

CODE OF FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES

The League of Women Voters of Bloomington-Monroe County sent questionnaires for “Keys to the Candidates” only to candidates opposed in the Nov. 8 election. Candidates were also asked to agree to the provisions of the Code of Fair Campaign Practices. Trey Hollingsworth was the only candidate responding who refused to do so.

Monroe County Commissioner, District 2

Nelson Shaffer (R)

Julie Thomas (D)

1. What are your qualifications for the office you are seeking?

SHAFFER: I lived in the county, urbanizing area, or city for 40+ years, and understand complex interplays. I managed money, personnel, and activities of complex, technical projects and organizations. Research scientist 40+ years, Director of Indiana Academy of Science 11+ years, own small business-Nannovations. Officer science groups, I.U. Staff Council, civic, church, and national groups. Started several nonprofits. Attended Citizen’s Academies for the County and City. Love the place and people. Solid Waste Advisory Board member.

THOMAS: I have experience in county government and in community service that informs my work as a public servant: County Commissioner (December 2012 - present); County Council (2009-12); Solid Waste Management District Board (currently serve as President); Plan Commission (since 2009). Community volunteer at Middle Way House (On-Scene Advocate since 1995) and at Planned Parenthood; past service on Board of Directors of Middle Way House, Planned Parenthood-Indiana; past volunteer with Bridges out of Poverty (SCCAP).

2. What are your top three priorities for your office and, if elected, how will you address them?

SHAFFER: I. Decrease unneeded complexity of county rules and ever expanding tax burden. Starting new or expanding existing businesses are burdened with nit picking rules that discourage increases in the tax base. Many have related excess interference in operations.

II. Need more transparent, efficient, and representative government. Well publicized and accessible (time and place) meetings. Regular summaries of events. Diversity of views and individuals on boards and commissions. Use of county email – no secrets. Regular forums to seek public input on significant problems. No midnight surprises on commissioner salaries, parking structure, and other issues.

III. Rapid, nimble responses to crises or new issues including consultation with city, I.U., surrounding counties, and the state. No tech business successes despite years of talking. Make better use county assets.

THOMAS: I will build upon the successes of recent years in environmental sustainability. The county is completing an energy savings program with an annual savings of at least \$150,000. We have a full solar panel array on two county buildings. I will pursue additional energy savings, work to improve our fleet’s fuel efficiency and continue to develop our trail system. Second, I

will continue to engage residents in county government. A new website will be available soon and speakupmonroecounty.com encourages residents to offer their input on county government. I would like to bring the citizen's academy to our website. Third, as the legislative and executive branch of county government, we can continue to focus on providing more effective and efficient operations. www.juliethomas.us

3. What services for individuals, families, and groups experiencing crisis and trauma do you feel are most critical to support and fund?

SHAFFER: I. Fire, safety, and emergency services are critical, but stressed. Increases in county option taxes will help, but some services will still be underfunded. Jail occupancy is high and new facilities may be mandated. Recidivism must be reduced by programs such as Updraft. The patchwork of city/county areas needs to be resolved and urbanizing areas addressed.

II. Affordable housing is already an issue, but some wish to bring in more dependent families or people. Some resolution such as strict vetting of refugees is needed before we burden the already overtaxed systems.

III. The county needs coordinated rapid response teams to act quickly if weather or other emergencies occur. Lesser disruptions also require preplanning and probably additional resources.

THOMAS: The Board of Commissioners' annual budget includes support for important area agencies including Volunteers in Medicine. In 2015, I was proud to support the work of the Monroe County Health Department as it developed a plan to implement a syringe exchange program. The HIV crisis in Scott county (with more than 150 cases reported) could have been avoided. This is important work to protect the health of all Monroe County residents. As the fiscal body of Monroe County government, the Council appropriates \$100,000 through the Sophia Travis Community Services Grant Fund to provide funding for vital social services needs throughout Monroe County including youth services, shelter and food. I support this wonderful mechanism to provide additional funding to our county's worthy social service agencies.

4. What are the challenges presented by the proposed Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) and how might these be met?

SHAFFER: Recycling has been a long-term and positive community commitment. The MRF was to be a next step but it has been mishandled. After considerable research, visits to existing MRFs, and assessment of cost/benefit ratios, a MRF was recommended by the citizen's Advisory Board. A MRF was purchased, but never built or operated as planned at the closed landfill. We need to implement some sort of MRF but probably located closer to county center and transport routes. Cooperation between county, city, I.U., and others is required. Single stream or separated recycles methods need to be decided. An expensive consultant is probably not needed if the community can come together. We should investigate natural gas and metal harvesting from the closed landfill as done elsewhere.

THOMAS: The mission of the Monroe County Solid Waste Management District is to reduce the amount of garbage sent to the landfill. It does not further the District’s mission to bundle and sell existing “clean” recyclables – this is material we already collect. However, to create a dual-stream MRF would mean that we would collect "clean" recyclables AND operate a facility to recover and sell recyclable material from household trash. While this supports the district's mission, it must be economically sustainable as an operation. A consultant can determine the volume of material necessary to ensure the financial viability of operating a dual-stream MRF. I support the idea of developing a dual-stream MRF but it must be economically sustainable.

5. What are the challenges presented by the Monroe County Urbanizing Area Plan and how might these be met?

SHAFFER: The proposed plan is quite complex with varying requirements and many unneeded restrictions. There was little consideration of northeast parts of Bloomington where a new hospital campus is likely to spark growth and increased traffic. We need at least one east-west corridor and I would like to see a new terrain highway from the Sample Road I-69 exit to S.R. 446. Consideration for increased truck traffic is needed, especially if the county becomes a regional distribution center. Restrictions on developments especially in the urbanizing (old two-mile fringe) area need to be lessened to allow development. We need to set aside area for a Limestone Heritage Park at Tapp Road. Intergovernmental agreements about utilities, roads, public transportation, and other infrastructures need to be forged.

THOMAS: The urbanizing area plan will help us meet the challenges of the new economy while protecting our environment, saving taxpayer dollars and ensuring a high quality of life. In collaboration with residents, business owners, and community stakeholders we have worked to ensure that the new ordinances will be easier to understand and more flexible. Commercial and high-density residential development should occur where the infrastructure exists to support it – including roadways, intersections, emergency services, bridges, and sewer service. The ability to re-develop existing commercial buildings by subdividing them will accommodate the needs of our changing economy. Commercial zoning should not be based on the specific activity, but instead on the impact of the business (traffic, parking, noise, etc.). The next public comment session is 10/18/16.

Monroe County Commissioner, District 3

Amanda Clerkin Barge (D)

Paul White Sr. (R)

1. What are your qualifications for the office you are seeking?

BARGE: Commissioners have executive and administrative authority. I have six years of executive and administrative experience as a business owner and fifteen years of experience as a counselor. In this professional role I work closely with health, government and social service

agencies, our school system and our courts system. I've served on boards and commissions and as treasurer for a county board. I'm a lifelong resident, parent and a school volunteer.

WHITE: Farming, construction of all types, plumbing, equipment operator, logging, saw milling, Clergyman, architectural designer, map maker, Federal employee, safety investigator and instructor, bus, heavy truck and trailer operator, handyman. The vast variety of jobs that I have performed, both as an employee and business owner, show I have seen many of the issues first hand that the commissioners have and will continue to deal with. I enjoy helping people.

2. What are your top three priorities for your office and, if elected, how will you address them?

BARGE: The Board of Commissioner's priorities vary depending on resident and community needs.

I bring a commitment to the health and safety of our citizens, a promise to protect our environment and a dedication to making sure our government is efficient, transparent and responsive to the needs of the county.

I will collaborate thoughtfully and patiently with the other commissioners, use my professional listening skills to help resolve resident disputes, and work with community stakeholders to achieve goals. I will be in our community meeting people and asking tough questions!

I plan to meet with county employees; they're the backbone of our government and I want to learn from them ways on we can improve.

WHITE: A. Government that is better responsive to the needs of the citizens. Having open doors with hours available for the public to meet with the commissioners on demand or by appointment should be made, which will in turn allow more direct input into the operations of county government that affect their daily lives.

B. Monroe County needs to be more business friendly, so that businesses will locate here rather than go elsewhere or even leave as many have done. Requirements with zoning, storm water retention ponds and taxation, should be looked at to see how improvements to those issues can be made.

C. Operate a government that deals with abuses of power whether it is the firing of whistle blowers, or theft by elected officials or regular employees.

3. What services for individuals, families, and groups experiencing crisis and trauma do you feel are most critical to support and fund?

BARGE: I have made health a priority in my platform and bring fifteen years of experience in social work to the Board.

While the County Council bears fiduciary responsibility, the Board of Commissioners does provide some ongoing funding for local organizations and I would support continuing that as needed.

I would support facilitation of a successful national program like “First Aid Mental Health” to train First Responders across the county in assessing for urgent mental health needs.

And, as a member of the Syringe Exchange Advisory Board, we are working to address the addiction epidemic. We must prioritize prevention based programs that reduce disease and crime and treat those with addictions humanely.

WHITE: Youth Services Bureau: By continuing this we will continue to have better results with juvenile offenders at less cost than incarceration and they and even the families will get needed intervention and counseling.

County Veterans Affairs Office: Often the need for services isn’t made known until an emergency or arrest transpires. Jailing offenders doesn’t always help the veteran deal with ongoing issues.

Area 10 Agency on Aging and Rural Transit: Operating under the same umbrella they are funded separately because of function. Both serve the health and safety of the public. Area 10 serves an aging population with a variety of challenges. Rural Transit serves everyone in the county. Many of the clientele have limited mobility or other disabilities while others just need transportation.

4. What are the challenges presented by the proposed Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) and how might these be met?

BARGE: The volatility of the recycling market, financial feasibility and public input are all important pieces of the discussion of whether to move forward with a Materials Recycling Facility. The county recently approved \$100,000 towards an outside consultant to review this issue.

As Commissioner, I would want to review the consultant’s report, listen to residents and see a comprehensive and fiscal plan for the MRF to decide if this is something that would be beneficial to taxpayers moving forward. If it is something that increases recycling and is financial feasible, then I would be in support of a MRF but I definitely want to go through all the steps before making a decision.

WHITE: Education is the key to success. People need reasons for changing habits. Many people still do not separate recyclables or compostable material from trash. A single stream MRF will separate types of recyclables, while a dual stream will also separate trash, with the latter going to a final disposable facility, either a landfill or incinerator.

