



Keys to the Candidates; October 2018

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The Keys to the Candidates is prepared by the League of Women Voters of Bloomington-Monroe County (LWV-BMC) before elections. Questionnaires are sent to candidates with opposition; candidates unopposed are not included. Not all candidates respond, which is indicated below by "NR." The responses appear as they are received; the League does not edit them. The Keys to the Candidates is published in print and online by the *Herald-Times* and online by LWV-BMC at <https://www.lwv-bmc.org/keys>.

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LOCAL OFFICES

County Clerk

[elected by entire county]: records and maintains court documents, manages voter registration and elections.

Nicole Browne (D)

Jacob Franklin (R)

1. What are your qualifications for this office?

BROWNE:

In January of 2012, I was appointed Chief Deputy Clerk and served in that role until March of 2016 when I was caucused in as the Monroe County Clerk. I have been at the helm as we have transitioned to a paperless office with records and payment portals, digitization of Court and Clerk records, state mandated implementation of electronic filing, two successful Presidential elections and receiving a clean State Board of Accounts financial audit.

FRANKLIN:

Over nine (9) years' experience as Deputy Clerk. Mentored by the late Pat Haley and Jim Fielder, long time family friends.

I practice with compassion, integrity and diligence. During my time in the clerk's office, I maintained accurate court and election records. I will work for all people/citizens of Monroe County equally, regardless of status or party affiliation.

2. What is your top priority for this office, and how would you address it?

BROWNE:

As the current Monroe County Clerk, I have dual priorities for my office. In my capacity as "keeper of the records," I plan to continue with the digitization of older Court and Clerk records (having halved what was originally a ten year plan thanks to the strategic and concerted efforts of an amazing and dedicated Clerk's Office staff).

As the person who oversees elections in Monroe County, having been advised by our current vendor not to utilize the current voting equipment in another Presidential election (due to the advanced age of the equipment), I look forward to working with County Commissioners and Council members to secure the best voting equipment available that will not only serve our current needs but future election needs as well.

FRANKLIN:

Elections.

Eight years ago, Monroe County purchased 12-year-old election equipment. I would have advised against this.

I would follow county ordinances and policies regarding travel, expenditures and gifts. Unlike the current clerk, who took trips (with up to four employees) to NE and TX, I will not accept trips or gifts from vendors wanting to or doing business with the county. It is most troubling to me that the Election Board, Council and Commissioners were not aware of these trips. This is a problem folks.

True public service.

Helped a victim of domestic violence recoup her dental bills of \$3,000.00+ through the criminal court instead of small claims.

Happy and honored to have certified, with courtroom photos, the first transgender name change in Monroe County.

3. How would you ensure that information is being reported and secured responsibly?

BROWNE:

With records and payment portals, the Monroe County Clerk's Office is technologically current and instrumental in making case-related information and court documents easily accessible and available to the public and media. The portals allow for user friendly access and impartial transparency to all.

Current Court and Clerk records are digitized, in real time, within the Monroe County Clerk's Office. With space constraints and limitations in Monroe County, older records are housed at an off-site facility that offers a secure, climate controlled and fireproof environment until such time as the company can digitize those records (and destroy the physical copies) in accordance with the state's directives regarding retention schedules. Regrettably, no such site is located in either Monroe County or the surrounding counties at this time.

FRANKLIN:

Being attentive and consistent is best in reporting and securing information. I will establish appropriate procedure in accordance with the law, to ensure the information is reported and secured responsibly and locally. Anyone who knows me, or has worked with me, knows that I am diligent and detailed. I understand this position is something you live, not something you do. Moreover, I understand that people's livelihood is at stake, whether freedoms or monetary.

As stated in previous campaigns, I would like to work with Indiana University Bloomington and City of Bloomington to create an archive center for our records. I believe they should NOT be stored out of county and will make bringing them home a priority.

County Recorder

[elected by entire county]: processes, stores, and maintains documents, most related to real estate.

Eric Schmitz (D)

Hal Turner (R)

1. What are your qualifications for this office?

SCHMITZ:

I have over twenty years' experience in information technology, a master's degree in Library Science, been a long-time patron of the Recorder's office, and served as Monroe County Recorder for nearly four years. I am Secretary of the Indiana Recorders Association, and have served as chair of the Association's Education Committee.

My team has made good use of their tools and expertise in maintaining the vital library that is the Office of the County Recorder.

TURNER:

Academically, I hold Masters in Business Administration (specializing in Management Information Science) and also in Project Management. Both of these achievements strengthened the strong native management skills I have demonstrated in every employment I have held since earlier receiving my undergraduate degrees. My careers have demonstrated recurring traits of strong communication and customer service skills, excellent technical and professional skills, and outstanding leadership skills regardless of the work environment. I love learning and great challenges.

2. What is your top priority for this office, and how would you address it?**SCHMITZ:**

There are two: Protection of the vulnerable; ready and secure access to public information.

Property scams are rampant, from official-sounding solicitations that cajole people into spending exorbitant sums to obtain property records that can be had for far less, if any cost at all, from county offices, to outright fraud that leaves people utterly broke and homeless. I have done everything I can think of to make people aware of these predators.

One of my original objectives has been to make access to information about land and property as easy and simple as possible. We have made great strides in getting more of this information online (with necessary control and protections), and I have no intention of stopping or slowing that effort.

TURNER:

The Recorder's office is one of the most critical offices in our county government, since within it lies the responsibility to maintain, produce on demand, and protect those documents which define our political, commercial and personal lives. One of my hobby interests has been Archaeology. Among discoveries defining the earliest societies frequently have been those related to official records of commerce, politics and civil activities, often on papyrus or in clay, and with official wax or clay signet seals. While this responsibility for preservation of critical records is an ancient one, technology of the 21st century can help us ensure the perpetuity of all records through application of state-of-the-art availability, disaster -recovery and redundancy technologies. These can increase records access while reducing costs to all.

3. How would you ensure that information is being reported and secured responsibly?**SCHMITZ:**

We have upgraded our technology to make use of Monroe County's most robust technological foundations, including computer networks with multiple layers of security and backup. We have implemented additional offsite data protection at very reasonable and worthwhile financial cost. Our workflow incorporates mandatory verification of data that ensures that more than one set of human eyes sees every bit of information that goes into our records.

We offer the information in our records remotely as well as on site. Certain documents, such as military service records, are not available to anyone without strict and in-person confirmation of their identity. Sensitive personal information, such as Social Security Numbers, are blacked out to the general public.

TURNER:

Original records and especially non-public information must be as safe and secure as redundance technology and best practices will allow. To do this, there must be adherence to relevant laws that govern recordkeeping

privacy. Processes must alert to non-adherence of current rules relating to security and confidentiality of recordkeeping. Any complaints regarding mishandling or theft of information need to be immediately reviewed with relevant authorities. There must be a thorough risk analysis of current systems to identify sources of weakness and strength as well as to identify technical and operational redundancy opportunities for improvement. This will all result in a draft plan for process and technology improvement which can then be reviewed with relevant stakeholders for modifications and impacts before the plan is considered complete.

Circuit Court Judge, Division 9, Seat 8

[elected by entire county]: decides court cases at the county level.

Darcie L. Fawcett (D)

Kevin Weldon (R)

1. What are your qualifications for this office?

FAWCETT:

My fifteen years of experience has given me the tools necessary to serve as judge. I have been trained for the courtroom, including the rules of evidence and trial procedure. It's essential that judges have this knowledge because they are often called upon to make critical rulings in the heat of a trial.

Equally important, judges should understand the values and needs of our community. I have gained that knowledge through years of community service.

WELDON:

30 years of broad and sound legal experience. As a trial attorney in both Indiana and Illinois courts (state, federal & appellate), I have handled a broad range of legal matters covering an expansive cross section of law, including civil, criminal, appellate, international and administrative law. Represented a diverse range of clients: large corporations, municipalities, governmental units (including as a Special Assistant Attorney General, State of Illinois), small businesses, entrepreneurs and regular folks & families.

2. Understanding that judges are not allowed to signal how they would decide a specific issue, how would you improve the quality of justice in Monroe County?

FAWCETT:

It is essential that our justice system take a more comprehensive and holistic approach if we as a society have any hope of addressing the many problems that find their way into our courtrooms.

Our local system has already implemented several problem-solving courts that focus on intervention and treatment. As a Deputy Prosecutor, I've worked alongside our problem-solving courts and I share the integral problem-solving philosophy they embody. As judge, not only would I continue to support their use, I would support expanding these progressive programs to include coordination across civil and criminal courts to address the totality of a person's, (or families'), legal issues.

I will also ensure that every litigant who appears before me will be treated with respect, dignity, and fairness. My decisions as a judge will be unbiased, and based on the law and the facts.

WELDON:

Upon becoming a judge, my first order of business would be to take some time to listen, observe and learn from the vantage point of being a sitting judge on the bench. Even with 27 years experience as an attorney

handling a broad range of legal matters, I recognize that my current perspective is limited to the lawyer's and litigant's side of the bench. I am committed to a legal system that will NOT accept anything less than equal and meaningful justice for all. I will energetically embrace and fight for any changes to achieve this goal.

Specifically, I will focus on: 1) Continuing to enhance problem solving courts —Drug, Opioid Crisis and, as a military veteran, I strongly support the Veteran's Court; 2) Working to improve low and middle income persons access to the courts, including alternative dispute resolution mechanisms; 3) Bail reform for those accused of non-violent crimes.

County Commissioner, District 1

[elected by entire county]: commissioners approve payroll and claims, authorize contracts, supervise maintenance of county roads, and more.

Larry D. Barker (R)

Elizabeth "Lee" Jones (D)

1. Since Commissioners are regulatory as well as administrative, what are your qualifications for this office?

BARKER:

County Commissioners are the Executive and Legislative branch of MC Government. I have drafted Bills for the US Congress and State Legislators which now are Law. I encouraged the State Legislators to kill Bills that would adversely impact the Environment of Indiana. As an Army Officer for 28 years, I led and managed thousands of soldiers, DOD Civilians, and multi-million-dollar budgets earning eight meritorious service medals. My leadership and integrity are beyond reproach.

