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**Candidate Questionnaire for Monroe County  
Auditor's Race**

**About DFMC**

Democracy for Monroe County (DFMC) is a political action committee dedicated to recruiting, training, and supporting fiscally responsible and socially progressive candidates at the local and state levels. DFMC is part of a nationwide coalition of grassroots groups allied with Democracy for America, the political action committee inspired by the presidential campaign of Howard Dean. We meet every first Thursday of the month. For more information about our organization, visit our website at [www.democracyformonroecounty.org](http://www.democracyformonroecounty.org).

*DFMC: Building and training the progressive grassroots.*

**Please return this questionnaire to [robertdeppert@gmail.com](mailto:robertdeppert@gmail.com) and [barkerld@comcast.net](mailto:barkerld@comcast.net) by Monday, March 21.**

**About You**

Name: Terri Porter

Website (if available): [www.TerriPorterForAuditor.com](http://www.TerriPorterForAuditor.com)

List of your support or campaign committee members: Robert Salzarulo, Teresa Lehr, Lisa Ashkin, Paula Stapley, Brian O'Neil

**Question 1**

Why are you running for office?

I am running for Monroe County Auditor because I have the proven experience to:

1. Correct weaknesses and build strengths,

2. Provide critical information from the Auditor's office to key decision makers in a timely manner and,
3. Rebuild trust in the office through effective management and transparency.

I have more than 17 years of experience at the federal level overseeing and auditing billions of federal tax dollars across five Midwestern states.

I am highly skilled at managing and developing people. It's important to understand that the duties of the Monroe County Auditor's office are wide in scope. These many duties and tasks are performed by people, people who have endured many years of troubled leadership. I will ensure that staff are cross trained as appropriate, encourage professional development, insist on integrity, and a commitment to providing superior public service. I know how to delegate, inspire, and hold people accountable.

Partnering with the other County offices will be a top priority. I know this is critically important and I've done it before. I will build trust, confidence and set the example for excellence in the Auditor's office.

## Question 2

List your political experience (here and elsewhere), including any grassroots activity in which you participated or led.

As a former administrator with the Department of Housing and Urban Development, I led efforts in my offices to enforce the Department's mission:

*HUD's mission is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all. HUD is working to strengthen the housing market to bolster the economy and protect consumers; meet the need for quality affordable rental homes; utilize housing as a platform for improving quality of life; build inclusive and sustainable communities free from discrimination, and transform the way HUD does business.*

I also regularly led and/or volunteered with efforts to end homelessness on the community and national level.

As CEO of the Indiana Association for Community Economic Development (IACED) I turned the organization toward the importance of nonprofit housing developers and the business community working together to improve community outcomes. I changed the name and theme of IACED's annual conference to *Community is the Cornerstone of Economic Development* and emphasized public/private partnerships. IACED's membership increased 13% that year.

As the Executive Director of the Bloomington Urban Enterprise Association (BUEA), I led efforts to target BUEA, City, and other funds into the Crestmont neighborhood area in order to remove an illegal dump and replace it with a family park, which included new play equipment and a walking trail. I also assisted in the formation of a resident council for the Public Housing Authority. I ran as the Democratic candidate for Monroe County Auditor in 1996.

## Question 3

In what way(s) do you consider yourself socially progressive?

My values align with many issues considered progressive. I support legislation to increase the minimum wage and support income equality; I am pro-choice and I condemn RFRA. I strongly believe the LGBT population should be a protected class under local, state, and national anti-

discrimination laws. I support efforts of organized labor to protect jobs and benefits, applaud the Affordable Care Act, and I am against the death penalty.

#### **Question 4**

Describe your ideas for engaging citizens in more active participation in our community and our government.

Twice annually, the Auditor, Treasurer, and Assessor should hold a public forum to explain the duties and functions of each office, how they work together, and answer questions from the public.

The Monroe County government website needs a major facelift in order to be more user friendly. Minutes from Commissioner and Council meetings, financial reports, and budgets should be more easily accessible.

Actively promote the Monroe County Citizens Academy. The Academy is an outstanding way for citizens to learn about the many county government departments and the services they provide. The program leads to better informed and more civically engaged citizens and leaders.

#### **Question 5**

Do you pledge to publicly support all Democratic Party nominees, including your primary opponent(s), should he/she prevail in the May Primary Election?

I am a Democrat and will publicly support Democrats.

#### **Question 6**

What do you consider to be the top three duties of the Auditor's Office?

Functionally, the top three duties are:

1. Ensuring the taxing units receive their appropriate funding,
2. Calculate the correct tax rates for Monroe County properties and ensure tax bills are correct and,
3. Ensure payroll is processed correctly and that the County's bills are paid on time.

However, of equal or higher importance is providing accurate and timely data to key decision makers and the ensuring superior customer service to the public.

#### **Question 7**

What specific plans do you have to fix the beginning of the year payroll problems that have plagued the Auditor's Office for the last two years?

There are many issues that can lead to end of the year payroll inconsistencies. If elected I will determine what specific errors have occurred and correct them.

#### **Question 8**

What financial experiences do you have that will assist you with managing and accounting for the County's tax money, and how will you ensure that the tax dollars are spent in a responsible manner?

I recently retired as an administrator for the Department of Housing & Urban Development. For 17 plus years in the Indianapolis, and the Regional HUD office in Kansas City, I audited and provided oversight for billions of federal tax dollars while managing several offices across 5 Midwestern states. I have extensive practical experience at the local, state, and federal level of identifying and remedying organizational deficiencies and financial discrepancies. I have a proven track record of transforming troubled offices into high performers. The application of my skills and expertise will restore public trust and confidence in the Monroe County Auditor's office. I have a Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree and am certified in both economic development and housing development finance.

In addition to my lengthy federal experience, I have served as the executive director for two nonprofit organizations in Bloomington and Indiana, as well as co-owner/business manager of a small mechanical contracting business in Bloomington. These organizations all operated with efficiency, accountability, and transparency.