How are we going to operate a MRF, should it be by the county or in conjunction with private enterprise? Enlisting an agreement with one or more of our nonprofit entities could be a very

functional venture.

Should the MRF be built at the Anderson Rd. landfill site or a more acceptable alternative location with better egress? Water quality in the Lake Lemon ecosystem is one of the issues.

5. What are the challenges presented by the Monroe County Urbanizing Area Plan and how might these be met?

BARGE: The Plan improves on zoning and regulations; making them more predictable and consistent. If implemented well, it will bring positive changes to our county.

One challenge is how to handle buildings currently in the urbanized area who don't meet the new zoning requirements. Frequent communication and developing criteria for grandfathering is crucial.

I hope our community gets involved in this process. I have been impressed with the multi-faceted approach the county has taken to inform citizens and the push for discussion. I want to see more residents get engaged. There is a public meeting this fall and opportunities for public comment during this phase.

WHITE: There are many who live in this area that resent becoming annexed into the city. There needs to be a simplification of the zoning restrictions on the lands in the MCUA, for that matter the entire county. If the City of Bloomington wants to have a say in what transpires in the MCUA, then it should allow those citizens a say in what is to be placed upon them with their constraints by allowing them a voice with the ballot. Once upon a time in this country, a revolt started because of taxation without representation. Let those in the Urbanizing Area have their voice heard.

Monroe County Council at-large

Elizabeth "Lee" Jones (D)

Geoff McKim (D)

Cheryl Munson (D)

Hal Turner (R)

1. What are your qualifications for the office you are seeking?

JONES: I have served on the Council the past 4 years.

I grew up here, spending half my life in Bloomington and the rest out in the County. I have a deep understanding of the people of our community and their concerns.

My husband and I own Stranger's Hill Farm, the oldest Certified Organic Farm in Indiana. As the financial manager I deal with budgets and recognize the need to balance expenses and revenues.

McKIM: Served on the County Council for the past eight years, president for four; earned a reputation for fiscal leadership. My council colleagues and I have consistently fought for a vibrant local community and effective county government, including:

- Funding for youth services and public safety
- Ensuring that our County compensation system attracts and retains good people
- Launching the County's active transportation system

Demonstrated commitment to fiscal transparency, and write a blog on local government finance (mocogov.com).

MUNSON: By statute, the County Council is the fiscal arm of county government, and my diverse experience in allocating funds and overseeing budgets plus working for my community is valuable:

- County Council (4 years);
- previously Township Board (16 years);
- research grants (42 years);
- 45-year resident of Monroe County, serving on county-wide boards, commissions, committees, and organizations; and
- I love Monroe County and want to continue working for a bright future for our children and grandchildren.

TURNER: I have 40 years of professional leadership and management experience spanning retailing, not-for-profit, small manufacturing, federal government and large supercomputer manufacturing. These experiences give me skills in communications, analysis, budgets, project management and human relations. I've seen businesses from both sides and so have insights into what questions need to be asked to get clarity and truth for myself and others. I also require action when I see incompetence, malfeasance and dishonesty.

2. What are your top three priorities for your office and, if elected, how will you address them?

JONES: The first responsibility of the Council is to yearly pass a responsible budget that funds the vital duties of County Government.

I am concerned about the State's plan to stop accepting level 6 felons at the DOC, and to return the ones that are there. To maintain a safe community we will need to increase the capacity of Community Corrections, and to add work/release to their programing. I have been appointed by the Judges to a task force to work on this problem.

As the Council’s appointment to the Plan Commission I am excited about the new plan for the urbanizing area surrounding Bloomington. I am anxious to work with a consulting team to finalize the ordinances that will support this plan.

McKIM: Continue to develop responsible County budgets that balance available revenues, appropriate levels of taxation, proactive solutions to problems, and provide top levels of service to the public. This requires clear communication of budgetary goals, hard work with county department heads and elected officials, collaboration with fellow council members, and a strong understanding of county funds, revenues, and expenditures

Make strategic investments in our westside infrastructure to continue to generate employment for Monroe County residents and mitigate the impacts of I-69 on our local roads; continue ongoing work with the state, our Highway Department, and our Redevelopment Commission to obtain significant funding for these investments.

Fund increases in public safety, including additional sheriff’s deputies, a sustainable 911 budget, and services to reduce incarceration and recidivism

MUNSON: Responsible budgeting for county services. Budgets are more than a once-a-year task. They are a continuing exercise in understanding community values and setting priorities. This requires open communication with the public, review of department performance, needs, and expenditures, examining revenue forecasts, asking hard questions, and sometimes saying “no.”

Expanded public safety: Among all the services the county provides, security is the highest priority. The new Public Safety Local Income tax will fund County Emergency Dispatch for fire, police and emergency medical services, but revenue from this tax may not fully cover our needs (additional Sheriff’s deputies, work-release program, etc.).

Planning for future needs: Maintaining infrastructure and supporting economic development with needed county services; covering intermittent costs (e.g., elections); and providing employees with cost-of-living raises.

TURNER: I will help restore trust in our local government through an aggressive transparency of our proceedings. I will seek the truth behind the numbers and will be more than just a financial rubber stamp. The people you elect to the County Council should exercise as much scrutiny as you do when you write a check. Honest elected and appointed servants of the people should be as irate as the public at the betrayals of trust we have seen in the past year. Citizens need easy access to your elected council to allow critical responses. I will make myself available to the public at forums such as area Farmers Markets and the internet to allow in-person public input on county issues within the Council’s scope.

3. What services for individuals, families, and groups experiencing crisis and trauma do you feel are most critical to support and fund?

JONES: Monroe Co. is experiencing an opioid problem that is affecting many of our families. They frequently find themselves in the Court system where any children experiencing abuse or

neglect are required to have an advocate. CASA trains volunteers to support these children. The Council has been increasing its funding for CASA steadily.

The Binkley House Youth Shelter is funded by the Council and has been a very important resource for at risk children and their families.

The Council Increased the VA officer's position to fulltime allowing for more active outreach to Veterans and their families.

When the community's sober shelter suffered financial problems the Council helped to fund them.

Through the Sophia Travis Fund the Council supports many agencies that serve families in need.

McKIM: On the Council I have fought for:

Services for youth and families -- supported an increase in revenues that fund investments in youth services and juvenile courts. We provide positive alternatives to detention; and have provided increases in funding for court appointed special advocates for abused and neglected children

Problem-solving courts, including drug, mental health, re-entry, and veterans courts

Increased services for veterans; funding of a full-time Veterans Service Officer

Funding for Advanced Life Support ambulance

Funding for people with developmental disabilities, legislation providing regular increase to organizations that support these individuals

Emergency funding to keep Bloomington's sober shelter open following financial crisis

The Sophia Travis Community Services Grant program, which supports non-profits providing vital social services in the community

MUNSON: The County's Health and Emergency Management Departments serve important state-mandated roles, which the Council funds. Services for juveniles in crisis, and their families, have been increased which I have strongly supported. The Council also provided equipment for county-wide Emergency Dispatch Services.

While Township trustees offer emergency food, shelter, and other services to people in crisis, it is primarily non-governmental, community services entities – our local not-for-profit organizations and churches, and their amazing volunteers – who fill so many needs.

As a Council member, I have served the last four years on what is now called the Sophia Travis Grants Community Services Grants program committee. I will continue to urge increasing the amount of county funding available to help our organizations better help those most in need.

TURNER: Services that provide a combination of immediate crisis support and follow-on training or support to restore self-sufficiency are those I would support most strongly. If we

invite someone into a program, there must be a clear path out of the program for them as well. Among programs that work are: Middle Way House where clients are provided crisis support, housing and life skills; Stone Belt where clients are given individualized care, job training skills and jobs; Boys and Girls Club and Big Brothers/Big Sisters where youth are given social skills training, education assistance and mentoring. Programs that do not show a way out to clients are socially unjust to me since they are trapping the clients in those programs without any hope of escape.

4. What are the challenges presented by the proposed Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) and how might these be met?

JONES: The Council does not have direct authority over the Solid Waste District, although there is a Council appointment (Cheryl Munson) to their Board of Directors. The Council reviews the Solid Waste District budget on a yearly basis to assess its impact on other county taxing units. Funds for any unanticipated special needs are appropriated by the Council.

For the Materials Recovery Facility to be financially solvent there will have to be a reliable stream of materials to provide revenue. The County may not generate enough, so an agreement with IU or Bloomington may need to be sought out. Some new equipment will be needed, and most likely more staff. There are also transportation and permit issues to be considered.

McKIM: The Solid Waste Management District is actually a separate unit of government, with its own property tax levy that is independent of other county and city tax levies. The District's seven-member board, which exercises governance over the District and its initiatives, such as the proposed MRF, includes only one member of County Council (currently Cheryl Munson) but includes all three Commissioners.

The council is required to review the budget of the District each year, as well as approve any additional appropriations requested by the District Board. The primary purpose of this review is to minimize the impact of the District's budget on other units of government. The challenges from the Council's perspective are sustainability--balancing potential increased staffing needs, increased transportation costs, and revenue instability.

MUNSON: Discussion about a MRF began at least four years before I joined the Solid Waste District Board of Directors in 2013.

Due to financial questions and site constraints, the Board decided to put a MRF development on hold in 2015. The Board recently approved contracting for a new evaluation of: (a) MRF operational costs and revenues with respect to available sites, and (b) costs of facility construction and equipment. A MRF should bring greater revenue for recyclables and less waste disposal, but it must also make good business sense.

The feasibility of a MRF depends on a reliable volume and delivery of recyclables. Recyclable materials from residential, business, and other sources in both the city and county should be considered in the new study.

TURNER: Bloomington is reported to have had a prior MRF that was sold to Republic who then shut it down. I'd like to know why that one was not viable, and how does this one differ? We do want to make sure that we hit the State's 50% goal for recycling of municipal refuse as stated in Public Law 126 (2014 – House Bill 1183), and we should look at bringing in recyclable sorting to apartments and business who currently do not do this to see if it is financially feasible. As far as the structure of the MRF, we should thoroughly investigate the SPEA Capstone Group Report on Bloomington Recycling (fall 2015) and their comparison of 5 city MRFs before hiring any more consultants.

5. What are the challenges presented by the Monroe County Urbanizing Area Plan and how might these be met?

JONES: The Monroe County Urbanizing Area (MCUA) was previously split into a multitude of zones. This plan greatly reduces them making it easier to determine how a parcel may be used.

The MCUA is already developed in many places. The challenge will be to encourage development that is appropriate to a location and the surrounding area. Mixed use is encouraged, but should be on a scale and with a design that fit in naturally.