JONES:

As a business woman who owns a certified organic farm I must satisfy complicated regulations. This has given me an understanding of how regulations assure customers our products are what they claim to be, and safe. I also understand how regulations can easily become overly burdensome and time consuming.

I have administrated a business for over 30 years, and spent 8 years overseeing many volunteers.

2. What is your top priority for this office and how would you address it?

BARKER:

Let's start by noting that the Voice of the Tax Payer is not currently being heard. The short three minute Public Comments are often ignored; the decision on MC Code and funding of special interest projects are usually made before the meeting's start. I'll propose changing the Commissioners' meeting times to the evenings when citizens can attend without missing work and allowing public dialog where questions asked, will be answered. I'll advocate for fully funding First Responders and our Criminal Justice System by insuring that 100% of the public safety tax goes to these agencies. Our roads/highways are in dire need of repair; I'll work with the highway department on road repair classifications and meet with State and other officials for matching Grant monies.

JONES:

Due to increasing drug problems, and the state not accepting level 6 felons in their prisons, our jail is often severely overcrowded. To avoid a federal mandate to build a much larger jail it is important we strengthen Community Corrections and Probation. These county departments work together to foster a strong restorative

justice program which eases the burden on the jail, and reduces recidivism. These programs are spread throughout county buildings. A space is needed where everything can be housed together for a more coordinated approach. This would lead to more comprehensive and cost effective outcomes. Unfortunately space needs are great and the supply is low. I will work with others to address the space and staffing needs within the public safety system.

3. What are the challenges presented by the 2015 Monroe County Urbanizing Area Plan, and how might they be met?

BARKER:

The biggest challenge is reversing the Code that strips landowners of their property rights. Farmers invest their earning back into their farms; their 401K fund. It's absurd to write Code that prohibits them from dividing their property only once every 10 years. How would you like it if Government allowed you only one draw on your 401K every 10 years? I-69 is here, so let's grow our economy and bring in high paying jobs. The current Code discourages businesses from coming to Monroe County. It's a domino effect; no new businesses, no new jobs, and more tax burden for existing taxpayers. It's time that common sense and the Voice of the landowners is heard. Grow the economy, more jobs, and reduce the tax burden.

JONES:

The Plan Commission is in the final stages of the Urbanizing Plan, with the ordinances that will support it being the main component left to work out. The intent of the plan is to keep development close to already existing infrastructure, to simplify the zoning structure, and to try to keep new developments compatible with what is already established. At this time the consulting firm MKSK, hired by the plan commission is working with county planning staff to draft these ordinances. MKSK is extremely experienced in working with citizens to tailor these ordinances to fit the community vision as much as possible. There have been many opportunities for residents to give their input, and there will be more.

4. What are your proposals for waste reduction in the county?

BARKER:

Based on 20 years of practical waste reduction experience and proven leadership, my recommendations are:

1. Residential and Business recycling must be free, driving the cost of trash disposal down drastically. I drafted HB 1183, which is now Law, requiring 50% of the recyclables to be taken out of the waste stream.
2. End the questionable monopoly that currently exists in Monroe County.
3. Establish a public/private partnership with the waste industry that promotes waste reduction.
4. The Solid Waste Management Board needs to provide a clear and defined course of action to the Solid Waste Management District on enhancing their educational outreach programs that promotes Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.
5. A clear vision of how waste reduction will be implemented in Monroe County.

JONES:

When I first heard about the possibility of a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) I supported it. Fortunately the Solid Waste District hired a firm to do a study on the feasibility and fiscal impact. The Kessler report showed the only way a MRF could be viable would be if the City and IU were to contribute, which they are uninterested

in. However the study did show 30% of the waste Monroe County is sending to the landfill is compostable. I am looking forward to exploring the possibility of the Solid Waste District offering a composting program. I also think an expanded education component is becoming increasingly important for waste reduction. As the recycling industry changes citizens will need to consider re-using whenever possible.

County Council Representatives

establish tax rates on property, appropriate funds, adopt budget, and borrow money for the county. [Call 812.349.2569 to find your district.]

County Council, District 1

T. Ann Boehm (R)

Shelli Yoder (D)

1. What are your qualifications for this office?

BOEHM:

My qualifications include attending the Kelley School of Business for accounting while working for IU. I also have many years experience in the finance sector including banking, small business and county government. As a local accountant currently, my job is to evaluate personal and corporate finances for hundreds of clients in order to provide tax services. Living in Bloomington for 12 years now, I see the needs of the community.

YODER:

I bring education and work experience, as well as a temperament that is compassionate, collaborative, and focused on problem-solving. Specifically, I have: 6 years in county budgeting and fiscal management experience; 15 years in non-profit executive management experience; Association of Indiana Counties Institute for Excellence in County Government Budget & Finance training; Indiana Gateway for Government Units training; Bachelor's degree in communication; Master's degrees in education and in theology; Keirsey® Temperament Certification

2. What is your top priority for this office, and how would you address it?

BOEHM:

I want to bring back fiscal responsibility with total transparency and accountability. This includes more contribution from Indiana University and less taxation on the residents. It includes politicians that don't make deals with companies who desire government contracts and politicians who steal should be punished appropriately. Our local economy is not providing the necessary revenue and employment opportunities. People who understand economics and city planning should be making the decisions about Monroe County's future. We have lost balance here and the personal pet projects of a few seem to be the priority while more and more committees are formed to solve problems that should be solved by those already elected.

YODER:

My top priority is building and enhancing community partnerships to address the causes and effects of substance use disorder in our community. The financial strain upon county resources - not to mention the heart-break experienced by our neighbors and friends - is not sustainable. I will continue to address this issue using evidence-based practices, coordinating support, and building capacity among government units, businesses, and social service agencies. The generational impact substance use disorder is having and will continue to have on programs like CASA, Youth Services, Courts, County Corrections, and Probation, coupled with the adverse

impact on workforce readiness and economic development, demands a comprehensive, coordinated and unified response.

3. What responsibility does the county have for addressing issues of poverty, addiction, and homelessness? How would you alleviate these problems?

BOEHM:

The responsibility of the county is to ensure that those in power are establishing proper protocols and not abusing their positions. Those who have broken the law and require help need the proper punishment and treatment. City planning and zoning issues need to be addressed as well as the amount of tax exempt property owned by the university. Tax exempt property is one reason our revenues to provide more services is not available. Student housing is taking up more and more land as well leaving us with the threat of annexation on those who wish to stay outside city limits. All of these issues need to be addressed and re-evaluated with real costs benefit analysis.

YODER:

As co-founder of the county's Opioid Summit, founding member of the Opioid Commission, 6-year board member of South Central Community Action Program, and 4-year member of the Head Start Policy Council, I believe it is the county's responsibility to be part of our community's solutions and conversations on poverty, addiction, and homelessness, and in some cases to be the leader. To alleviate these problems, I support the establishment of a Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program to redirect low-level drug offenders to community-based services, instead of jail and prosecution. I also support partnerships that promote Housing First initiatives including both permanent supportive housing for those suffering from chronic illness, mental illness and substance use disorder, as well as rapid re-housing programs that provide individuals and families short-term rental assistance and services to help people obtain housing quickly, increase self-sufficiency, stay in school, maintain employment, and decrease demands on emergency services.

County Council, District 2

Ann Collins (R)

Kate Wiltz (D)

1. What are your qualifications for this office?

COLLINS:

As the manager of the Business Services department, I was responsible for the budget and budget process in my department for a Fortune 1000 company. Currently managing my own Real Estate business for over 25 years. Actively involved in the local community with the Monroe County Women's Commission, BBOR, MCAA, Neighborhood Association, Schools, and church. Former Director of Development and Board member for a local non-profit. BA in Marketing and Logistics from OSU.

WILTZ:

As a project manager, I regularly look at budgets and for ways that limited funding can achieve the greatest impact. I have worked with all levels of government on building partnerships, strategic planning, and stakeholder engagement. This has given me a broad, systems perspective and an appreciation for multiple viewpoints in problem-solving. My background with the state extension service allowed me to work with landowners on conservation best practices in agriculture and suburban-wildland interface areas.

2. What is your top priority for this office, and how would you address it?

COLLINS:

My top priority is to return the County Council to a place where we can discuss and solve problems with ALL the community. Having discussions with the public at the same level and detail as we have them with consultants paid by the county. We shouldn't have a few minutes of public comment, just to be told "thank you" with no one addressing the points we've brought up. That is disrespectful to those that have valuable input, to feel ignored, because they don't have the "consultant" title in their name. I will encourage the County Council to solicit our local community and invite them to come share their expertise. We have a diverse community with so much talent and experience right here locally.

WILTZ:

My top priority on County Council is to connect people in finding sustainable solutions to meet the needs of Monroe County. Specifically, I want to make sure that public-private-nonprofit collaboration is encouraged and supported, and our tax dollars go to providing innovative, cost-effective solutions with measurable outcomes related to our community's challenges. I use the word "sustainability" intentionally to reflect both financial and environmental stewardship. Sustainable economic and social development must protect our environmental systems – our water, air, and forests. These protections should be an explicit part of our decision-making across all sectors, and not just a corollary or add-on policy.

3. What responsibility does the county have for addressing issues of poverty, addiction, and homelessness? How would you alleviate these problems?

COLLINS:

Monroe County has one of the highest poverty rates in Indiana. Students contribute to that; however, we can't just ignore solutions that could raise wages and bring in businesses to Monroe. Poverty and homelessness are not, one size fits all. Homeless are people, who are struggling with poverty, addiction, mental health or any combination of these. Ones in poverty can be address by a positive business environment, providing jobs and higher wages. The rest can be addressed by following the Utah and NY Housing First initiative model. These studies show that the cost to provide a stable home is less than treating the issue in hospitals and on the streets. Monroe county is doing a lot right like the Shalom Center with the Clayton 1 & 2 along with the other local organizations that are working so hard. The county council can help by funding projects such as this.

