I work for a major Fortune 50 company that has gone through a lot of reorgs during my 20 years of working for them and they haven't always been successful. So from my view point the council should give the department heads a budget to work from and let them control their departments. Now I do think we need to look at the work that is being done and see what processes could be improved or if there are efficiencies that could be put into place to help reduce the cost of county government.

## ELECTIONS 2012

# Keys to the Candidates: Monroe County Auditor (Democrats)

Compiled by the League of Women Voters of Bloomington-Monroe County and produced by The Herald-Times  
April 5, 2012, last update: 4/16 @ 3:44 pm



### DEMOCRATS:

**Hans Huffman**

**Steve Sautler**

*What are your qualifications for the office you are seeking? (25 word limit)*

**HUFFMAN:** I currently serve as Monroe County's Chief Deputy Treasurer. I'm a Bloomington native, college graduate, and former [business manager](#) and owner.

**SAULTER:** 1. Accounting Degree from Indiana University 2. 23 years as a Field Examiner for the State Board of Accounts 3. Current County [Financial](#) Director

*How would you restore public trust in the auditor's office? (100 word limit)*

**HUFFMAN:** Transparency is the key to restoring confidence in the Auditor's Office. Transparency creates accountability which builds trust. Since the Auditor is responsible for verifying and tracking county spending, including that of the Auditor's Office, I will post all of my spending claims online for anyone to examine. I will also post the county budget online and update it regularly to keep citizens informed of when and how their tax dollars are being used. I will be in the office and available for any citizens who have questions, concerns, or suggestions for improvement.

**SAULTER:** Public trust will be restored thru actions, not words. The office will continue to provide quality service to the taxpayers as been the case since January 2009. The office will continue to provide quality service to the various county depts and the other governmental units, as been the case since January 2009.

*What do you see as the fundamental duties of your office? (100 word limit)*

**HUFFMAN:** First and foremost, the Auditor's duty is to serve the public. The Auditor has three main roles. It's the office where most county information is stored, such as contracts and records from County Council and Commissioners' meetings. It oversees the County's payroll, budget and finances, and works with the Treasurer to balance tax collections and make distributions. Finally, the Auditor is responsible for calculating property [taxes](#), assisting taxpayers with exemptions and deductions, and maintaining records of property transfers. The effective performance of these duties is essential to the operations of County Government as a whole.

**SAULTER:** As the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the County, the Auditor is responsible for overseeing both the property division and the financial division of the office. In 2011 the Auditor's office handled nearly 60,000 parcels. In addition, the Auditor has constant communication with both the County Assessor and County Treasurer concerning those parcels. In 2011 the Auditor was responsible for handling all financial transactions for 152 different [funds](#). The total receipts and disbursements that ran thru these funds exceeded 240 million dollars. The Auditor is also responsible for the yearly prepared of the Abstract, which reflects the tax rates. Also, the Auditor is responsible for distributing the tax collections to the other governmental units.

## ELECTIONS 2012

### Keys to the Candidates: Indiana House, District 46 (Democrats)

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April 5, 2012, last update: 4/16 @ 3:43 pm



#### DEMOCRATS:

Larry D. Barker

James R. (Jim) Mann II

Charles "Chuck" Toth, no reply

*What are your qualifications for the office you are seeking? (25 word limit)*

**BARKER:** Retired US Army Lieutenant Colonel with 28 years of proven leadership, my leadership traits draw colleagues to the table and resolve problems. Visit [www. barkerstaterep.com](http://www.barkerstaterep.com).

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

*How should Indiana's tax system best be structured to ensure adequate funding for needed services, including public and higher education? (100 word limit)*

**BARKER:** First and foremost, we need real accountability for the various state taxes paid by Hoosiers. State taxes must still be justifiable and the dollars collected must go to the intended service. Within the last two years there were hundreds of millions of dollars that just magically appeared into the coffers of state government after the needed services and education budgets were approved at reduced amounts. Second, 100% dedicated funding for needed services and education must be mandated and those allocated dollars shouldn't be cut. Finally, legislators shouldn't put special projects by the Governor's office ahead of needed services and education.

**MANN:** The Indiana government is responsible for needed services that include K-12 education, higher education, medicaid, health & social services, and public safety among others. Indiana's tax system should be structured to maximize opportunities. We do not need to raise taxes, but we need to ensure that state mandates do not waste valuable resources in bureaucratic quagmires. I propose a minimum of three years, preferably five, to determine the effectiveness of a change brought on by the state government. We need to end the days of making one pronouncement from Indianapolis only to have it changed months later.

*Are Hoosiers' best served by increased concentration of governmental functions at the state level? (100 word limit)*

**BARKER:** I support the home rule concept of government. Hoosiers are best served by their local elected governmental leaders. Consolidation of bureaucracy within selected governmental services works occasionally. Homeland security is an example of a governmental agency that achieved a positive partnership that contributed to a much improved preparedness level of planning against terrorism and other disasters. We must be careful, however, not to centralize needed services of government which could lead to a disaster much like that of the Daniels administration during the privatization of the Family and Social Services Administration to IBM and Affiliated Computer Systems, Inc.

**MANN:** No. The interests of Hoosiers are best served at the local level. Whether we are talking Area 10 or the school districts of Richland Bean Blossom and Spencer Owen, the needs of the community are best represented by the people living in our communities. These folks are able to identify the best services that are needed for their respective populations. I fear the consolidation of services at the local government level will lead to a reduction of benefits in our communities. I fully support the working men and women who make our daily lives run a little more smoothly.

## ELECTIONS 2012

# Keys to the Candidates: Indiana House, District 60 (Republicans)

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### REPUBLICANS:

**Keegan Clark**

**Daniel Elliott, no reply**

**Peggy Mayfield, no reply**

*What are your qualifications for the office you are seeking? (25 word limit)*

**CLARK:** I'm an American citizen residing in state house district #60 with no disqualifiers. I'm a taxpayer and registered voter. I'm a constitutional conservative.

*How should Indiana's tax system best be structured to ensure adequate funding for needed services, including public and higher education? (100 word limit)*

**CLARK:** All men are created equal. We should repeal the state property tax which discriminates against those who don't own property. We should repeal the state and county income taxes which discriminates against those without income. All people engage in voluntary commerce, therefore we should only have a state and county sales tax whose rate(s) are negotiable. I reject the premise of "needed services". The state is constitutionally obligated to fund the enforcement of the law and maintain tranquility so that citizens may engage in lawful commerce and exercise their unalienable rights.

*Are Hoosiers' best interests served by increased concentration of governmental functions at the state level? (100 word limit)*

**CLARK:** The interest of the citizenry is never served by taking power away from elected office holders and giving that power to unelected bureaucrats. The more local a government function is, the more answerable it is to the will of the voters. The best system is for a state law that makes the function uniform and equitable throughout the state with local government implementation. Examples would be: enforcement of state law banning rape; or the collection of child support payments; or the investigation of child neglect and/or abuse.