The plan is close to completion but ordinances to support it must still be adopted. Because of the complexity of MCUA I believe it is important to hire outside help with the ordinances. I hope the Council will be able to find funding for that in the near future.

McKIM: In county government, the Commissioners have jurisdiction over land use; the Council does have one representative to the Plan Commission (currently Lee Jones).

In 2013, the Council appropriated \$250,000 to hire a consultant to help draft the Urbanizing Area Plan (UAP); this process has widely been seen as successful. I strongly support funding additional assistance in drafting the zoning ordinances to implement the UAP, which will streamline economic development in the urbanizing area.

There are also budgetary challenges presented by the development of the community reflected in the plan that the Council will have a say in, including:

- Public safety needs
- Required investment in infrastructure
- Annexation concerns--which can affect tax base, income tax distribution, and circuit breaker losses

MUNSON: Our county is growing, and we want it to grow in the best way possible. For the 32-square mile ring around Bloomington, the Plan has considered areas that will be needed for investment and economic development, residential growth, and expanding small businesses.

The Plan takes into account environmental constraints as well as infrastructure needs – services, schools, utilities, roads and traffic, and highway access. It divides this growth into multiple districts (www.monroecountyurbanizingareaplan.com).

But the Plan is policy and will continue to be a Plan until zoning ordinances are adopted. It is important for these ordinances to attend to:

- protecting neighborhood values;
- consistency with levels of available services,
- encouraging attractive entryways into Bloomington, and
- providing flexibility for multiple uses in developments that are consistent with the policy.

TURNER: The MCUAP (“the plan”) is attempts to cover all of the possibilities that the future portends, however it is better suited for Epcot than Bloomington. While the planning process is somewhat streamlined over the current development codes, the plan reflects an ultra-progressive point of view for the county’s fringe that is not shared by a large number of the residents who will be affected. The penultimate focus of the plan for the future should not be to enhance Bloomington but to provide flexible opportunities for growth of many types, while respecting the right of owners to determine the characteristics of their properties with a minimum of bureaucratic interference. While residents can currently attend hearings, their input has little effect on the grand vision.

Monroe County Auditor

T. Ann Boehm (R)

Therese K. Chambers (I)

Catherine Smith (D)

1. What are your qualifications for the office you are seeking?

BOEHM: A degree in Marine Science from Jacksonville University; post grad education in accounting from the Kelley School of Business. Previous positions include credit and financial analysis from the banking industry; staff accountant; and Monroe county claims representative. Supervised and trained people as Asst. Manager of Lab Safety for all of IU. Experience with federal and state regulations pertaining to banking and mortgages and OSHA and Dept. of Homeland Security, plus database management.

CHAMBERS: I have worked for Monroe County Government for 25 years. Auditor's Office for seven years, five of which being Chief Deputy Auditor. I have been instrumental in the implementation of our new property tax and payroll financial software systems. In the past I have held a Level II Assessor Certification and have a thorough knowledge of the property taxing system. I was caucused in by the Democratic Party and am now serving as incumbent Auditor.

SMITH: -8 years experience- Monroe County Treasurer
-4 years experience-Chief Deputy Auditor/Financial Director

Retired AT&T Engineering Project Manager
Master of Science, Mechanical Engineering, NC State University
Executive MBA Program (Financial Management) Wake Forest University
Vibrant and caring advocate for taxpayers, service driven, kind and respectful to all, holding public service as the highest calling and putting others before self. I take phone calls and customer visits personally.

2. What are your top three priorities for your office and, if elected, how will you address them?

BOEHM: Improve efficiency by evaluating each position and the budget to see if new positions can be created or realign duties if necessary, complete cross training, create position manuals and implement student interns to save money and involve students in local government.

Implement internal controls by evaluating the new financial software system to better understand its capabilities and also by reaching out to past auditors and other counties that have been successful to get new ideas and find out what hasn't worked for them.

To not fire without cause and follow employee handbook protocol. This is not being done across the county. Good employees need to feel secure in their jobs and employees needing help should be given that chance and proper support before termination.

CHAMBERS: Work with the Board of Commissioners and Human Resources to purchase a Time and Attendance module that will streamline payroll and assure accountability and accuracy in employee time keeping.

Find a cost effective method of preserving our hundred plus year old Transfer Books and to go paperless. This can be achieved by scanning and/or microfilming the books and all other Auditor documents. This will preserve history while solving a vital space needs problem.

Restructuring of the Financial side of the office. Previous Auditors have cut vital positions in this area. Hiring additional employees would place a significant burden on the county budget. Cross training current employees in conjunction with the new and improved accounting software will get us back to optimum efficiency in that area.

SMITH: 1. Being accurate, honest, kind and professional in every financial transaction.
2. Being willing, able and present to provide all taxpayers, county employees, elected officials face-to-face or one-on-one (E)service to restore confidence in the service provision of the office.
3. Providing the newly elected Monroe County Treasurer my collaboration, time and energy required for the mutual success of all county financial transactions.
These benchmarks of best practices will be applied in every conversation, email, written financial transaction, E-transaction and customer interaction. I will hire and train staff, including

a CPA, to ensure this level of service is our reality and that each customer experience is a great one.

3. What would you do within the office you are running for to assure the citizens that county funds are handled responsibly?

BOEHM: I will not shy away from any mistakes made in the office whether it be to the newspaper, the voters or the Commissioners. People do make mistakes, no employee is perfect and as I have always done I will confront any issue head on, own up to anything my fault and work with employees to correct issues immediately. I will also support my employees as any good manager does and if necessary create a website in which residents can see what's going on with regular updates rather than rely on the newspaper to report the mistakes. I will not lie, I will not steal and I will make the county believe in this office again!

CHAMBERS: The new LOW payroll-financial software will help with this. Transactions being made in daily work will be "live" data seen by both the Auditor's and Treasurer's offices. At this time, information on changes, corrections and certain banking transactions have to be emailed, scanned or hand carried between the offices for the information to be shared.

By having internal controls in place whereby cross checking takes place on data entry, vendor checks and State and Federal Grant monies to ensure accuracy. This procedure will help with audit control findings as well.

The elimination of County Credit Card use with the exception of State called conferences and training.

SMITH: I will continue to hold informational meetings for taxpayers, hand-calculating their tax bills personally so they may understand formulas, components and calculations. I will continue to personally wait on customers at the counter, attend neighborhood associations meetings and engage citizens actively. My office is an open book and always has been. Any citizen can come in without an appointment and ask any question and see any document. I seek to always remember that every penny of our county's money belongs to the citizens and I remain a steadfast steward only. These taxpayers not only pay our salaries, they pay every bill and obligation the county generates. My office will remain 100% transparent. I encourage taxpayers to visit and experience this with their own eyes.

Monroe County Coroner

Eric S. Powell (R)

Joani Shields (D)

1. What are your qualifications for the office you are seeking?

POWELL: My qualifications for coroner are that I have served Monroe County for the past two years as a deputy coroner and have been a licensed Funeral Director for 25 years, including the last seven years as co-owner of The Funeral Chapel of Powell and Deckard. I feel that the combination of these two jobs is ideal to serve Monroe County as Coroner.

SHIELDS: I have been a Deputy/Chief Deputy Coroner since 2003. I was Chief Deputy in Owen County from 2003-2010. I was hired as a Deputy Coroner in Monroe County in 2009 and promoted to Chief Deputy in 2011. I am still currently the Chief Deputy Coroner for Monroe County. I hold a current Medicolegal Death Investigator certification through the Indiana State Coroners Association and was first certified in 2005.

2. What are your top three priorities for your office and, if elected, how will you address them?

POWELL: 1. Better communication between our office and local law enforcement and the families we serve. I will make my cell phone number and email available to everyone we work with to improve communication.

2. Make sure there is always someone available to answer the call to serve when needed. Currently, there are times that no one is on call or available. I will utilize all available personnel to fix this problem.

3. Having a morgue in Monroe County to prevent us from having to transport people to Terre Haute. While several years away, I would like to see our county have its own facility for autopsies and other coroner needs. Morgan and Lawrence Counties have done this and it has been very beneficial to them.

SHIELDS: My goals for the Coroner Office are (1) to ensure that there is seamless communication with law enforcement which is a key component to a precise and thorough death investigation, (2) ensure the office is adequately staffed and (3) looking forward, addressing the need for making the Coroner a full time position. Over the past few years the case load has, unfortunately, been on an upward trend. To ensure that the office is adequately staffed to compensate the increase in cases, it is important to not just consider but move forward with making the position full time. This will also, in turn, make for more seamless communication with law enforcement.

Monroe County Surveyor

Trohn Enright-Randolph (D)

Russell J. Stanger (R)

1. What are your qualifications for the office you are seeking?

ENRIGHT-RANDOLPH: Over eleven years of experience gathering evidence that assist in determining the original location of each corner including, research of original Public Land Survey System (PLSS) notes and plats, deeds, subdivision plats, surveys (recorded and historic), highway plans, corner records, private survey records, aerial photography, GIS data, parole evidence from knowledgeable landowners and field evidence such as excavation, location of possession lines and interrelated corners. Section corners are critical reference points for accurately delineating landownership.

STANGER: No response.

2. What are your top three priorities for your office and, if elected, how will you address them?

ENRIGHT-RANDOLPH: To maintain legal survey records and official corners of the PLSS. To check and reference at least five percent of all government corners each year, in accordance with state mandates.

- Conduct field work weekly and maintain the geodetic control network references.
- Maintain a corner record index and map depicting the progress of the corner perpetuation.
- Provide GPS coordinates and section lines for incorporation into the county GIS.

Stay on top of technology, improve internal operations and expanding accessibility of information.

-Continue to adopt new methods to manage land data and legal records.

-Create computer databases, internet websites, digitizes forms and develop GIS modeling to streamline operations to meet goals and objectives.

Most importantly, it's about having good relationships, being diplomatic and approachable.

STANGER: No response.

Monroe County Treasurer

Ann Collins (R)

Jessica McClellan (D)

1. What are your qualifications for the office you are seeking?

COLLINS: B.S., Business Administration, 1986, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH. Majored in Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing and Logistics. Business Development Director for ACT Accounting. Investment Liaison for It's Good To Be Home, LLC. Non-profit Development Director. Business Services Manager at Domino's Farms Services Inc. (A subsidiary of Domino's Pizza.)