WILTZ:

Government exists to serve and support its people and their community. Poverty, addiction, and homelessness – and their impacts on schools, public health, and criminal justice systems – represent a failure in our community and our government to adequately care for all of its people. These issues are intertwined and have complicated causes that require complex analysis and carefully considered solutions. When we look at entrenched societal bias and the social and economic barriers faced by people of color, those in need of recovery, and other marginalized populations, the inequity is palpable.

Our budgets reflect our values. I support harm reduction and diversion to treatment approaches for addiction, housing first and rapid rehousing approaches for those experiencing homelessness, and financial mediation and affordable housing for those struggling to make ends meet. And for all these, I expect to involve those directly and indirectly affected in the solutions we develop.

County Council, District 3

Martha “Marty” Hawk (R)
Ashley Pirani (D)

1. What are your qualifications for this office?**HAWK:**

Many years of continuing education regarding county budgeting, legislation changes, new tax laws. Etc.

PIRANI:

My qualifications to serve on County Council include budgetary experience gained serving on the boards of both Bloomington Area Birthing Services and Bloomington Blades Travel Hockey. I serve as the President of Monroe County NOW. I am both a strong leader and a team player. I am meeting with west side residents and business owners to gain their perspectives to ensure I understand their needs and can advocate for those needs.

2. What is your top priority for this office, and how would you address it?**HAWK:**

My top priority has been to watch over the public’s tax dollars. Be fair, prepared, transparent and trustworthy in using dollars in the most responsible and cost effective way to provide required services.

PIRANI:

One of my three top priorities is increased accessibility of the west side. One aspect is expanding rural transit – both in areas served as well as operational days and hours. Rural transit needs to be more flexible and available to more west side residents. In addition, I support development of connector roads to create a grid system that would increase accessibility of the west side for businesses thus increasing the likelihood of economic development. This also provides improved infrastructure to support better traffic flow to businesses, particularly those impacted by the I-69 development. I will ensure that growth to the west side is accomplished in such a way as to not interfere with the quality of life of its residents.

3. What responsibility does the county have for addressing issues of poverty, addiction, and homelessness? How would you alleviate these problems?**HAWK:**

The county council is the fiscal body of the county. We respond to requests brought before us. We must use funds first for what we are statutorily required to do. However, it is my hope that we will advocate for growing our jobs and economy, thereby reducing poverty and the difficulty of finding affordable housing.

PIRANI:

The county plays an important role in addressing issues of poverty, homelessness, and substance use disorders. These issues are not bound by the city limits. It is imperative to see the connection between these three issues in order to address them in a comprehensive manner. As a county council member, I would ensure that all solutions currently available through county boards and commissions and community organizations are supported, as appropriate, as well as funding to investigate new solutions to these issues. One such solution is law enforcement assisted diversion (LEAD). LEAD was created specifically to address addiction, homelessness, and extreme poverty. Law enforcement assisted diversion gives the alternative of services and treatment rather

than jail time. The implementation of a LEAD program would be an essential component in working to solve our county's issues of homelessness, poverty, and substance use disorders as well as an overcrowded jail.

Township Trustee

[elected by township residents]: administers emergency welfare and other services to township residents.

Bean Blossom Township Trustee

Ed Bitner (R)

Pam (Stewart) Cook (D)

1. What are your qualifications for this office?

BITNER:

Nine-year volunteer in Emergency Services. Twenty-one years as a private business owner. As a volunteer in Emergency Services I volunteered as a firefighter and Emergency Medical Technician for Ellettsville Fire Department. As a business owner I had to maintain operating within my budget while NOT expecting others to pay my expenses. This required planning ahead.

COOK:

I have served as Trustee for the last five years and have gained a wealth of knowledge and experience in township government. I have submitted budgets, maintained and restored cemeteries, advocated for our Fire Department, supported our park and Quarry Fest, provided emergency assistance to citizens in need and have balanced the books. I am a life-long resident of the Township, attending Stinesville School grades 1-8 and am a graduate of Edgewood and Indiana University.

2. What do you see as the top priority for your township, and how would you address it?

BITNER:

I have three top actually. 1: Provide fulltime emergency services for Bean Blossom residents. 2: Remove anxiety from Bean Blossom residents wanting to meet with the Trustee, and 3: Provide better communications for Emergency Services.

How? 1: By working with County/State offices/departments and other County fire departments and devise a way to serve our Township better at no additional cost to tax payers. 2: By placing the Trustee's office in a public office setting within property already owned by the Trustee and remove it from a private residence. 3: Working with other entities to have a cell tower placed in the area.

COOK:

In the wake of Stinesville School closing due to circumstances beyond the Township's control, my priority is to ensure that our volunteer fire department does not suffer the same fate. I will endeavor to provide fire protection and make sure our fire fighters have what they need to safely do their jobs. I have increased the fire department's annual operating budget by 20% without raising taxes and helped them secure additional Public Safety funding of \$90,000 over the last three years. I am committed to being an honest steward of Township resources and will continue to seek funding for the fire department and pledge to do everything I can to ensure an active station remains open in the Township.

Bloomington Township Trustee

Kim H. Alexander (D)
Azure Fender (R)

1. What are your qualifications for this office?**ALEXANDER:**

I have been a resident of Bloomington Township for 18 years. As a board member since 2015, I have had the opportunity to learn about the township – the budget, fire department, and the role it plays in the daily lives of many of its residents. I have also had the privilege of serving on the Northern Monroe Fire Territory Executive Committee. I understand the challenges of the office and am committed to serving the public.

FENDER: NR**2. What do you see as the top priority for your township, and how would you address it?****ALEXANDER:**

A top priority will be to deliver assistance to those residents who are experiencing economic hardship in their daily lives. This is, and will be, accomplished through the maintenance of the on-site food pantry as well as assistance with housing, utilities and medical needs. An equally important priority will be to strengthen and bolster the Northern Monroe Fire Territory which was formed in 2016. One of the ways to do this is by implementing the original decision by the boards of Washington and Bloomington Townships to build a fire station in Washington Township on the west side of I-69. This will greatly improve response times for emergency medical services and fire runs for the residents of that area. This is a public safety issue.

FENDER: NR**Indian Creek Township Trustee**

Beverly Himes (D)
Christopher R. Reynolds (R)

1. What are your qualifications for this office?**HIMES:**

I've lived in Indian Creek Township for most of my life, and I was a member of the board of directors of the Indian Creek Firefighters for several years, which gave me an understanding of the importance of fire protection. I'm familiar with the Indiana Codes that relate to the duties of township trustees, I've had experience with budgets, and I have a strong desire to serve my community with integrity, transparency, and fiscal responsibility.

REYNOLDS: NR**2. What do you see as the top priority for your township, and how would you address it?****HIMES:**

The top priority for our township is fire protection, which is being addressed by our participation in the newly formed Southern Monroe Fire Protection District headed by the Perry Clear Creek Fire Department. This was accomplished by the hard work of Trustee Vickie Sorensen and the current township board. I will continue to

support and advocate for the fire department and make sure that an active station remains open in Indian Creek Township. I hope to continue the excellent work of Trustee Sorensen, and I'll be looking for ways to enhance our beautiful community park with possibly some newer equipment, as has been suggested to me.

REYNOLDS: NR

Township Board Members

[three board members are elected by residents in each township]: approve township budget and expenditures.

Bean Blossom Township Board Members

Debra Hutson (R)
Ronald H. Hutson (R)
Randy Jacobs (D)
Kelsey McGlocklin (D)
Vicki L. McGlocklin (R)
Benny Walden (D)

1. What are your qualifications for this office?

HUTSON, D.:

I have successfully owned and operated a business within Monroe County for over 30 years. My experience with the citizens of this and surrounding counties in Indiana has provided me with great leadership skills, as well as the desire to help our community thrive.

HUTSON, R.:

I have been employed and also a business owner for the last 15 years in Monroe County and for 30 years in my home state of Illinois. I have an AAS in Electronics, Am licensed Plumber and HVAC Technician. I have been involved in my Church as part of the Helps Ministry. I see the nuts and bolts of every situation.

JACOBS:

I've been a lifelong resident of Monroe County and grew up in Bean Blossom Township. I've served on the Bean Blossom Township Fire Department as well as Town Marshal for Stinesville. I have an Associates Degree from Vincennes University and currently finishing my Bachelors degree in Criminal Justice. I'm a Lieutenant with the Monroe County Sheriff's Office where I have served for the last 18 years. I'm committed to the community and those I serve.

McGLOCKLIN, K.:

My qualifications for this office are that I have been a lifelong resident of Bean Blossom Township. I work in the Monroe County Voter Registration office. I have also been on the Stinesville Park Board for the last four years and was just appointed to my second term. I have my Bachelor of Science degree in Hospitality Management.

McGLOCKLIN, V.: NR

WALDEN: NR

2. How will you ensure the most efficient use of township resources?

HUTSON, D.:

If I am elected, I would ensure that the Monroe County/Bean Blossom Township's resources are utilized in the most cost effective manner providing the largest return on investment possible.

HUTSON, R.:

If elected I will work to see that Monroe County, Bean Blossom TWP funds and resources are put to efficient use and not wasted on frivolous ventures. No Employee or Resident will be Unheard. I will do all in my power to support and advise our Trustee.

JACOBS:

I will ensure the most efficient use of township resources by frequent evaluations of expenditures to validate reasonable spending is taking place. As a board, we need to look to outside sources for grant opportunities to fund projects to assist with economic development within the community. By utilizing other resources, we can try to keep the burden off the local tax payers. Ensuring emergency responders are equipped and available to respond is my top priority.

McGLOCKLIN, K.:

I will ensure the most efficient use of township resources will go towards fire protection. I would work with the fire department and the rest of the board and trustee to ensure that we have at least one if not more full time firefighters employed during the day while our volunteers are at work. I would also like to focus township resources on equipment for fire protection to better ensure that the citizens of Bean Blossom Township are protected.