McCLELLAN: My current experience is in property assessment for taxation, county operations, non-profit financial management and community organizing. I am a level II Indiana Assessor/Appraiser. From past experience, I enjoy managing staff, monitoring daily financial activities, and producing daily and monthly financial reports. I have been responsible for reporting financial activities to a non-profit board of directors. I serve on the financial committee of a local non-profit board and review financial reports and internal financial controls.

2. What are your top three priorities for your office and, if elected, how will you address them?

COLLINS: Bring ethics back to local government. I won't stay silent or say "I can't do anything" when another office holder steals or misappropriates funds. We aren't elected to throw up our hands and say "We can't do anything". We elect people to do something about the problems.

We need to bring the "courthouse" to surrounding townships so those not living in Bloomington, can see county government work for them where they live.

Finally, I will balance daily. I won't leave the office until the day's work is done or there is an immediate plan to handle any backlogs.

McCLELLAN: My priorities are professional training for staff, open communication, and full disclosure of financial activities and audits. My staff will be trained by state auditors and local professionals to the highest standards necessary to be competent and knowledgeable. Training will focus on strengthening internal controls, improved software, and better data quality. Communication means greater interaction between my office and the auditor, neighboring County treasurers and auditors, banks and vendors. It will be my responsibility to make State Board of Accounts audits smooth and hassle free, to make their findings public and our corrective actions available for inspection. At a minimum, my financial data will be accurate and on time. I believe these steps will make our Treasurer's operations one of the best in the state.

3. What would you do within the office you are running for to assure the citizens that county funds are handled responsibly?

COLLINS: Part of my core campaign is also taking a pledge not to fire employees without cause and any employees that are in a checks and balance position will not be fired unilaterally. I don't plan on terminating any employees but if performance or behavior requires it, it will not be on a first offence and I'll partner with HR to correct any issues. This way, voters can be assured if an employee discovers something is being done incorrectly, that employee won't just be fired, as has been done in the past. The county won't change the policy, so I'll change it for my office to lead county personnel policy into the 21st century. If McDonald's, Wal-Mart, and Cook can do this, so can we.

McCLELLAN: My duties as Treasurer are simple and concise. I must be able to prove at the end of every business day that the money we say we have matches the money in our bank account. This ensures the health and integrity of our treasury. I have begun researching audits, manuals and best practices guidelines for Indiana local governments. Two people must verify all transactions. We need to look very hard at segregation of duties, timely completion of quality data entry and professional development. I will look for ways to streamline processes and offer more convenience to taxpayers. It will take a lot of preparation and daily perseverance – we do thousands of transactions. The reward is a clean audit – the best measure of responsible fiscal management.

MCCSC Board, District 2

Jim Billingsley
Sue Wanzer

1. What are your qualifications for the office you are seeking?

BILLINGSLEY: For my entire adult life I have been interested in improving education and expanding educational opportunities and choices for all children, regardless of their family's financial status or what neighborhood the child lives in. I have a genuine desire to keep the focus of education on where it should be – on the child, and **not** necessarily on what's best for the bureaucracy, the union, or an expensive top-heavy administration.

WANZER:

- Served faithfully and honestly for multiple terms providing stability, fidelity, common sense
- ENGAGED, RESPONSIVE, INCLUSIVE
- Always available to discuss and listen to all, even those with differing opinions to learn and understand
- Support for all children and their families
- Active and vocal supporter for teachers, staff, and Superintendent
- Led the effort equalizing insurance payments for staff so those with lowest salaries were not paying most
- Proposed adoption of Domestic Partnership Benefits before marriage equality.

2. How would you work to ensure transparency in school board operations?

BILLINGSLEY: Since the MCCSC is the single largest recipient of tax dollars in Monroe County, it is extremely important that the corporation's operations, policies, and financial affairs be completely transparent. Many scare tactics are being used to promote the referendum. But if the referendum fails and yet the public has awareness of all expenditures, then non-essential spending is more likely to be cut rather than vital classroom resources. I would particularly insist that expenses for travel, conferences, entertainment, employee fringe benefits, complying with federal mandates, attacking charter schools, and promoting the referendum be published in detail for public consumption. Furthermore, all reporting of budgets and expenditures should be presented in a simple straight-forward manner that the typical layman can understand.

WANZER: I would continue to ask the board to not just discuss in public, but to share why and how members arrive at their conclusions. We need to always remember that as elected representatives of our community, we are responsible to answer to the public. That means responding to individuals when they have questions, being willing to discuss the needs and challenges of public education, and always inviting the public into our discussions.

I would like us to return to the board practice of inviting comments for every agenda item, especially those on which the board will take action. Public comment at the beginning or end of the meeting is not enough to receive input into those agenda items the board considers each month.

3. Should teachers have a role in the development of system-wide policies and priorities and, if so, how can the school board ensure that they do?

BILLINGSLEY: As far as system-wide policies and priorities pertain to issues that affect learning and academic activities in the classroom, teachers absolutely should have a role in developing those policies and priorities. There is also a role for parents, principals, and the community. Teachers are the ones "in the trenches" having daily interaction with the students. They know best what they're dealing with, what is working (or not working), and they know what resources they need to effectively teach. The school board must insure teachers are represented in meetings and committee activities that affect the classroom. Teachers should especially be empowered to affect policy that maintains discipline in the classroom and minimizes distractions that hamper the learning environment the teacher is trying to maintain.

WANZER: It is critically important that everyone have a voice in the school corporation, its policies, and priorities. This especially should include teachers. Teachers are among the most knowledgeable about teaching, learning, proper educational environment, classroom management, and the needs of a diverse population of children. Therefore, yes, they should have a role in the development of policies and priorities, and in most situations they do.

Teachers have input through their building principals and the Monroe County Education Association. Through those channels they have the opportunity to discuss and recommend ideas for changes. I also believe that any teacher should be allowed to feel comfortable discussing general education issues and ideas with members of the school board just as any other community member.

4. Is it appropriate for the school board to oppose state mandates if they run counter to the community's interests or desires and, if so, how should that be done?

BILLINGSLEY: There is constitutional authority for state involvement in education. There is NO constitutional authority for federal involvement in education. It's far more appropriate for the school board to oppose unconstitutional and dangerous federal mandates such as Obama's recent mandate allowing boys (for no other reason than "they feel like a girl that day") to use girl's restrooms, locker rooms, showers, and sleep in girl's hotel rooms on overnight field trips. The assault on our children's safety and privacy must be stopped, and frankly, the failure of the current MCCSC school board and superintendent to vehemently oppose Obama's voyeurism mandate is a major reason I'm running for school board. Federal mandates costs taxpayers millions, hurt children, and should be actively fought by the board.

WANZER: Yes. Since school board members are elected representatives of the community, it is incumbent on them to represent the community, advocate for their needs and desires, and oppose those mandates by the state which do not reflect the values of the community.

Opposition should be done through open and transparent discussions by the board with input from our community, drafting Resolutions and public statements from the Board, and lobbying of state officials. Additionally each school board member as an independently elected representative has the obligation to share views with the public and state agencies.

I will continue to publicly oppose the use of ISTEP to grade schools and evaluate teachers, as well as the diversion of public taxpayer funds to vouchers and charters.

5. Given the importance of recess to children's physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development, what are your thoughts on crafting a district wide policy that prohibits the practice of withholding recess as a punishment in our schools or eliminating recess altogether?

BILLINGSLEY: Yes, I agree that recess is important to children's physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development and I would never advocate eliminating recess altogether. I think teachers would revolt if we didn't provide an outlet for kids to burn off energy. However, I also believe that learning there are consequences for bad behavior is important for a child's moral character development, and if the consequence is giving up recess for that day, then hopefully a lesson will be learned. Theodore Roosevelt said: "To educate a man in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society". Withholding punishment for bad behavior is likely to create more menaces and fewer virtuous citizens.

WANZER: MCCSC guidelines strongly discourage withholding recess as punishment. In our individualized learning practices, students may be directed to a different activity or program, but it should not be used as punishment.

Recess is highly valued since physical activity is a necessary part of a kid's day. The Indiana Department of Education does not regard recess as instructional time, which I believe it should be. It is part of appropriate development of the whole child and aides in overall learning.

Recess should be valued as vital to instruction, should be counted as instructional time because it aides in instruction, and should be at least twice a day. If counted as instructional time, a second recess would not extend the length of day.

MCCSC Board, District 4

Cathy Fuentes-Rohwer
James Shackelford

1. What are your qualifications for the office you are seeking?

FUENTES-ROHWER: I am a long-time (14 yrs. now) MCCSC parent of four children: two who have graduated from Bloomington South, one who will graduate next year, and my youngest who is still in elementary school. I played a key role in the referendum campaign of 2010 and subsequently helped create and became the chair of the Indiana Coalition for Public Education—Monroe County, advocating at the state and local level for public schools.

SHACKELFORD: I understand U.S. schools well, from many angles. I'm committed to listening to all on the strengths of our school district. In every effort, we should maintain what is strong. In every effort we must be honest about what's not going well, and address mistakes that are socially accepted. I notice major strengths and weaknesses. We must eliminate mistreatment of students via psychiatric labels and drugs. My saying that is an important qualification.

2. How would you work to ensure transparency in school board operations?

FUENTES-ROHWER: Transparency is intertwined with communication and community engagement. We should never have policy changes that come as a surprise to those most closely affected: students, teachers and families. I believe that the board needs to find different ways to hear back from the community about issues that are important to them as well as reaching out to inform them of decisions that will need to be made. The public should have ample time to review the budget before it comes to a vote. When programs or policy changes are made, the purpose should be clear and an evaluation process put in place, so that we can later evaluate whether it was achieved or what needs to be tweaked or thrown out.

SHACKELFORD: I would simply try to be very honest about my thoughts, and expect others to do the same. Decisions and the thinking behind them should always be visible to the public.

We have to go farther than transparency. We must always strive for fairness and accuracy. Part of transparency is letting people see one's thinking evolve. On my Facebook page nearly everything is unedited, written as I would say it to someone on the B-Line. Even where my logic is good, my word choices may be less than ideal. I try to improve as I go, not shape an impressive image. Young people are very good role models on this.

3. Should teachers have a role in the development of system-wide policies and priorities and, if so, how can the school board ensure that they do?

FUENTES-ROHWER: I think that it's vitally important that teachers be at the center of any policy change. They are the professionals who know best how policy translates into the lived experiences of students; they are with them every day. State (and federal) policy of high-stakes testing has created an intense atmosphere for educators and children. As a parent, I know that my children's learning conditions are teachers' working conditions. I see my kids' teachers try to buffer my children from the intensity of testing. We must try to do the same for teachers. We must be creative and committed to finding them safe ways to give feedback on what works and what doesn't. We need to offer help and professional development for those who struggle.

SHACKELFORD: Of course they should. The more difficult questions have to do with how, and to what extent. And that varies depending on the policy. A board member can make it clear that teacher input is welcome, desired, essential. To me, if a superintendent and the principals aren't truly open to teacher input, it's the board's job to tell the superintendent to change. The hiring of the superintendent looks like the key place the board affects how teacher input is handled.

4. Is it appropriate for the school board to oppose state mandates if they run counter to the community's interests or desires and, if so, how should that be done?

FUENTES-ROHWER: The board must follow state law. However, when there are unfair/unhealthy side effects that come as a result of these laws, I believe the board has an obligation to object. In Fort Wayne, for example, the school board recognized that the A-F system of grading schools, based on standardized test scores, unfairly stigmatizes children in poverty and emphasizes a narrow view of "success." They chose to reject their letter grades. Do we as a community want to celebrate the A's our state bestows upon some of our schools? Do we then agree that the children and teachers in schools with an "F" are deserving of that grade? Our own superintendent Dr. DeMuth spoke out against the ISTEP last year. We must speak out against injustice.

SHACKELFORD: It is always appropriate to oppose a bad policy. We should not do this from a belief system, but from solid thinking. I would say we look to oppose a mandate when it runs counter to the needs of the students and community. "Interests and desires" leaves us open to following current feelings and popular educational trends, which may not line up well in every

case with true needs. How should it be done? I think we speak to it in meetings, and in election races.

5. Given the importance of recess to children’s physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development, what are your thoughts on crafting a district wide policy that prohibits the practice of withholding recess as a punishment in our schools or eliminating recess altogether?

FUENTES-ROHWER: I believe that all children should have the right to recess and that it should not be used for punishment. This is supported by research and by recent recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics. Recess should be a part of the curriculum—this unstructured play time is how children learn. But it’s also true that because of state law, teachers are increasingly required to get kids to a certain level on a certain standard at a certain time—regardless of where he or she is on the developmental continuum. We need to have a strong recess policy that ensures every child has the right to recess. And we also must recognize that teachers need help with behavior management and the pressure of test scores.

SHACKELFORD: I’d leave it mainly to teachers, principals, and the superintendent, if a policy is to be written on this. My thought is that a child should not miss more than a few recesses per year. But it strikes me as micro-managing to tell teachers they can never keep someone in at recess. The best classroom managers I’ve worked with didn’t do this at all, which argues that it is unnecessary. Good management is never about punishment, never. Yet we do look for ways to steer people in the right direction, and keeping someone in for one recess is like keeping a football player off the field for a game. I don’t see it as punitive, if the adult is on target.

MCCSC Board, District 6

Lois Sabo-Skelton
Martin Spechler

1. What are your qualifications for the office you are seeking?

SABO-SKELTON: I have served on the MCCSC School Board of Trustees for three terms. A distinct priority for me has always been the needs of our children and teachers in the classroom. Currently teaching at Ivy Tech Community College in Bloomington, I experience on a daily basis, the dynamics of the everyday classroom and this remains my focus as I work to insure a safe, healthy, and vital curriculum for every child in the MCCSC system.

SPECHLER: Ph.D. in Economics and Phi Beta Kappa from Harvard University. Professor of Economics Emeritus, Indiana University. I have served on the Bloomington City Council (Jack Hopkins Social Service and Sidewalk committees) and the University Faculty Council (seven terms). Past President of the Bloomington Jewish Community. Elected member of the

Democratic Central Committee for several terms. Father of two graduates of Bloomington public schools. Frequent invited lecturer in high school and university classes and on WFIU.

2. How would you work to ensure transparency in school board operations?

SABO-SKELTON: During the past ten years we have made great strides in getting information to the public. Thanks to “technology” we have a website that contains complete information about past and future meetings. The MCCSC has held numerous “Community Conversations” and welcomes the public to attend our meetings and voice opinions. Knowing that people are very busy and cannot always attend meetings, great effort has gone into the planning of these activities. I continue to meet with members of the public whenever called upon. It has been my pleasure and a great way to listen to the ideas and concerns of many parents. I will continue to do so, working to make all of our information as transparent as the law will allow.

SPECHLER: I make my telephone number and e-mail address public, unlike some other public officials, and I regularly attend neighborhood meetings, as invited. I speak my mind on public radio stations and in the newspapers, inviting responses. Citizens know me by sight and often stop me to exchange opinions.

As an economist I would scrutinize the MCCSC budgets to prevent unnecessary expenditures and voice my opinions at meetings of the Board and at PTA meetings, if invited.

3. Should teachers have a role in the development of system-wide policies and priorities and, if so, how can the school board ensure that they do?

SABO-SKELTON: The MCCSC has worked closely with their teachers to create a solid working relationship, one that considers the ideas and talents of the teachers and what they see as the needs and future of the school system. Great examples are the trips taken to study the prototype schools by our teachers and administrators that have culminated in the Baccalaureate School design in three of our elementary schools as well as the Arts centered curriculum at Fairview. All of these curriculums have been the result of our teachers and administrators working together in order to give the children of the MCCSC the finest education possible.

SPECHLER: Along with parents, teachers have the best access to our students, their learning, ambitions, and complaints. As a long-time union member, I support collective bargaining by elected representatives of the teachers, bus drivers, and eligible administrators. Of course, with diminished support by the Indiana General Assembly and the current governor, we will need to be careful and make necessary compromises. Our superintendent should declare her priorities openly and explain any compromises (such as the school day and academic calendar) that must be made. Teachers’ representatives must be given the right to question these policies and priorities at a meeting of the School Board.

School Board members who have served three or more terms may not be willing to do so openly, as I would.

4. Is it appropriate for the school board to oppose state mandates if they run counter to the community's interests or desires and, if so, how should that be done?

SABO-SKELTON: Yes. The MCCSC has done so in the past by letters, emails, and attending meetings and reading protest statements against those laws that work to hinder and destroy public schools like the Monroe County Community School Corporation. But, as the public must realize there will be no change in this direction until those in the Indiana legislature who support vouchers and Charter schools are voted out and those who understand the great value of public school education – the real public school – the ones that have an” elected board,” not an appointed board over which the public has no control. Until this happens we must continue to fight for our MCCSC children in order to give them the best education they “all” deserve.

SPECHLER: Alas, the State of Indiana has sovereign authority here. At best we can work around the stated mandates to respond to widespread community desires.

For example, we cannot prevent giving authority and vouchers to charter and private schools, nor can we insist that they teach recognized scientific principles. What we can do is to explain to parents that attending public schools with a broad variety of students serves the long-term interests of their children. Public schools have various fiscal responsibilities (community facilities, pensions, insurance, special education) that new charter schools don't. The MCCSC should find out why we are losing students to these alternatives and make adjustments that could be publicized as a way to prevent further erosion of our student population.

5. Given the importance of recess to children's physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development, what are your thoughts on crafting a district wide policy that prohibits the practice of withholding recess as a punishment in our schools or eliminating recess altogether?

SABO-SKELTON: Withholding or eliminating recess? No and No! Everyone who understands the necessity of rest while working or studying knows that this “rest break” is imperative to learning and teaching. Students and teachers need breaks in order to maximize learning. It would be fascinating to put together a group to work on the variations of “recesses” that exist and see if we could design an original model. Bearing in mind, that the Indiana legislature has mandated so many minutes of the school day directed at what “they” want done in the classroom. This hinders greatly the creativity of our teachers and robs our children of the right to be free to take a moment to swing, sing, jump, run – and laugh in the fresh air.

SPECHLER: Recess is both popular and necessary for healthy children relaxed enough to pay attention. It is not an acceptable punishment for any child. In particular, there is no understandable reason to eliminate recess in the elementary grades. Older children may substitute organized athletics, walks to school (instead of taking the bus), and extracurricular activities (dancing, for example) with approval of their parents and school principals. Meditation may complement physical activity, too, but not at the expense of core subjects, music, and art.

Indiana House of Representatives, District 46

Bill Breedon (D)

Bob Heaton (R)

1. What are your qualifications for the office you are seeking?

BREEDON: I know what it is like to live from paycheck to paycheck, and raise a family. I worked my way through college and seminary, have a B.A. and an M.Div. in Religion and Philosophy, and did 30 hours of graduate studies as an Associate Instructor in Criminal Justice at IU. I am a retired minister, a political activist and am committed to justice and equality for all. I have lived in District 46 22 years.

HEATON: No response.

2. What are your top three priorities for your office and, if elected, how will you address them?

BREEDON: a. Support public education. Introduce legislation to end the regimen of testing that benefits corporate interests at the expense of students and teachers. There is no such thing as standardized children. Stop the flow of tax dollars to private schools through the voucher program. Let teachers teach.

b. Restore Hoosier Hospitality and guarantee equal rights for all by repealing RIFRA, a law that has cost our state millions of dollars. Discrimination is not a Hoosier value. We need to honor the separation of church and state.

c. Create living wage jobs: Repeal Right to Work, support collective bargaining.

HEATON: No response.

3. How and by whom should redistricting be done?

BREEDON: Redistricting should be done by a non-partisan commission made up of equal numbers of Republicans, Democrats and Independents. There are already states with non-partisan redistricting programs, so we don't have to re-invent the wheel. 125 words are not enough to explain the mechanism, but it can be done, and should be done. Gerrymandering has to end.

HEATON: No response.

4. What is the impact of vouchers on the Indiana constitution's requirement for "a general and uniform system of Common Schools, wherein tuition shall be without charge, and equally open to all"?

BREEDEN: School vouchers have a negative impact on public education. My wife and I home-schooled our children for several years. We were fortunate to be able to do so, but we did not ask the taxpayers of Indiana to subsidize us. We chose to live simply in order to be full time parents. The majority of parents in our state are not able to home-school and also provide for the economic needs of their families. School vouchers are being used by the Republican Party to destroy the public education system that has served our state well for generations. Private charter schools should be privately funded. Public charter schools should allow for public access of all records, meet state teacher certification requirements, and allow collective bargaining.

HEATON: No response.