McGLOCKLIN, V.: NR

WALDEN: NR

Benton Township Board Members

Joe Husk (D)
Hans Kelson (D)
Sean McInerney (D)
Lynn Stevens (R)

1. What are your qualifications for this office?

HUSK:

I am a fair and honest individual with integrity, and I have a genuine desire to support and aid Benton Township residents. I joined the Benton Township Board in October 2017, serving first as secretary and currently as president of the board. I have 25 years of combined experience in IT support, management, and leadership through my employment with Indiana University.

KELSON:

I've lived in Benton Township for my whole life. I know the challenges that face people who live here, including long delays in our emergency service system. I'm good at working with others and coming to an agreement on things, and I enjoy working hard to solve problems.

McINERNEY: NR

STEVENS: NR

2. How will you ensure the most efficient use of township resources?

HUSK:

As a fiscally responsible individual, I believe in finding a balance between cost and quality of service. The township board has a responsibility to ensure that a financially sound annual budget is adopted and that contracts are reasonable and comprehensive. My attention to detail allows me to be able to look at the bigger picture, but also to anticipate underlying factors and influences. This viewpoint has helped me—in both my personal and professional life—to avoid additional, and sometimes unforeseen, costs that have a potential to add up significantly.

KELSON:

I will work with my fellow board members and our trustee to make sure that in a time when we have a very limited budget, we spend money only on the things that are necessary, and that every dollar is used wisely in accomplishing what we have to do.

McINERNEY: NR

STEVENS: NR

Bloomington Township Board Members

Dawn Allen (R)

Lorraine Merriman Farrell (D)

Barbara E. McKinney (D)

Nelson Shaffer (R)

Marty Spechler (D)

1. What are your qualifications for this office?

ALLEN: NR

FARRELL:

As summarized by the State of Indiana, “Duties of the (Township) board include adopting the annual budget, serving as a board of finance, and approving township contracts.” My related past and current experience includes: Part-owner, VP, and Chair of the VP Committee (collectively COO) of Sunrise Publications, Inc; Sole owner, FOSSIL RAIN® retail gallery; Currently in year 20 as a Monroe County Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) serving some of our community's most vulnerable children

McKINNEY:

I’ve served on the Bloomington Township Board since 1999. I bring to the board institutional memory, a knowledge of what worked in the past and a willingness to try new strategies as we encounter new challenges. I’ve also a long-term assistant city attorney with the City of Bloomington with substantial knowledge about local government, governmental law and resources. As the human rights director, I have a deep commitment to making sure people are treated equitably.

SHAFFER:

I, Nelson Shaffer, have lived in and contributed to Monroe County since 1974. My family and I have lived in the county, the 2-mile fringe, and in Bloomington. I grew up farming and still appreciate that life. As a geologist I know about resources, water, and environmental matters, serving Indiana University for more than 40 years. I love the land, the people, and the community.

SPECHLER:

Professor of Economics Emeritus, Indiana University. Former member of the Bloomington City Council and member of the Jack Hopkins Social Service committee. Democratic Central Committee representing Bloomington 10. Past President Bloomington Jewish Community.

Specialist on planning and budgeting of public organizations.

2. How will you ensure the most efficient use of township resources?**ALLEN: NR****FARRELL:**

I am keenly aware that governmental budgets reflect who we are as a community. This concept will drive my work as a future Bloomington Township Board member and ensure the Bloomington Township Trustee will have a budget that supports the following objectives in service to Bloomington Township residents: Provide temporary emergency help due to unforeseen hardship; Assist with basic needs such as rent, utilities, food, and some medical care; Provide fire protection and maintain our Northern Monroe Fire Territory; Maintain abandoned cemeteries, handle weed complaints, fence line disputes, and arrange for indigent burials; Keep the garden properly tended, the food pantry stocked with healthy foods, maintain the family shelter, and retain ownership of the building housing a community meal site.

McKINNEY:

By carefully reviewing budget proposals and reports, by studying the issues and by asking the right questions. Local governments are increasingly asked to do more with less. Elected officials need to have the ability to determine proper priorities and to make sure that our resources, both personnel and financial, are being used effectively to reach those priorities. My experience gives me that ability.

SHAFFER:

Resources are always limited. I have extensive experience in managing complex scientific and field projects. For several years I was also executive director for the Indiana Academy of Science including administering its grant programs, publications, membership data, and organizing large meetings. I would apply cost-benefit analyses and seek assistance when needed. I would assure that standard accounting procedures as modified for government units were applied.

Further, I would try to cooperate with other entities in dealing with waste management, purchasing, and procedures. I would apply technology to planning. Safety is a most important function and I would strive to acquire an optimal site for local fire and rescue stations. I would encourage responsible development to increase the tax base so we could limit tax increases.

SPECHLER:

I support construction of a new fire house closer to I-69, where we anticipate more serious accidents requiring rapid assistance from our firefighters to save lives and prevent the spread of hazardous materials.

Bloomington Township should advertise more widely our willingness to help citizens needing immediate and modest assistance, such as car repairs for work or fixing a leak at their home. Our food pantry offers many articles free of charge to any citizen. But many of the most needy do not know about our office and its sympathetic staff on duty.

We should gladly continue to cooperate with neighboring Washington and Benton townships in fulfilling their emergency duties, provided they will agree to share the reasonable expenses in doing so.

Indian Creek Township Board Members

Scott M. Clarke (R)
Rosemary Doherty (D)
Katrina Weimer Ladwig (R)
Wayne Sullivan (D)
Roger L. Taylor (R)

1. What are your qualifications for this office?

CLARKE: NR

DOHERTY:

Rosemary Doherty: Indian Creek Township resident for 26+ years. Work experience: RN- worked for 10 years at local Hospital and still working 19+ years at not for profit Area Agency on Aging. I have extensive experience working as a member of interdisciplinary teams focused on taking practical, cost effective steps so people with significant health challenges can stay at home for as long as possible. Hard working, a good listener, positive attitude, strong communication skills.

LADWIG:

I'm a lifelong resident of Monroe County. My family has owned property and farmed in Indian Creek Township since 1952 and I personally have lived in the township for 23 years. I've previously served on the Monroe County 4-H Board and the Fair Board. Currently serving as vice president of the Indian Creek Community Association, I enjoy working to preserve and sustain our quality of life for all residents of this beautiful rural township.

SULLIVAN: NR

TAYLOR:

A. I was a member of the executive board of the Indiana Rural Letter Carriers Association where my duties included reviewing and approving the expenditures of the Association. I have been trained in mediation and arbitration concepts, conflict resolution as well as research and file building. I have served as treasurer for the Indian Creek Lions Club for twenty years and now serve as president. I am currently serving as president elect for the Grace Center Food Pantry Inc..

2. How will you ensure the most efficient use of township resources?

CLARKE: NR

DOHERTY:

To ensure the most efficient use of township resources I will endeavor to follow the excellent example set by our outgoing Trustee and Board: wisely spend and save our tax dollars to provide Township mandated

community services including: 1.) Maintain and improve our Indian Creek Township Park. 2.) Provide Fair Township Financial Assistance following State and ICT guidelines. 3.) Publicize Township meetings and hold them at times people can attend. 4.) Maintain up to date bookkeeping open to public view. 5.) Work to continue and increase Community participation. 6.) Continue to support Grace Food Pantry, an inter-township cooperative venture. 7.) Initiate volunteer Community clean up days to keep our ICT roads some of the most beautiful roadways in Monroe County.

LADWIG:

I'm a team player, experienced in working with others toward goals and decisions for the benefit of all. My career at Indiana University has included working with various alumni boards of directors, gaining experience in managing budgets, helping bring consensus when differences arose, and observing and understanding the responsibilities of a board. Indian Creek Township is unique in our rural lifestyle. As a member and current officer of the Indian Creek Community Association, I've helped plan activities to encourage a sense of community among township residents. If elected to the Township Board, I will continue to work on behalf of all residents toward creating community, supporting our rural way of life, and ensuring our resources are used wisely and efficiently.

SULLIVAN: NR**TAYLOR:**

Having lived in the township for fifty-two years I have a good feel and understanding of what's going on in the township. If there are issues or situation that I don't understand I have many resources in the township that I can turn to for advice. In my career I have been responsible for budgets, finance and payrolls. Serving on the Township Board will not be different than what I have done for most of my working career. As an elected official I will work with the trustee and strive to be frugal with the fiduciary responsibility entrusted to me by the taxpayers of Indian Creek Township.

Perry Township Board Members

Jack Davis (D)
Susie Hamilton (D)
Jennifer Mickel (R)
Barbara Sturbaum (D)
Scott Tibbs (R)

1. What are your qualifications for this office?**DAVIS:**

As an incumbent candidate for the Perry Township Board, I have many years of experience and knowledge that's necessary to administer programs that assist with food, shelter, utilities and medical expenses while making sure taxpayer's dollars are being used in the most efficient and transparent manner. I will continue to work diligently to assure on-going financial support is available to those agencies whose services are available to low-income Perry Township residents.

HAMILTON:

Fourteen year resident of Perry Township, home owner. Sat on a township board when living in Salt Creek. Having been of a loving family that was in need of food subsidy, help from other family members I realize that

some point in one's life they may need help from various sources. I have never been afraid to work at almost any job to help with family needs.

MICKEL: NR

STURBAUM:

I have been fortunate to serve on the Perry Township Trustee board since 1987. I am a life-long Monroe County resident and have worked in social services which gives me a unique perspective into the issues and problems of the less fortunate. Perry Township is a state award winning township, and I am proud to be a part of its governance.

TIBBS:

I have been following local government for twenty years. I have worked in accounting for sixteen years, which is relevant experience for a body that decides budgets. I believe that viewpoint diversity would benefit township government, rather than one party governance. I would provide that viewpoint diversity.