5. What role do you think the Indiana General Assembly should play in addressing climate change?

BREEDEN: The General Assembly should be working to make Indiana a leading state in alternate fuel and energy sources for the future. The Pentagon has identified climate change as among the top threats to national security. The scientific community is nearly unanimous in the opinion that human activity is changing our climate and threatens to destroy life as we know it. Captain Kirk and Spock cannot save us. Climate change deniers are on the payroll of the fossil fuel industry and committed to short-term profits. For the sake of all of our grandchildren we must demand that the General Assembly work for the people rather than for corporate profits. Sustainability must be the priority and making it so will create living wage jobs for Hoosiers.

HEATON: No response.

6. What should the balance of power be between the state and communities in such matters as environmental protection and gun regulation?

BREEDEN: It is time for those who talk about smaller government to put their votes where their mouths are. The Republicans in the General Assembly claim to be for small government until local communities want to protect their environments and their citizens by common sense. I believe local communities should have the right to set environmental standards to protect local areas from factory farms or other environmental hazards. I also believe in common sense gun regulation. I own a gun, but I do not need 50 round magazines or assault weapons. Anyone who does is not a hunter, but a potential killer. The Second Amendment includes the words, "Well regulated." You don't need a Ph. D. to read it.

HEATON: No response.

7. What is the influence of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) on legislation in Indiana and what are the pros and cons of that influence?

BREEDEN: ALEC is toxic to democracy. Lazy legislators receive these pre-written bills in the Republican controlled states. Extreme right-wing lawyers paid by corporate interests write the bills. There are no “pros” to the influence of ALEC. Our legislators often use our tax money to go to their conventions that are closed to the public. The General Assembly of Indiana is supposed to serve the people of Indiana, not corporate interests. I will not accept the idea that a corporation is a person until Texas executes one, and I will not accept corporate money, nor attend ALEC conventions.

HEATON: No response.

Indiana House of Representatives, District 60

Penny Githens (D)

Peggy Mayfield (R)

1. What are your qualifications for the office you are seeking?

GITHENS: I grew up in Indiana, have lived in Indiana House District 60 for over 20 years, hold a B.S. from Purdue and an M.S. from IU. I currently serve on the Steering Committee of the Democratic Women’s Cause and on the Bloomington Commission on the Status of Women. Earlier I served on the boards of both local and state autism societies.

MAYFIELD: No response.

2. What are your top three priorities for your office and, if elected, how will you address them?

GITHENS: My top three priorities are public education, living-wage jobs, and infrastructure rehabilitation. I will work to mandate kindergarten for all students, to provide quality pre-Kindergarten programming to all children, and to reduce the amount of time and money spent on state-mandated testing. I support the re-enactment of the common construction wage and will work with Vocational Rehabilitation, Work One and Ivy Tech to ensure that Indiana workers have 21st Century job skills. I will push for sustainable funding to repair and replace our crumbling roads and bridges while also addressing the need to upgrade our water and sewer systems and expand broadband services in the rural parts of Indiana. Improving our infrastructure is another way to boost growth and provide more Hoosiers with living-wage jobs.

MAYFIELD: No response.

3. How and by whom should redistricting be done?

GITHENS: Redistricting should be done by an independent commission. After each census, the commission should determine the average number of constituents that should be in each

district – Congressional plus Indiana House and Senate – and then seek to keep the number of residents in each district as even as possible. Districts should be drawn, wherever possible, along existing county lines, but also incorporate adjustments to prevent “natural gerrymandering.” In the case of the Indiana House, this would minimize the number of Representatives in a given county, reduce the number of counties a given Representative would need to represent, and promote fair political representation. It would make it much easier for federal and state legislators to work effectively with local officials and their constituents.

MAYFIELD: No response.

4. What is the impact of vouchers on the Indiana constitution's requirement for "a general and uniform system of Common Schools, wherein tuition shall be without charge, and equally open to all"?

GITHENS: Vouchers should be discontinued **immediately**. While vouchers – or Indiana’s “Choice Scholarship Program” – may be equally open to all, private school admission is not. Private schools are not required to provide transportation, free/reduced-price lunches, Title I reading programs or to admit special education students. This strongly discriminates against special education students, poor families, and families whose work schedules do not allow them to transport their children to or from school. In other words, private schools are not the same force for educational equality as public schools. If the students in specific public schools are underperforming, let’s address the issues that prevent these students from reaching their academic potential.

MAYFIELD: No response.

5. What role do you think the Indiana General Assembly should play in addressing climate change?

GITHENS: We should encourage the use of renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind. This can be done through grants and enforcement of clean energy standards. In 2015, Monroe County competed in a national contest to reduce energy consumption. The program, conducted by the Monroe County Energy Challenge, was a broad coalition of community organizations that collaborated to reduce energy use. This program could serve as a model to reduce energy consumption, which reduces the production of harmful greenhouse gases.

We should encourage the planting of trees to increase absorption of carbon dioxide. This is not being done in our state forests under the current administration. In fact, just the opposite is happening: logging is occurring in state forests without replanting.

MAYFIELD: No response.

6. What should the balance of power be between the state and communities in such matters as environmental protection and gun regulation?

GITHENS: Local entities should have the ability to enact stricter legislation when it comes to issues like environmental protection and gun regulations. Some gun regulations can only be enforced effectively at the state level (e.g., regulations governing gun purchases). Certainly, however, communities should be able to restrict where guns may be carried – we don't need them at public swimming pools or in parades.

MAYFIELD: No response.

7. What is the influence of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) on legislation in Indiana and what are the pros and cons of that influence?

GITHENS: Indiana has passed numerous regressive pieces of legislation written by ALEC. In 2011 Indiana passed ALEC-proposed legislation that prohibits local governments from determining what the living wage is. This is deplorable -- the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 will not support a single adult anywhere in Indiana.

Another example of ALEC legislation is the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA). There was such an outcry from the business community that a second law was quickly passed, specifying that RFRA does not authorize discrimination. Despite quick passage of this second law, Indianapolis lost an estimated \$60 M in tourism and convention business in 2015. Indiana cannot afford such legislation. Pros versus cons? In the case of ALEC it's all con and no pro.

MAYFIELD: No response.

Indiana House of Representatives, District 61

Drew Ash (I)

Matt Pierce (D)

1. What are your qualifications for the office you are seeking?

ASH: At 21 years old, this election marks the first time I have ever ran for political office. While I have yet to hold any formal position in government, I believe that my experience as a minimum wage worker and a full-time student has provided me with a unique look into the lives of everyday Hoosiers. I understand the concerns of students and low-wage workers, because I am one of them. Their fight is my fight.

PIERCE: 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.

2. What are your top three priorities for your office and, if elected, how will you address them?

ASH: 1. Campaign Finance Reform: Ban out of state campaign contributions and implement campaign finance legislation that will challenge the Citizens United and McCutcheon V. FEC Supreme Court Rulings.

2. Increase Labor Union Density. Labor Unions are the hallmark of a strong middle-class economy. In order to restore the labor movement, we must overturn ‘Right to Work’ legislation and makes it easier for Hoosier employees to collectively bargain.

3. Decriminalize and Legalize Marijuana. The drug war has been an abysmal failure and a woeful misallocation of resources. My goal is to decriminalize marijuana and ultimately lead the effort to tax and regulate cannabis for both medicinal and recreational use.

PIERCE: My top priorities are reversing rising income inequality, restoring support for public schools and expanding access to mental health and drug addiction treatment.

I opposed policies promoting Indiana as a low wage state and instead will continue supporting efforts to raise the minimum wage, make Indiana’s tax code less regressive, and improve worker benefits.

I oppose siphoning money away from public schools to pay for vouchers and charter schools and spending millions of dollars on high-stakes testing. I support making early childhood education available to every child.

Rather than rely on the failed “war on drugs” approach to the problem of drug addiction, it should be treated as a public health issue. Drug addiction treatment and related mental health services need to be widely available.

3. How and by whom should redistricting be done?

ASH: Redistricting should be conducted in a non-partisan manner by an independent organization such as the League of Woman Voters. As an Independent, I will have zero political motive to delay action on redistricting reform and I will aggressively work to prevent gerrymandering and other tactics which taint the democratic process.

PIERCE: Redistricting should be done by a non-partisan commission. It should not be used to divide communities with common interests as has been done in Monroe County or to dilute the voting power of minorities.

Drawing district boundaries for partisan advantage has become very effective. The days of simply using precinct voting patterns to manipulate districts has given way to complex marketing data that profiles voters. Where voters fall on the political spectrum can be determined, not just their party preference. Changing demographic patterns can be projected into the future to preserve a party's political advantage well into the decade.

This precision has contributed to partisan gridlock in Congress and unbalanced government at the Indiana Statehouse.

4. What is the impact of vouchers on the Indiana constitution's requirement for "a general and uniform system of Common Schools, wherein tuition shall be without charge, and equally open to all"?

ASH: I support school choice in the public domain, but I am deeply concerned with the privatization of our public schools. As such, I support a system of school choice which will allow low-income students to apply a voucher to any public school in the state who is willing to accept the voucher. This competition will work to both preserve education as a public good and improve the overall quality of our school system. Competition improves quality in every facet of professional life, and education is no exception. It is time that our state renews its commitment to give every child the opportunity to have a world class education, not just those who reside in wealthy communities.

PIERCE: Diverting money from public schools to fund vouchers for private and religious schools is a terrible policy. Private schools can choose their students while public schools must educate all students. Vouchers will inevitably lead to a two-tiered education system with public schools struggling on limited budgets to educate mostly children with difficult learning challenges.

Republicans in the legislature said only public school students dissatisfied with their schools would be eligible for vouchers. Because those vouchers paid slightly less than the amount that would have gone to public schools, they said taxpayers would save money. However, once established, vouchers were expanded to include students who never attended a public school.

Private and religious school tuition cost Indiana taxpayers \$53,000,000 in the 2015-16 school year alone.

5. What role do you think the Indiana General Assembly should play in addressing climate change?

ASH: Climate change is the greatest challenge of our generation and our state has a political, economic and moral obligation to address. If I elected to the state house this November, I will work tirelessly to reshape our environmental policy down a more sustainable path. First, I will

fight to lift tax credits for investing in non-renewable energy and use the proceeds to expand tax credits for investments in renewable energy. We must also accelerate the speed at which we plan to phase out fossil fuels. A coal powered economy is unsustainable and unacceptable given the current environmental threats facing our state, nation and planet.

PIERCE: The legislature should be doing all it can to move Indiana away from reliance on coal for generating electricity. I am a strong proponent of renewable energy and energy efficiency programs. I opposed efforts to destroy “net metering” regulations that ensure customers generating renewable energy earn credits from utilities for the energy they feed into the electrical grid. I also fought legislation that watered-down energy efficiency rules.