2. How will you ensure the most efficient use of township resources?

DAVIS:

Providing emergency assistance to low-income residents is the Township Trustee's major function. Perry Township has a highly qualified professional staff with years of experience in township assistance, and as an incumbent Board Member I will continue to assure poor relief is handled fairly by working closely with the Trustee and fellow Board Members. I will continue to work hard to ensure all applicable guidelines are followed, and each applicant is treated with dignity, fairness and understanding.

HAMILTON:

Since I pay property taxes in Perry Twp. I try to keep the rate as low as possible without causing lack of funds for mandated spending. Although the "Board" does not hear the requests of individuals we oversee the budget and do question if one item or another is too much. But when the state tells a Trustee that an item has to be paid there is not much we can do.

MICKEL: NR

STURBAUM:

The Perry Township budget is divided into sections to allow a clear review of poor relief. Perry Township maximizes resources by granting a modest amount of money each year to social service organizations for food, shelter, and children's issues. In addition, a low income apartment building run by Area X Agency provides housing for the elderly. Perry Township also provides very low cost office rent for several social service agencies, allowing their money to go further. Excellent staff networking demonstrated by annual data confirms financial resource management.

TIBBS:

My plan to put all agenda items online would open township business up to public input in a way that is not the case currently. Increased awareness of what the township is doing with the taxpayers' money would be helpful in keeping the board (me included) accountable. I will closely scrutinize and ask questions before budget decisions to ensure that we are taking care to spend the taxpayers' money.

Van Buren Township Board Members

Ronnie G. Pursell (R)
Mary Rice (R)
William "Will" E. Smith III (D)
John Wilson (R)

1. What are your qualifications for this office?**PURSELL: NR****RICE: NR****SMITH:**

I am currently an Assistant Director of Advising at IU, supervising 15 professional academic advisors. I managed a budget and guided policy during my two terms as the President of the Bloomington Academic Advising Council. In the past, I have worked in factory, retail, food service, and hospitality jobs. I have also taught for IU's Lifelong Learning program and volunteered with the MCPL's VITAL program and the ACA Volunteers for Monroe County.

WILSON: NR**2. How will you ensure the most efficient use of township resources?****PURSELL: NR****RICE: NR****SMITH:**

As a board member, I will prioritize meeting township needs with existing funding while looking for innovative practices to more effectively utilize our limited resources. I would support allocating money to hire three more full-time firefighters. I would also back collaborating with other local fire departments to create larger economies of scale to get better prices on fire protection equipment. In addition to advocating for pegging our township assistance eligibility criteria to the federal poverty level, I believe Van Buren Township can become an innovative leader in how it handles township assistance. I would propose creating a car repair fund and a weatherization program to help qualifying people increase their own self-sufficiency over the long run.

WILSON: NR**Washington Township Board Members**

Jerry W. Ayers (R)
Kenny L. Bryant (R)
Lee Chapman (D)
Troy Lee Colvin (R)
Patricia Slabach (D)
Paul Toddy (I)

1. What are your qualifications for this office?**AYERS:**

I am a resident and property owner in Washington Township. I have over 50 years of experience in both the public and private sectors creating and monitoring financially responsible budgets. I have been a Director and treasurer of the Washington Township Water Authority for over 20 years.

BRYANT:

I have been serving Washington Township for the past 16 years as a board member of Washington Township Water Authority, with 10 years, current year included, as President of said board. I have lived in Washington Township on and off throughout my life and I too, have been affected by the unjust tax hikes that have been brought upon us by the current township administration.

CHAPMAN: NR**COLVIN:**

This is my first election process. I was appointed in 2017 to take Mr. Spears place. I have 27 years experience in public safety. I am straight forward and care about what people have to say.

SLABACH:

I have been a business professional for 30 years, specializing in information technology, communications and software. Experience in technical writing, websites and project management. I have attended township and fire territory meetings for 3 years and have some knowledge of current operations. I currently volunteer my time to provide the Washington Township Trustee with free website services and will continue this service, if elected. Am also interested in expanding township outreach for community needs.

TODDY:

I have lived in Washington Township for thirty-eight years where my wife and I raised our two children. I served two terms on the Washington Township Water Board and was a core member of COPA, Coalition Opposed to PCB Ash, a Washington Township citizens group that successfully lobbied to stop the PCB Incinerator and ash landfill destined for Bottom Road. In addition, I have extensive budget experience in my career in Construction and Facilities management.

2. How will you ensure the most efficient use of township resources?**AYERS:**

The resource that board members control is the tax dollars allocated to the Township. The Board members approve tax rates, and budgets. I will oppose any budget that increases the tax rate for fire protection over this year's rate. I support using the 240,000 dollars in the township general fund to reduce future tax rates. I am supportive of a satellite facility that reduces travel time for first responders. I am opposed to building an elaborate fire station that would tie us to the fire territory and limit our future options. I believe that fire protection and first responders can be more effectively managed at the County level.

BRYANT:

My main priority as your board member will be to bring transparency back to Washington Township, as well as looking into finding adequate fire and EMS services at an affordable tax rate for the citizens of Washington Township. I hope to work with Jerry Ayers and Troy Colvin to address any and all issues brought to our

attention by our greatest resource, the residents of Washington Township, to ensure the voice's of Washington Township are heard.

CHAPMAN: NR

COLVIN:

I will listen to the people of Washington Township and ensure they have a voice in the decisions made by the Washington Township Board.

SLABACH:

The largest part of our township budget goes for fire and emergency services. I support continuing the current relationship with the professional firefighters at the Northern Monroe Fire Territory, which provides us excellent fire and emergency services and is a well-established, economical resource since we can partner with other townships. My opposing candidates want to pull-out out of the Northern Monroe Fires Territory, with no good alternative, which we cannot afford, nor will it provide even adequate protection for our residents. Minutes Matter! I am in favor of building a new fire station on donated land on Simpson Chapel Road. Other areas of interest - establishing a food pantry for residents, partnering with county or others for bike stations on Bottom Road.

TODDY:

Washington Township has many residences that have modest incomes so it is vital to be prudent with the Township's limited funds. I will ensure that Township financial resources are used efficiently via communication with others, gathering information and asking hard questions. For example, after reviewing the initial plans for the new fire station I recommended several changes to reduce the building size and to use less expensive construction components. In addition, I assisted in editing the Request for Proposals that went out to several local contractors to make sure that we were receiving competitive bids. These changes resulted in a modest size building, with simple exterior and interior design elements, but added structural elements to ensure long term building life and lower maintenance costs.

Ellettsville Town Council Representative, Ward 5

council oversees the administrative and financial functions of the town government.

Todd Lare (D)

Pamela Samples (R)

1. What are your qualifications for this office?

LARE:

I have been a resident of Ellettsville for more than 6 years and served on the Ellettsville Board of Zoning Appeals for the past few years. I have a Master's degree in Community Economic Development and have served as an Executive Director of a large nonprofit serving the local human services needs of residents for more than 11 years. I am committed to using this knowledge to help move the town into the future.

SAMPLES: NR***2. How should the Ellettsville Town Council work with other Monroe County stakeholders such as Stinesville and Bloomington?*****LARE:**

The Ellettsville Town Council should coordinate with other local units of government to plan for and deliver effective and efficient services to tax-paying constituents. This includes planning for growth and development, providing for public safety and emergency services for all residents, and allowing for animal control, among others. Town Council members must ensure that Ellettsville's interests are heard and understood even while cooperatively providing for services where other stakeholders may have different views or policy priorities.

SAMPLES: NR**SCHOOL BOARDS**

Monroe County Community School Corporation (MCCSC) Board Members for Districts 1 and 3; Richland-Bean Blossom Community School Corporation (RBBSC) Board Members for Bean Blossom and Richland townships: [board members must reside in the represented district or township, but are elected by residents in each school corporation]; elections are nonpartisan.

MCCSC Board, District 1

Eric Breidenstein
Jane Gouker
Thao Nelson
Elizabeth Ruh

1. Where do you stand on the use of public funds for charter and online schools, and vouchers?**BREIDENSTEIN: NR****GOUKER:**

I am totally against the use of public funds intended for public schools to be used for anything other than our public schools. Our country provides for a free public educational opportunity for all. If someone wants to pursue an alternate path, then they should be prepared to fund that desire without the use of public monies. The public funds are for public schools – period. The government should not award payment vouchers out of these funds for charter or online schools. These schools are not non-profit organizations.

NELSON:

I unequivocally believe in the value of public education. I'm a proud product of the public education system, and so is my husband, Mike Nelson, who attended the Monroe County School Corporation from K-12. We decided to move back to Bloomington 9 years ago to raise our family in this community because of the strong public education system. Any time money is being taken away from this effort, it concerns me. Although our state legislature approved charter and online schools as well as vouchers, I am thankful our community has supported our public schools with two referendums to offset district costs due to the reallocation of funding to these programs.

RUH:

While I can appreciate the choice that vouchers bring to families, they drain essential public funds away from community-based public schools while lacking in the accountability that is expected of public schools. We need to understand what families are seeking from the charter and online schools and strive to bring those opportunities (and dollars) into MCCSC.

Private schools are legally able to discriminate and choose who attend, even when the student's spot is funded by a voucher while public schools must take everyone. During 2013 public funds spent on vouchers in Indiana totaled \$37 million. In 2017 that grew to \$146 million. Online schools are a type of charter school, they are particularly lacking in oversight and accountability.

2. Standardized testing is one facet of current educational practices. Do you think good scores mean good schools?

BREIDENSTEIN: NR**GOUKER:**

I do not think good scores on standardized tests necessarily mean a good school. These scores should only be one element considered when evaluating a school. Just as in weighing a grade for a student, one test should not be the teacher's key determining factor for that student's overall grade. One lone test does not reflect all the progress, learning, or ability of a student. It would be most short sighted to "rate" a school's effectiveness by only examining their students' standardized test scores.

NELSON:

The quality of learning in any school is determined by many factors. Unless learning gains are being measured by a standardized test, it would be difficult to use a test to measure a school's success. I believe we should re-focus our conversation on not scores (good or bad) but rather which tests are actually useful to teachers, schools, and districts to measure student progress. What type of formative information, including tests scores, help to measure a student's learning over time? How are we using test scores and other formative assessments to improve our learning plans and teaching methods to reach student achievement goals?

RUH:

I do not. Testing is often a source of anxiety for students, and some students do not perform their best when taking a test, even when they have mastered a skill. You are not able to evaluate a school based on a test; you must evaluate how the school grew as a whole, evaluated on multiple factors. The only thing that standardized test scores accurately predict is the socio-economic status of the students. Higher scores = wealthier students.

3. How do you believe schools can best ensure student safety?

BREIDENSTEIN: NR**GOUKER:**

I feel the first step to keeping schools safe is vigilance: from everyone – students, teachers, administrators, staff, parents, community. One person, one safety measure can't do it all – it takes this collection. If you see something – say something; if you hear something – say something. Awareness and communication are key. All school entrances must be kept as secure as possible. The entry card-access readers are an improvement, but perhaps entrances could be made even more secure through monitors or alarms. And, we MUST provide

the fiscal resources to educate and train staff and students; and to provide good mental health supports, counseling, and psychological resources for students and families. There needs to be a network of professionals and services available.

NELSON:

I am not a safety expert; thus, I would defer to the Monroe County Corporation Systems' safety teams to best answer this question, and I'm confident our district has practices, protocols, and procedures in place to address student safety. With that being said, I believe safe schools should be addressed beyond the walls of each of our 22 schools in the district. We need to continue to build community awareness that student safety is everyone's responsibility and our top priority. Using a three-pronged approach comprised of people (students, teachers, staff, community), place (building), and practices and policies to develop a holistic strategy to create safe learning environments for our children.

RUH:

I do not believe there is one easy solution to this problem. We need to listen to the entire community, including teachers, school staff, students, parents and current security staff to understand the concerns and the ideas for solutions.

Learning occurs best in a warm, welcoming, and orderly school setting, where students are safe and feel free from theft, intimidation, bullying, weapons, drugs or violence of any type. Trusting relationships in school are the most effective means of ensuring school safety, much more so than metal detectors or firearms. Resources should continue to focus on providing additional funding and support for school social workers, mental health services, crisis identification programs, and on enhancing school safety procedures.

MCCSC Board, District 3

Byron R. Turner
Martha Street

1. Where do you stand on the use of public funds for charter and online schools, and vouchers?

TURNER:

Public funding of charter schools must be ended. Because of Indiana's policy that the "money follows the student," public funding of charter schools impoverishes the public schools. Since the public schools are open to everyone, taxpayer dollars for education must stay with the public school system. Another significant reason for charter schools not to receive public funding is that they have nonrepresentative boards that are not democratically accountable to the community. Indiana's voucher program suffers from the same problems: it takes taxpayer money away from the schools that are open to all and gives it to selective schools. In addition, vouchers raise a Constitutional problem since public money goes to parochial schools, violating the separation of Church and State on which the Republic is founded.

STREET:

I believe public taxpayer funds should be used by Public Schools or under their direction. We cannot afford to divert these funds to other organizations without direct accountability to the taxpayer. Public schools need the resources to provide quality and equitable education for ALL students.

2. Standardized testing is one facet of current educational practices. Do you think good scores mean good schools?

TURNER:

Standardized tests have limited usefulness in assessing students, teachers, or schools. Test-taking is a skill like others learned in school—students will do well or poorly based on personal aptitude, training in test-taking strategies, levels of stress, etc. But test scores do not reflect school quality. Numerous studies have documented persuasive evidence showing that standardized test scores are most closely associated with the family income level of the students. Because our schools take all students, from the most highly gifted to those with significant cognitive and learning disabilities, standardization cannot and should not be expected. Moreover, both preparation for standardized tests as well as the excessive time given over to testing in Indiana takes away from time allotted to quality learning.

STREET:

Test scores are only one part of the assessment to evaluate “good schools”. I am proud of the numerous well rounded educational opportunities in MCCSC. There are many bench marks that help us evaluate good schools. Success rates of all graduates is important. Artistic accomplishments, creativity and personal life skills are assets to our young people but not measured by a standardized test. Students mature both physically and mentally at different levels so these factors must be taken into consideration. Two of our high schools were recently honored for their exemplary four year college success rates. Unfortunately too much value is placed on the test score at this time. It is currently the law in Indiana and we must follow it.

3. How do you believe schools can best ensure student safety?

TURNER:

Student safety can best be ensured by a commitment to social and emotional learning (SEL), stronger connections with social services within our community, and evidence-based safety policies and procedures. We must ensure that MCCSC’s new SEL curriculum is supported 100% as it teaches our students empathy for one another, responsible decision making, and emotion management. A stronger connection to local community social services will ensure that students and families that need additional help are supported; stable homes and supportive schools give children the needed security to flourish and face challenges without feeling overwhelmed. Lastly, only policies that are rooted in evidence should be utilized as anything else is a distraction to both students and school staff, administrators, and teachers.

STREET:

The safety of our students is always our number one priority. Anyone who knows something MUST say something. If the whole community is proactive and speaks up if a threat is suggested, Law Enforcement and the School Administration can keep our students safe. It is everyone’s responsibility to protect our precious children and the community in general. MCCSC recently received a Lilly Grant which will address the social emotional needs of our students. I feel it will be an additional safety net for our students.

RBBCSC Board, Bean Blossom Township

Angie Jacobs
Brad Tucker

1. Where do you stand on the use of public funds for charter and online schools, and vouchers?

JACOBS:

I would prefer the public funding for non-public schools not occur. The voucher program takes public funding away from the public school systems; which poses a vastly negative impact on programs and services that public dollars helped support in the past. Public schools are still required to educate any student who enters the building, whereas private, charter and religious based schools have the right in selection of the student that they educate. Without the public funding, inevitably the public school programs will fail because they will not be able to educate in favor of every student to reach his/her full potential. I strongly believe in the public school system and stand firm that we need to find ways to support and protect them.

TUCKER:

The State of Indiana provides educational options with the voucher/school choice system. I understand the concept that students may learn better in different types of school environments. Indiana provides many types of educational opportunities in the K-12 setting. I am a proponent of public school funding to be utilized to help expand and grow public schools. Public schools need to continue to adjust to meet the changing needs of today's learners and provide similar resources to what private schools may offer within the public school setting. I would like to see more collaboration with charter schools and the public schools in order to utilize resources that taxpayers are funding to help prepare our future generations.

2. Standardized testing is one facet of current educational practices. Do you think good scores mean good schools?

JACOBS:

Standardized testing can be a valuable tool that can assess what the student is retaining. However, we cannot depend on a single, set test once a year to determine a child's learning ability. I believe there needs to be a demonstration of growth throughout the student's educational career and social or peer-to-peer milestone development. A child's success should not be categorized into one test when there are several factors throughout the year that demonstrate true ability and function.

TUCKER:

"RBBCSC MISSION

Our mission is to work in cooperation with the community and families to provide students with an education that promotes responsible citizenship, develops critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity." From RBBCSC web page.

RBBCSC mission extends beyond standardized test tools measurements. Standardized test scores provide a measuring stick to one piece of the puzzle outlined in the mission statement of RBBCSC. Standardized testing is one measurement tool of how successful a school corporation may be compared to other school corporations. Scores help corporations to strive toward continued improvement by providing measurable data Based on 2017 results, RBBCSC is an "A" school corporation.

3. How do you believe schools can best ensure student safety?

JACOBS:

School corporations has state mandated policies as guidelines. These guidelines have not been shown to be adequate in protecting children. Involvement from local and state law enforcement agencies should be used

to help provide resources for improvement. It's imperative we provide counseling services to troubled youth and early intervention is key in doing that.

TUCKER:

Proactive safe school measures will continue to be utilized within the school corporation. Society is ever-changing and the school corporation is a component of society. Corporations will continue to monitor and utilize safe school training and mentoring for the safety of all. Unfortunately, violence and safety concerns are present in all facets of life. School safety requires a "team" effort with students, faculty, school employees, law enforcement, parents, social workers, and the list can continue. We all play a part in the communication aspect along with the many safety measurements in place. School corporations along with the school safety partners will continue to strive for a safe and caring school environment.

RBBCSC Board, Richland Township

Dana Robert Kerr

Elaine S. Thomsen

Phillip Walden

1. Where do you stand on the use of public funds for charter and online schools, and vouchers? (125 words)

KERR:

Public funds should be used for public schools. The purpose of the government to provide certain services, such as education, is that these services cannot be provided by the private sector in a manner that is efficient and effective for all. RBBCSC provides an excellent education for our students. We are an "A" Corporation, excelling in math, English/language arts, graduation rate, and college and career readiness. However, we are still limited in the services we can provide because tax dollars are diverted to non-public educational entities. This results in higher class sizes, lower teacher salaries, fewer course offerings, etc. than we could provide if adequately funded. We need to properly fund our public schools who are open to any and all, not selective.

THOMSEN: NR

WALDEN:

I personally believe if less public funds were given to charter or online schools and sent to public schools that the public schools would succeed more if used properly for the students. This particular subject unfortunately is through the state and federal level not at a local level.

2. Standardized testing is one facet of current educational practices. Do you think good scores mean good schools?

KERR:

Standardized test scores are valuable in assessing the quality of education for comparison purposes. However, they are simply one of many factors that should be considered in determining the quality of education the students receive at a given school. Other factors, just as important or more so, are graduation rates, college and career readiness, individualized curriculum, diverse curriculum, social skills, team-building, and so on. Standardized testing cannot adequately reflect a student's ability to be a productive member of society. Teaching our students to be flexible, optimistic, persistent, connected, creative, caring, and contributing are just as important. Performance on a standardized test cannot, by itself, determine how successful a student will be in life. Standardized testing does provide verification that students are receiving a basic foundation.

THOMSEN: NR**WALDEN:**

I honestly don't think a test can tell how good a school is, a teacher or a student. Each individual will learn differently. Some learn more from hands on vs text book, while others have issues reading, etc. We have to find an happy medium for each child to succeed as a school.