I have introduced legislation to require taxpayer-funded buildings to be built to high performance energy standards and to require electric utilities to purchase renewable energy generated in Indiana.

In addition to improving the health of many Hoosiers, promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency creates jobs and will save utility customers money in the long run.

6. What should the balance of power be between the state and communities in such matters as environmental protection and gun regulation?

ASH: Issues such as environmental protection and gun regulation should be handled by the state government. Environmental pollutants and firearms constantly travel across municipal boundaries and regulating them at the community level would only serve to complicate an already complex legal system.

PIERCE: I have consistently opposed efforts to remove home rule powers from local governments. Unfortunately, the legislature has not respected local government officials who are also elected and accountable to their constituents. Instead, it has become a tool for special interests to preempt local governments whenever they don't like a particular local policy.

I know from my own service on the Bloomington City Council that local officials must face their constituents more directly when making policies for their communities than state legislators voting in far off Indianapolis.

7. What is the influence of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) on legislation in Indiana and what are the pros and cons of that influence?

ASH: The American Legislative Exchange Council has had a noxious impact on state legislatures across the country, particularly right here in Indiana. More specifically, ALEC serves corporate incentives at the expense of Hoosier interests and preys on a state legislature which is woefully understaffed and under-resourced. In order to counter the political influence of ALEC and other similar groups, the Indiana General Assembly must increase its number of staffers so that ALEC can no longer control the legislative process.

PIERCE: ALEC is an organization designed to bolster the influence of corporations in state legislatures across the country. Its backers learned that while Congress is stuck in gridlock, they can achieve many of their policy goals one legislature at a time.

If corporations make large contributions to ALEC, they may offer model legislation to the state legislators who have chosen to join ALEC. In closed meetings at ALEC's annual conventions, corporations and ALEC members refine the model legislation and then vote its approval. Once the model legislation is adopted by ALEC, many legislators return to their states and introduce the proposal as their own legislation.

Many Indiana legislators belong to ALEC and have introduced ALEC legislation. This gives corporations a disproportionate influence over the legislature.

Indiana House of Representatives, District 62

Jeff Ellington (R)

Steve Lindsey (D)

1. What are your qualifications for the office you are seeking?

ELLINGTON: State representative, District 62, January – present. Monroe County recorder, 2014. Monroe County Council, 1997-2005. Firefighter, City of Bloomington. Owner of three small businesses. My experience is wide and I will use it to advance District 62.

LINDSEY: I am a graduate of University of Evansville with a Bachelors of Science in Business; I have over 36 years working with the public in customer service and sales. I am a former County Commissioner and served two years on State Board for Indiana Association County Commissioners and Association of Indiana Counties.

2. What are your top three priorities for your office and, if elected, how will you address them?

ELLINGTON: Jobs and the economy are the top concern of my district. We must put Greene, Monroe, Martin and Daviess counties back to work and attract more employers to the areas of Linton, Bloomfield, Martin County, Odon and western Monroe. Education is also a vital concern. We must expand educational opportunities and excellence for our youth. Finally, roads and infrastructure. District 62 is dependent on roads and bridges being in top shape. Good infrastructure brings private employers and jobs.

LINDSEY: 1) Public Education-Public Education in this State and its teachers have been under attack for too long. The expansion of charter and private schools and their inclusion in state school funding has decreased critical services at the public schools most our children attend.

2) Create good paying jobs that you can work, raise a family and actually have some disposable income to spend in our communities. Reward companies that create and keep jobs in Indiana. Hoosier wages should be competitive with the nation.

3) Infrastructure-Rural Indiana has been left behind: the system needs fixed, we need more flexibility at the local level and more dollars sent our way, so local elected officials can work.

3. How and by whom should redistricting be done?

ELLINGTON: The Legislature has been tasked with redistricting after the census, every 10 years. Local government, such as county councils and city councils, also draw their districts. Hoosiers and I are content with that, as they regularly elect the officials in charge of redistricting.

LINDSEY: Redistricting is a rigged system. The districts look like wild jig-saw puzzles. It's set up, so the politicians pick their constituents instead of the other way around. We need to replace this with a bipartisan group-not a political party.

4. What is the impact of vouchers on the Indiana constitution's requirement for "a general and uniform system of Common Schools, wherein tuition shall be without charge, and equally open to all"?

ELLINGTON: The effect is negligible. Vouchers make up a tiny part of the state's budget.

LINDSEY: Much more of the educational funding is now being moved away from our local public schools. Education is often the key that helps open the doors for life. We need to restore the funding back to our local schools to keep them safe and have quality education for all children, not the select few.

5. What role do you think the Indiana General Assembly should play in addressing climate change?

ELLINGTON: Since climate change is global issue, it is best that Indiana state government sticks to its present agenda of prudent environmental management and conservation within Hoosier borders.

LINDSEY: We all should care about the future for our children and grandchildren. State officials should always keep in mind the long term effects of decisions they make when voting. There is a delicate balance that must be kept when trying to be a good steward and create commerce. I don't believe that these two need always be opposed; we should work toward the future always remembering this balance

6. What should the balance of power be between the state and communities in such matters as environmental protection and gun regulation?

ELLINGTON: Gun rights are guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution, and also the state Constitution. Localities therefore risk lawsuits if they overstep. I do not favor localities regulating guns, as the state has that duty. Environmental protection is also mainly a state concern, although local communities have some responsibilities.

LINDSEY: They should work together in setting standards and general regulations, but give the final authority to the local communities. What works in one part of the state doesn't always mean it works elsewhere.

7. What is the influence of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) on legislation in Indiana and what are the pros and cons of that influence?

ELLINGTON: There is no major influence I know of. But I support the rights of right-leaning groups such as ALEC as well as left-leaning groups such as Common Cause to exercise their First Amendment rights; to take part in the open legislative process as citizens and groups; to address legislators; and to speak their minds at the capital. As should all Hoosiers.

LINDSEY: They have become one of the most influential groups inside state legislatures across the nation. They work on "model legislation", and work to have laws in many states. This seems odd to me, and doesn't sound like they are looking out for the best interests of our people. I'm hoping to be elected to represent the people of my district.

Indiana House of Representatives, District 65

Chris D. May (R)

Chris Woods (D)

1. What are your qualifications for the office you are seeking?

MAY: No response.

WOODS: I've proven to be the hardest working candidate in this race and will put the priorities of the district over a political party's agenda. I am proud to have the endorsements of the Indiana Political Action Committee for Education, American Federation of Teachers, Indiana State Fraternal Order of Police and several labor organizations. Their support emphasizes the need for change and a representative that will fight for all hardworking Hoosiers.

2. What are your top three priorities for your office and, if elected, how will you address them?

MAY: No response.

WOODS: Education: Expand early education opportunities, rebuild our state's failed testing procedures, ensure transparency in educational funding and require all schools that receive tax payer money to play by the same rules.

Drug Epidemic: Work with health care professionals to facilitate rehabilitation and affordable treatment programs. Partner with law enforcement to develop better drug prevention and educational programs.

Infrastructure: Help develop a long term bipartisan plan to improve our state's failing infrastructure. I will work to ensure our district receives its fair share of funding to improve roads and bridges as well as making high speed internet available throughout the state.

I believe our economy will have a long term positive impact if these three areas are effectively addressed.

3. How and by whom should redistricting be done?

MAY: No response.

WOODS: For democracy to work, voters must be able to hold their elected officials accountable on Election Day. Gerrymandering protects incumbents and creates supermajorities that don't represent the best interest of the districts but rather one political party's agenda. A fair redistricting process by an independent commission based off of common boundary lines and population numbers would help our communities elect more meaningful representation.

4. What is the impact of vouchers on the Indiana constitution's requirement for "a general and uniform system of Common Schools, wherein tuition shall be without charge, and equally open to all"?

MAY: No response.

WOODS: By having the nation's largest voucher program our state's public school funding has taken a big cut. We need to re-evaluate our voucher program so that our rural public schools are not lacking the funds needed to operate efficiently and effectively. This lack of funding has made the teaching profession less attractive thus creating the teacher shortage that we are currently seeing. The way it is setup now, public schools are almost certain to fail because they are held to a different standard than the private and charter schools. Transparency and level playing field is a must when it comes to education. We have to stop playing partisan politics with our children's education and invest in their future!

5. What role do you think the Indiana General Assembly should play in addressing climate change?

MAY: No response.

WOODS: Even if we drastically reduce our use of greenhouse gases, climate change will continue. As a state we should focus on utilizing cleaner energy but more importantly finding ways to adapt to the effects of climate change. We need to prepare our communities for the effects of extreme weather events such as stronger storms and bigger floods. This can be done by protecting and/or moving infrastructure and developing and practicing disaster preparedness and recovery plans.

6. What should the balance of power be between the state and communities in such matters as environmental protection and gun regulation?

MAY: No response.

WOODS: A statewide regulation in a rural setting may not be appropriate in a large city and vice versa. For example, an environmental protection bill may have a positive impact in a larger city but has a negative effect in an agricultural community. I believe there are certain issues, including gun regulation and environmental protection that should be community based not mandated by the state.

7. What is the influence of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) on legislation in Indiana and what are the pros and cons of that influence?

MAY: No response.

WOODS: The influence is undeniable. By submitting bills drafted by ALEC lawmakers are choosing to represent this shady special interest organization at the expense of their constituents. This group is so powerful they are exempt by the Indiana code (IC 2-7-1-10) from being required to register their lobbyists with the state. Drafting public laws in private is wrong and only hurts Hoosiers.

Indiana Senate, District 44

Linda Henderson (D)

Darin S. Kinser (L)

Eric Koch (R)

1. What are your qualifications for the office you are seeking?

HENDERSON: I have an extensive background working with communities to address issues that matter to families. With a strong focus on workforce development, youth and family issues and community and economic development strategies. Currently I am the Community Relations Specialist with the IU School of Public Health and an adjunct instructor at Ivy Tech Community College. Previously worked at Indiana Youth Institute, Purdue University and Indiana Prevention Resource Center. My background and interests are diverse.

KINSER: 35 year native of Indiana, Former Recruiter United States Army, Small Business Owner

KOCH: No response.

2. What are your top three priorities for your office and, if elected, how will you address them?

HENDERSON: Working together – willing to work across the aisle to address issues facing families. I will be a legislator that will focus on issues that matter to families in Indiana: Good Jobs, Good Education and Good Roads.

Education must be a top priority – it is the ground floor to economic development. We need strong public schools and teachers need to be supported and celebrated. This includes supporting funding of Preschool as well as working to expand workforce training programs. We must look at education and training as a lifelong endeavor.

Drug Epidemic – the Heroin/Meth epidemic must be addressed aggressively. This epidemic requires a multifaceted approach if we are to make a real impact. Focusing on Prevention and Intervention.

KINSER: Medical Marijuana: My mother and many other patients are suffering with cancer and also many states around us have already passed medical legalization and I believe Indiana is behind the curve and we must understand that this is favored by majority of Indiana voters.

Equal Rights: I believe Equal Rights must be a priority with all members of the Legislature. And must obey the US Constitution.

Due Process Rights: I believe that most communities are allowing for the discrimination of certain people within their communities to not go into public and private places. Communities

are issuing Blanket Trespass Orders denying individuals their right to enter such places. I believe this is a violation of Due Process and needs to be addressed immediately.

KOCH: No response.

3. How and by whom should redistricting be done?

HENDERSON: I support non-partisan redistricting. The “super majority” situation in Indiana is a strong argument to take this responsibility away from “political operatives”. The current partisan system is a hindrance to electing persons who are more aligned with the average Hoosier.

KINSER: I believe in putting people before Politics and believe we need to listen to the people on how they believe each district should be placed.

KOCH: No response.

4. What is the impact of vouchers on the Indiana constitution's requirement for "a general and uniform system of Common Schools, wherein tuition shall be without charge, and equally open to all"?

HENDERSON: I support Glenda Ritz’ position recommending a halt to expansion of the voucher system and assess the impact of the voucher system. I do not like taking dollars away from public education to support private endeavors. We have a responsibility to our public schools and teachers – to see that they are adequately funded and supported.

My interpretation of Article 8 in the Indiana constitution - the legislature is responsible for providing and supporting Public Education. The voucher system which takes money away from public schools – may be a direct violation of our state constitution.

KINSER: I support vouchers and believe that all parents should have the right to choose which school their child gets and education. I also believe that we need to tackle the Crony Capitalism within these school systems such as Text Book Rental and Chrome Book rentals. We should be giving free education to our young generation.

KOCH: No response.

5. What role do you think the Indiana General Assembly should play in addressing climate change?

HENDERSON: The General Assembly needs to be concerned about the quality of our environment – the legislature should be careful to not promote legislation that impacts the

environment and possibly impact climate change. Many issues related to climate change likely fall under federal jurisdiction.

KINSER: I am against a carbon tax but I also believe there should be some oversight in maintaining a clean climate.

KOCH: No response.

6. What should the balance of power be between the state and communities in such matters as environmental protection and gun regulation?

HENDERSON: It is important for the state to set boundaries especially on the minimum required so as to protect citizens. Local Communities should have local control to craft ordinances to reflect that community's preference. This is especially important with regard to topics such as gun control. More rural areas support the Second Amendment and do not favor gun control and this preference should be respected. -I am a strong advocate of local control.

Also the state too often passes unfunded mandates putting a burden on local communities particularly rural communities with limited resources.

KINSER: I believe the state has too much power and would like to see legislation passed to give the people the power of ballot measures. I believe the people know their communities better and should be given the opportunity to control and maintain issues within those communities.

KOCH: No response.

7. What is the influence of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) on legislation in Indiana and what are the pros and cons of that influence?

HENDERSON: ALEC influence in Indiana is a major negative. ALEC was created to provide a vehicle for multi-national corporations to "buy" and control influence. Their influence is a detriment to small business and small entrepreneurial endeavors. As I have studied their impact it is clear the legislation promoted often creates barriers to entry for new players to any particular market. Making it almost impossible to overcome. This stifles competition, innovation and promotes monopolies.

KINSER: I believe ALEC has their own Agenda and unlike my opponents I would not be a member of ALEC.

KOCH: No response.

U.S. House of Representatives, 9th District

Russell Brooksbank (L)

Trey Hollingsworth (R)

Shelli Yoder (D)

1. What are your qualifications for the office you are seeking?

BROOKSBANK: I've been a Hoosier the majority of my adult life, and I care about Indiana & my fellow Hoosiers. I am a Veteran. I've been an employer as well as an employee. I'm a Teamster, and for the past ten years I've been an elected Chief Steward. My experience negotiating contracts, mediating conflict, writing policy, and defending the rights of my coworkers is experience that the 9th District needs in Washington.

HOLLINGSWORTH: I've invested the last decade building nine businesses and creating hundreds of jobs in Indiana. I feel the ill-effects our government has on job creators each and every day. I look forward to bringing my private sector experience to Washington to help fix problems, just like we fix them in our businesses. That means having the discipline to cut spending, balance budgets, and make plans for the future.

YODER: I was born and raised in Indiana and am raising a family here. I understand the difficulties Hoosiers face to make ends meet. I serve on the Monroe County Council where I work to improve our community. I teach at the IU Kelley School of Business where I educate our future leaders. I've led a number of nonprofits working with community leaders and health care providers to deliver care and vocational training to underserved populations.

2. What are your top three priorities for your office and, if elected, how will you address them?

BROOKSBANK: The first priority of any Congressman is to secure our liberty. I'll address this with a two pronged attack. First, I'll vote against any liberty killing legislation. Second, I'll work to remove liberty killing legislation like the NDAA's indefinite detention clause and the Patriot Act from our books. Stopping and dialing back the government's encroachment on our rights.

The second priority is to spend the taxpayer's money conservatively. I'll address this by championing the Fair Tax, a balanced budget amendment, and eliminating programs that just do not work.

The third priority is to protect us against force or fraud. I will address this by voting for a strong national defense and a civil & criminal justice system that protects us while securing our rights.

HOLLINGSWORTH: We must get government refocused on our essential priorities, including national security, caring for our veterans, and maintaining our infrastructure. To execute these priorities well, we cannot continue adding to the \$20 trillion national debt and passing budgets that don't balance. We cannot continue enacting unnecessary regulations that hold back job creators and limit the creation of careers and opportunities for Hoosiers. We cannot continue

expanding the size and scope of government, as has been done with Obamacare. It is time to make hard decisions to get our budget under control, and I am no stranger to doing just that in my businesses.

YODER: My top priorities are jobs, balancing the budget, and investing in our infrastructure. In Congress my priority will be making investments in our workforce, both for those who are just entering it and those who need new training for the 21st century economy. In addition, economic empowerment throughout the 9th Congressional District will require an infrastructure plan that makes the necessary investments in our roads, bridges, and expanded broad-band. I know how to balance a budget because I've done it—as a member of the Monroe County Council, we work to pass a balanced budget every year. I will be a fiscal hawk and support the “No Budget, No Pay” law that says Congress shouldn't get paid if they aren't able to pass a budget.

3. How and by whom should redistricting be done?

BROOKSBANK: Gerrymandering is one of the greater evils of the two party system we have allowed to develop. It's used not to ensure fair representation, but to ensure political parties maintain a stranglehold on a community. When I signed the “Compact for Liberty”, I pledged to eliminate the “tribalization” of American politics by requiring the uniform application of rules for drawing Congressional districts geographically for every state and district in the country. Redistricting should be done using simple geography with one continuous boundary (no more pockets) and without regard to party affiliation. A commission made up of an equal number of representatives from each political party within a state should be tasked with redistricting to ensure the population count is equal within each district.

HOLLINGSWORTH: Elections, and district lines, are to be administered by individual states and localities. As a candidate for federal office, I do not believe the federal government should attempt to take this responsibility from Indiana, nor would I advocate for policies that do so.

YODER: Redistricting should be done by an independent, nonpartisan commission that works to make districts as even, compact and competitive as possible. Legislators should not be allowed to draw the districts they want to represent.

4. What concrete steps will you take to encourage bipartisan legislation?

BROOKSBANK: Well, if I am elected, since I am a Libertarian, I will be encouraging tripartisan legislation. Actually, I don't like to think in those terms. Ideas don't have party affiliations. There are good and bad ideas in Washington and they should be judged on their merit not by who is proposing them. As a Libertarian, I believe that I will be in a unique position to work better with other members of Congress. Since the Libertarian Party represents the best of the two old parties, we are fiscally responsible and socially tolerant, I will be able to find common ground with anyone. I will encourage cooperation and compromise by being respectful of any idea regardless of the party of the person proposing it.

HOLLINGSWORTH: If elected, I look forward to sharing my experiences building businesses, creating jobs, managing budgets, and finding success in spite of, not because of our government. I believe sharing these experiences can be informative to members of both parties as we craft legislation aimed at getting our government back on track. Hoosiers and Americans demand, expect, and need results from their government, not more grandstanding by politicians, and, as a businessman, I am focused on getting real results.

YODER: I believe the influence money has had on our political system since the Citizen's United Supreme Court Ruling has only made our country more divided. Politicians are worried to buck the party line in fear that they may lose their next election. Curbing the influence that money has on politics is one small step toward addressing this issue. Once we address this issue, politicians from both parties will be much more willing to work together to solve some of the biggest issues that we are facing as a country such as reducing the deficit and funding the Highway Trust Fund long term.

5. How will you demonstrate that you place your responsibility to your constituents above party loyalty?

BROOKSBANK: James Freeman Clark said, "A politician thinks of the next election. A statesman, of the next generation." I am my own man. I'm running to leave my children and grandchildren a government of the people, by the people, and for the people as opposed to a government of the special interest, by the special interest, and for the special interest. Political parties are, by definition, special interests. As your Congressman, I will demonstrate my commitment to the people over party by always voting for what I believe is best for the people as opposed to what is best for my party or even my political career. I will stand in the gap for those whose rights are being violated, even against my own party.

HOLLINGSWORTH: I took a term limits pledge in front of thousands of Hoosiers to make it clear that I will stand up for our beliefs, not sacrifice them to appease leadership or help long-term election prospects. While they are not popular with career politicians and party insiders, I believe term limits would better align the interests of the people with the interests of their elected officials, which is why I will support legislation to enact them for all members of Congress. I reaffirm my clear pledge not to serve more than eight years in the House; we need Representatives that understand their time is limited.

YODER: I am someone who leads as well as listens and I have a record of bi-partisanship which I will bring to Congress. I will be accessible and accountable to the people of this district. I will ensure that my constituents voices are heard by holding town hall meetings in every county of the district twice a year. I will hold mobile office hours once a month in every county so people can get the help they need. I will also make sure that my voting record is accessible on our website so people know where I have stood on every issue. I will make every effort to be as accessible, accountable, and transparent and ensure that every constituent is heard regardless of political party.