3. How do you believe schools can best ensure student safety?**KERR:**

School safety is a paramount concern of students, parents, schools, and the community. RBBCSC provides our students with excellent security. We have a school safety plan, school resource officer, controlled entry and exit of our facilities, trained staff and students, designated school safety coordinators, perform safety audits, and we seek grants to support school safety initiatives. RBBCSC has an exceptional partnership with local law enforcement. It is common for our students to experience the presence of police in and around our schools. RBBCSC recently received a grant to help support a social worker who will work with students proactively. While being prepared to react to school violence is important, we must be prepared to serve our students' needs to prevent violence in the first place.

THOMSEN: NR**WALDEN:**

I believe with certain measures in place, proper equipment (metal detectors, scanners, etc) and a Resource Officer these issues can be reduced to ensure a students safety while at school.

INDIANA OFFICES**Indiana House of Representatives, District 46**

Bob Heaton (R)

E. Thomasina Marsili (D)

1. What are your qualifications for the office you seek?**HEATON: NR****MARSILI:**

A corporate manager for a national restaurant chain, I was sent into failing restaurants to improve quality and productivity. During my 20 years in upper management positions, I cultivated expertise in data-driven decision making, needs assessment, organizational management, operational mapping, and process improvement. Working in communities throughout District 46 as a 911 EMT, I am an experienced public servant. Education: BS-Psychology, member of Psi Chi, Phi Theta Kappa and Who's Who Among College and Universities-2015.

2. How and by whom should redistricting be done after the next census in 2020?**HEATON: NR****MARSILI:**

Redistricting should be conducted by a non-partisan group with equal representation from rural, urban, and suburban areas. I believe that as much as possible, counties should serve as the Indiana House districts, and contiguous counties with small populations could be combined as needed, and the remaining 8 or more seats would be allocated to counties with very high populations. In order to maximize representatives' ability to serve their constituents and meet the needs of their district, no House district should span more than two counties. This approach would provide citizens with greater access to their elected officials and would ensure a more fair and equitable electoral process.

3. Do you believe climate change is an issue and, if so, what steps should the Indiana General Assembly take to mitigate its potential physical, economic and public health effects?**HEATON: NR****MARSILI:**

Climate change is an issue, and its reality is evidenced in our rural area by the rise in insect populations. When temperatures in the winter do not get cold enough for long enough periods of time, populations of insects multiply when they should be dormant; devastating our agriculture. Indiana needs to be on the forefront of innovation regarding the development of solutions for climate change. For example, jobs associated with installation, production, engineering, and distribution of new technologies could assist the Wabash Valley with higher wage jobs and patented ideas. The state legislature needs to stop fining our citizens for being a part of the solutions, and give back the reduction in taxes for use in addressing all environmental concerns.

4. What steps should the Indiana General Assembly take to reduce gun violence and ensure public safety?

HEATON: NR**MARSILI:**

Indiana should have a database, as with our sexual predators, that will allow all citizens to inquire as to whether their neighbor is allowed to bear arms. This would allow those who trade or sell firearms, the ability to rightfully sell or trade with any individual. This would also aid law enforcement in screening when showing up to a call or in a traffic stop.

Indiana House of Representatives, District 60

Penny Githens (D)

Peggy Mayfield (R)

1. What are your qualifications for the office you seek?**GITHENS:**

I have lived in Indiana House District 60 for over 25 years, and I have degrees from both Purdue and IU. Indiana is facing a crisis in public education, and as a former teacher I will work with educators from around the state to set us on a different course. I will draw upon my experience as a CASA Volunteer to address the problems confronting the Department of Child Services.

MAYFIELD: NR**2. How and by whom should redistricting be done after the next census in 2020?****GITHENS:**

Redistricting should be done by an independent, non-partisan commission. When he was the Indiana Secretary of State, Congressman Todd Rokita (R-IN 4th District) presented a plan which would, according to WTHR, “make it illegal for lawmakers to consider political data when redrawing congressional and legislative district maps.” (<https://www.wthr.com/article/rokita-proposes-new-plan-redistricting>) The plan was praised by then Governor Mitch Daniels and by Senate President Pro Tem David Long. State Senator Long indicated that districts should not be drawn to favor a given person or political party.

No matter who is appointed to the commission, the legislature should specify that no more than 10 percent of districts can have an “efficiency gap,” (as developed by Nicholas Stephanopolous and Eric McGhee <https://law-review.uchicago.edu/publication/partisan-gerrymandering-and-efficiency-gap-0>), greater than 20 percent.

MAYFIELD: NR**3. Do you believe climate change is an issue and, if so, what steps should the Indiana General Assembly take to mitigate its potential physical, economic and public health effects?****GITHENS:**

Climate change is real, and we should be taking steps to halt and reverse the damage we have been doing to our environment. We should enact stricter emission standards on power plants, develop light rail in and around Indianapolis, and promote the use of solar and wind power by reinstating retail rate net metering. We should provide funding to researchers at our state universities to lead the way in the production of biofuels, and we should find ways to fund our roads and bridges without penalizing the owners of electric and hybrid vehicles. As an elected official I will push for a study on the effects of lost carbon dioxide capture that is occurring due to the logging in our state forests.

MAYFIELD: NR**4. What steps should the Indiana General Assembly take to reduce gun violence and ensure public safety?****GITHENS:**

We need to shift our thinking from that of the gun slingers of the Wild West to one of ensuring citizens, especially students, are safe. States which have enacted the following have seen a decrease in gun violence: a. Require strict background checks for all gun purchases, including those made at gun shows; b. First-time gun purchasers should be required to go through gun-safety training; c. Halt the sale of assault weapons, armor-piercing ammunition, bump stocks and large-capacity ammunition clips. Anyone who has ever hunted knows a semi-automatic rifle or shotgun is sufficient to take down game; d. If a court issues a protection order against a given individual, that person’s guns should be taken and stored for him/her until the protection order is lifted.

MAYFIELD: NR**Indiana House of Representatives, District 62**

Jeff Ellington (R)

Amy Swain (D)

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

ELLINGTON:

Monroe County councilman from 1997 to 2005. Monroe County recorder, 2014. State representative for House District 62 since December 2015, re-elected in 2016. Vice chair, Indiana House Committee on Natural Resources. Longtime Monroe County and Indiana resident, horse farmer and business owner. Husband and father of two.

SWAIN:

Twice elected to serve on my township board, I was voted President my first four-year term to handle the transition between administrations. Voters should consider my experience in the public, private and nonprofit sectors as well as my goal-oriented work ethic. My career has involved collaborating and establishing consensus with internal and external stakeholders. I'm skilled at identifying opportunities for growth and collaboration, and adjusting strategy accordingly for fullest positive impact.

2. How and by whom should redistricting be done after the next census in 2020?

ELLINGTON:

By law, the Indiana House of Representatives draws House maps and the Indiana Senate draws the Senate maps. Both chambers also work on Indiana's U.S. House maps for the decade following 2020. The governor signs off. I am pleased that Indiana has elected officials, not federal judges, drawing district maps. The Republican-drawn maps of 2011 for the U.S. House were logical in shape, and did not include past monstrosities like U.S. House District 4, drawn by the Democrats for 2001 to 2011, to stuff Republicans in District 4 and keep them out of Bloomington-based U.S. House District 9. Further, and this is important, Indiana has been free of legitimate court challenges that states like North Carolina have faced over poorly drawn districts.

SWAIN:

There are three models - 1) State Legislatures; 2) Politician Commissions, and 3) Independent Commissions. Indiana is done by State Legislature with the possibility of governor veto. Parties in power can set districts that help them retain that majority. State Legislature should be representative of our voters. Perhaps an independent commission where direct participation of elected officials is limited, might be the better way to go, with public input and redistricting standards.

Attempting to avoid discrimination based on race during the civil rights movement, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that there should be "equal state legislative representation for all citizens, of all places as well as of all races." Other than that, it's left up to the states.

Congressional redistricting, concentrates on proportionately-sized populations.

3. Do you believe climate change is an issue and, if so, what steps should the Indiana General Assembly take to mitigate its potential physical, economic and public health effects?

ELLINGTON:

The American free market and private industries have been doing much more than any state assembly could do to decrease carbon emissions in our air, which are believed by scientists to cause global warming. Cars and even trucks are 99 percent cleaner than they were in 1970, according to the EPA. Coal-powered electricity plants are getting cleaner, and will become even cleaner as scientists perfect sequestration (putting emissions into the ground immediately after they are produced by burning fuel). The EPA also reports greenhouse gas

emissions in 2014 were 9 percent below where they were in 2005. I will work to find incentives for technology, without heavy-handed, expensive mandates that are not feasible or doable in the short-term, and that cost consumers.

SWAIN:

Earlier this year, the Indiana Climate Change Impacts Assessment by Purdue University showed that Indiana’s temperature has increased by 1.2 degrees since 1985, and will likely raise by 5 or 6 degrees by mid-century. This could affect the growing season for crops which could be offset by lower yield due to extreme heat, extend allergy season and bring in more disease-carrying insects and invasive species which can also damage crops.

The study also showed average rainfall increases which could increase flooding and pollution due to runoff.

To transition smartly for the future, we need to invest in clean-energy solutions, but not at the expense of current industries which provide much needed jobs in several areas of Indiana, especially rurally.

4. What steps should the Indiana General Assembly take to reduce gun violence and ensure public safety?

ELLINGTON:

I commend Governor Eric Holcomb for calling a special session and working on school-safety issues this summer. We worked on first-responder issues. I will continue to work on mental-health issues to decrease gun violence. I will work to pass laws to deter gun-related crimes with tough penalties. There is no easy answer to gun crime. It will continue to take hard work. However, I am not open to banning ownership of handguns and rifles by law-abiding citizens with no criminal records. In reducing gun violence, the Legislature must follow the U.S. Second Amendment and the Indiana Constitution's Article One, Section 32. The latter reads: “The people shall have a right to bear arms, for the defense of themselves and the State.”

SWAIN:

Most gun owners are responsible people...some feeding their families hunting, and some enjoying target shooting as recreation. We need to work together to come up with a reasonable plan of action to provide for public safety.

Most voters agree with background checks and gun permits. The permitting process allows Sheriffs and Police Chiefs to screen for potential threats based on past history. Our Laird law allows police and courts to remove a threat where mental health issues exist. This law permits an officer to take firearms into safekeeping to protect that person and others. Mental health issues need to be addressed to help avoid potential deadly encounters.

Permit fees allow officers to take additional training, such as active shooter and should not be removed.

Indiana House of Representatives, District 65

Chris D. May (R)

Jared Stancombe (D)

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

MAY: NR

STANCOMBE:

I am a former Department of Homeland Security analyst, where I specialized in immigration and national security challenges. Also, I have education experience as an AmeriCorps member where I was a co-teacher and afterschool manager in Washington, DC. Furthermore, I am currently a board member of the United Way of South Central Indiana, a volunteer advocate for solutions for the opioid epidemic in Indiana, and a graduate student studying cybersecurity risk management at Indiana University.

2. How and by whom should redistricting be done after the next census in 2020?

MAY: NR

STANCOMBE:

Hopefully by 2020 we will have more Democrats at the Statehouse to provide more of a voice on how gerrymandered Indiana is. But I believe that there should be an independent commission examining gerrymandering in Indiana. I believe that this commission could report to the Secretary of State, and it should be participatory and involve the input of Election Board members of both parties at the local level. We need to do this right, not haphazardly to ensure that Hoosiers are truly represented at the Statehouse.

3. Do you believe climate change is an issue and, if so, what steps should the Indiana General Assembly take to mitigate its potential physical, economic and public health effects?

MAY: NR

STANCOMBE:

Climate change is and will continue to be a primary driver of global instability. It is a clear national security risk to the United States, our allies, and our interests abroad. I would like to see Indiana become a role model for renewable energy. At the Statehouse, I would like to see legislation that provides incentives for renewable energy companies to operate in Indiana, end the taxation of people who own electric vehicles, protect our state forests such as Yellowwood from predatory deforestation practices, and pass a law on car emission standards in the absence of leadership by the EPA. The Statehouse also needs to publish a bi-partisan statement that climate change exists.

4. What steps should the Indiana General Assembly take to reduce gun violence and ensure public safety?

MAY: NR

STANCOMBE:

I respect the gun rights enshrined in the 2nd Amendment by our Founding Fathers. But I believe that with freedom comes with responsibility. I would like to see mental health as a component of universal background checks. I would like to see the Red Flag Law, also know as Laird's Law in Indiana, which was passed by Republicans, used more by Hoosiers and law enforcement taking Red Flag reports more seriously to take weapons away from people who pose a threat to themselves and others. I would also particularly like to restrict gun ownership to people who commit acts of domestic violence.

UNITED STATES OFFICES

U.S. House of Representatives, 9th District

Trey Hollingsworth (R)

Liz Watson (D)

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

HOLLINGSWORTH:

Over a decade ago, I started my first business in Indiana. In the years that followed, one business grew to several and a few jobs became hundreds of Hoosier careers. I know what it means to make a payroll, negotiate for lower health care costs, and scrub a budget. I understand how red-tape hurts American workers, companies, and families. I bring real world experience, business experience, to Congress to make this strong economy even stronger.

WATSON:

I am a workers' rights and women's rights attorney. I've held leadership roles at the National Women's Law Center and the Georgetown Poverty Center, and I was Labor Policy Director for Democrats in the United States Congress. I led the development of legislation to raise the minimum wage, strengthen sexual harassment protections, defend workers' right to bargain for their fair share, and end unpredictable work schedules. Those will remain among my top priorities if elected.

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

HOLLINGSWORTH:

First and foremost, I believe we need to fix Washington. For decades, career politicians have crafted a system that works for them but not for Hoosiers. This has to stop. That is why I am an advocate for Congressional term limits, and I have authored THE STRICTEST lobbying ban in Congress.

As a byproduct of the inaction of career politicians, we are drowning in over \$20 trillion in debt. In spite of this, liberal extremists like my opponent are proposing \$40 trillion in new unaffordable government hand-outs. To pay for that, my opponent wants to raise taxes, but even doubling the taxes of every family and every business in America couldn't pay for her programs.

Additionally, I will continue to support efforts to build the wall, defund sanctuary cities, and fix our legal immigration system so that people who want to legally come and share in the American dream have the opportunity to do so.

WATSON:

Everywhere I go in this district, I hear about how our healthcare system is broken. Every American who gets sick should have a fighting chance at getting better. But so many of us struggle to fill prescriptions, and attacks on the Affordable Care Act keep driving up prices even more. I would fight to expand and strengthen Medicare for all Americans, and to let the government negotiate drug prices.

Medicare and Social Security are earned benefits paid for over a lifetime. But last year's tax scam blew a \$1.5 trillion hole in the budget, threatening all of that. I would fight to put Medicare and Social Security on secure footing by raising the cap on contributions, so that everyone pays their fair share.

Corruption is the root of many of our country’s worst problems: politicians who take millions from corporate donors and then use the system to enrich themselves. I don’t take corporate PAC money, and I’ll fight for campaign finance reform so that millionaires can’t buy our elections.

3. How do you plan to communicate with your constituents?

HOLLINGSWORTH:

All Hoosiers have a stake in our government, which is why I work every day to hear from as many constituents as possible. This means reaching beyond the loudest and most politically-active individuals to those who have never heard from their elected representative before. I’ve made over 30,000 personal calls and been part of thousands of meetings, roundtables, townhalls, and tours across the 13 counties in our District.

Each conversation has helped me learn more about the issues facing a family, a group, or an industry. With your input, it has been my honor to fight for our Hoosier future.

WATSON:

The most important thing a representative can do is listen. Trey Hollingsworth’s idea of a town hall is a closed-door meeting with hand-picked supporters. I have held real, open town halls across this district, from Nashville to New Albany. I know that there’s no substitute for face-to-face conversation, even if it’s uncomfortable. And if elected, I would make it a priority to continue to meet and talk, in person and on a regular basis, with folks in all thirteen counties of this district. That’s the job, and I intend to do it.

U.S. Senate

Mike Braun (R)

Lucy Brenton (L)

Joe Donnelly (D)

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

BRAUN: NR

BRENTON:

I have never before held public office, never voted to raise taxes and never made campaign promises that I failed to keep. I have never accepted money from lobbyists, never taken corporate donations and never had any hint that I work for anyone other than those who vote for their own freedom by casting their vote for me. I am the only outsider, free from influence. My vote is not controlled by campaign donations.

DONNELLY:

I’m running for re-election so I can continue working hard for Hoosiers and reaching across the aisle to deliver results for Indiana. I’ve traveled to all 92 counties each of the last four years, listening to Hoosiers’ concerns, and they want someone who works for them. There are plenty of folks in Washington fighting for the far left or the far right—I’m willing to fight to deliver results for the folks in the middle.

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

BRAUN: NR

BRENTON:

My top priorities are to respect the Constitution and follow it as the master contract for our country, repeal unjust laws and abolish the IRS. Politicians in America refer to the Constitution when it is convenient for them. Then the old parties ignore it when it comes time to cut deals that benefit them and their corporate donors and lobbyists. The Federal Reserve is one example where the Constitution was ignored and the value of our money is 99% less than it was in 1913. We must End the Fed. Congress makes law after law, turning everyone into criminals. This is wrong. Victimless crimes and the laws which create them must be repealed. Non-violent criminals convicted of victimless laws, such as using cannabis, must be released immediately and their records expunged. The IRS is feared for its power to steal from citizens. This power to steal is enforced at the point of the government's gun. Abolish the IRS and limit taxes to the ones allowed by the Constitution. And not a single one more.

DONNELLY:

My top priorities are jobs, health care, and addressing the opioid crisis. As I travel around the state, Hoosiers tell me that their biggest concern is jobs. Far too often we've seen companies close and jobs move to foreign countries, devastating communities and families. I've tackled this issue head on by introducing the End Outsourcing Act, which would create new incentives to stop companies from sending jobs to foreign countries, and I've been fighting for investments in infrastructure, especially rural broadband, so businesses have what they need to outcompete global competitors. Working on issues like these, we can keep making things in Monroe County and Hoosier families can enjoy good paying, middle class jobs.

I also hear about access to health care. Fifty-nine Hoosier counties are considered underserved for primary health care, and we know just how important access to a family doctor can be when it comes to attracting businesses and families into an area. The lack of health care access also impacts our ability to respond to the challenges of the opioid epidemic.

3. How do you plan to communicate with your constituents?

BRAUN: NR

BRENTON:

I will communicate directly with my constituents using social media, mail and an app that I will create after getting elected. My constituents will be able to bypass the censorship that is prevalent on the internet and government controlled media. Currently, ideas that are a threat to the powers-that-USED-to-be are censored with filters. Companies like Google, Facebook and Twitter collude to shut down alternative news sites, preventing the American people from hearing anything but propaganda. What you hear from Washington and the corporate media is what they want the American people to read, regurgitate and get rewarded for repeating. Information must flow freely; Americans deserve to know the truth. It is time for Americans to demand ALL of their freedom, ALL of the time.

DONNELLY:

My role is to listen. I am succeeding as your Senator when I take your ideas to Washington and fight for them. I travel to all 92 counties, meeting with Hoosiers, hearing their ideas, their hopes, and sometimes even their frustrations. Since 2014, I have hosted nearly 50 "Donnelly Days," in which I work alongside Hoosiers for a day.

I have trained with firefighters, spent time in a Head Start teacher’s classroom, and operated an electronic milker on a dairy farm. I speak to Hoosiers about the challenges they face and what they think we should fight for. These conversations stay with me and I keep them in mind as I work every day for all Hoosiers and their families.