



Responses to the DFMC Candidate 2018 Questionnaire

Prosecuting Attorney

Erika Oliphant

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Please list your campaign committee members, or your support team:

Co-chairs: Beth Hamlin and Lorraine Merriman Farrell

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Other Committee Members: Jim and Tomi Allison, Chris Pierce, Kyla Cox Deckard, Cindy Houston, Josh and Stephanie Johnson, Joel and Sheila Hearsh, Walt Keller, Pedro Navarrete, Ashley Pirani

1) Why are you running for office, or re-election, and what do you hope to accomplish as Prosecuting Attorney?

I am an experienced prosecutor committed to community safety, compassionate justice, and constitutional values. I have been serving Monroe County as a deputy prosecuting attorney for over eight years, handling everything from traffic infractions to murder. For five years, I served on the drug treatment court team, and I've also served on the veterans treatment court and re-entry court teams. I have learned that equal treatment and compassion can go a long way toward a safer, more just community. As prosecuting attorney, my top three priorities will be: (1) eliminating cash bail by improving our pretrial release program; (2) building up our treatment courts and increasing diversion opportunities for people facing substance use disorder and mental illness in the criminal justice system; and (3) focusing resources on violent crime that poses the greatest risk to personal safety and ensuring justice for victims.

2) What is the overall theme of your campaign and how will you share and explain it to the community?

I have the experience and education, as well as the necessary leadership skills, to effectively seek justice in Monroe County. We need to implement progressive, evidence-based solutions to serious social issues, such as the opioid crisis. The criminal justice system cannot solve these social problems alone, so education and collaboration with other agencies and stakeholders is key.

I am sharing my message through direct voter contact as much as possible, particularly house parties, canvassing, and public events. I have a website and social media presence as well. I have already sent out one mass mailing, and another is scheduled in early April.

3) What are the top three issues our district, or your office, faces and how do you plan to address these issues?

(1) The opioid crisis has increased workload substantially in the past few years. We must support organizations in the community that provide harm reduction and treatment intervention outside of the criminal justice system to prevent some addiction-related crime. Once someone commits a criminal offense, we must use an evidence-based approach to divert him or her from jail and into treatment. I have first-hand experience combating addiction in problem-solving courts, and I have studied the best practices for getting and keeping people out of the criminal justice system.

(2) Our jail is overcrowded, due in part to pretrial incarceration. We must improve our pretrial release program to relieve pressure on the jail. By releasing nonviolent offenders with risk-based conditions, without regard to ability to pay a cash bond, we reduce the number of people sitting in jail awaiting trial.

(3) Violent crime poses the greatest risk to our personal safety, and we need to ensure justice for victims. Criminal jury trial experience and training are necessary to effectively prosecute violent crime and keep our community safe. Victims have a right to be treated with respect and dignity

throughout the criminal justice process, and a robust victim assistance program can keep them informed and engaged throughout a case.

4) Please list your political experience, both here and elsewhere, including any grassroots activity in which you participated or led.

David Gohn for Owen County Judge, 2012: working point-of-sale on election day, distributing literature

Chris Gaal for Monroe County Prosecutor, 2010 and 2014: canvassing, yard sign placement and removal, parading

Darcie Fawcett for Monroe County Judge, 2016: working point-of-sale on election day, providing child care for events

Your Voice Matters Listening Tour, 2017: canvassing, registering voters, collecting and updating data for the VAN

5) In what way(s) do you consider yourself to be socially, politically, and economically progressive?

I value all people, and I believe that everyone deserves to be treated with fairness, dignity and respect. I want to implement evidence-based solutions to tough social issues, rather than maintaining the status quo. I am a problem-solver, and I favor criminal justice reform that decarcerates nonviolent offenders and reduces recidivism (the tendency to re-offend).

6) What are the guiding principles of your political philosophy and how will these principles inform and guide your decisions and actions as Prosecuting Attorney?

I hold honesty above all other qualities, even when the truth is uncomfortable. We make the greatest change when we confront issues head-on. I believe in the equality of all people, and I will strive to eliminate implicit bias and disparate impact in Monroe County's criminal justice system. Additionally, I have compassion and empathy for people facing substance use disorder, which is often rooted in trauma. With these guiding principles, I will make decisions and implement policies that work for the people of Monroe County, not against them.

7) Describe your ideas for engaging community members through more informed., active, and inclusive participation in the community and in our government.

Transparency and public education are important tools that keep community members informed. By sharing information, our next Prosecuting Attorney can be held accountable by the people that are impacted by its decisions. I would like to add the Prosecuting Attorney's Office to the Citizens' Academy, so that participants can learn about the office. Community outreach can give community members more buy-in into policies and programs offered by the office.

8) Will you pledge to not accept donations from corporations, businesses, and people whose activities are overseen by your office?

Yes

No

Please explain why or why not.

To accept such contributions would give an appearance of impropriety. I would not want the public to lose confidence in my ability to make decisions independently and ethically.

9) How would you explain the Case Bail system to the community? What steps will you take to institute a fairer system of imposing bail on defendants?

Bail means any type of conditional release from custody between arrest and trial. Cash bail allows release from jail if a defendant gives the court cash or collateral. That cash will be returned if the defendant shows up for court. However, most cash bails are posted by surety bondsmen, who charge a nonrefundable 10% fee.

The purpose of bail is twofold: (1) to ensure appearance at all court dates, and (2) to ensure the safety of the community. According to the Pretrial Services Agency in Washington, D.C., people released on their own recognizance, without posting cash bail, show up at all of their court dates 90% of the time, and 91% remain arrest-free pending trial.

Indiana Criminal Rule 26 allows for pretrial release without money bail. By releasing nonviolent offenders with risk-based conditions, we reduce the population of the jail and live up to our constitutional guarantee of innocence until proven guilty.

10) What is the difference between seeking law and order, and in seeking justice?

"Law and order" became a conservative theme in the 1960's, particularly by Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan. Proponents of "law and order" want a strict criminal justice system, and they believe that incarceration is an effective means of crime prevention. However, we know that incarceration increases recidivism and does not effectively deter criminal behavior.

Prosecuting Attorneys are ministers of justice, charged with seeking safety and rehabilitation rather than convictions. Article I, Section 18 of the Indiana Constitution states that the penal code shall be founded on principles of reformation, not vindictive justice.

Criminal justice research tells us that compassionate, evidence-based dispositions reduce recidivism. I am currently working with the Monroe County Opioid Commission to develop a local Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program. In Seattle, participants in LEAD were 58% less likely to be re-arrested. Our local drug court reduces recidivism by 67%. We need to increase opportunities for diversion and build up our treatment courts. These programs are shown to give offenders chances at productive, law-abiding lives.

Additional comments:

I grew up on an organic farm in Versailles, Indiana, where my grandfather used horse-drawn equipment and sold produce on the front lawn. My grandparents looked after my brother and me while my mother worked overtime and put herself through Ivy Tech Community College. My mother and grandparents raised me to work hard, to believe in equality of all people, and to treat everyone with compassion.

I moved to Bloomington nineteen years ago to attend Jacobs School of Music. I worked multiple jobs while attending school full-time. After I received my bachelors degree in 2003, I worked as a stage electrician until beginning law school in 2006. I often struggled to make ends meet, and I even went to the emergency room without insurance at age 23! Fortunately, I was able to work and do without to pay off my debt.

In law school, I served as Director of the Protective Order Project and Executive Symposium Editor on the Indiana Journal of Global Legal Studies. I interned at Middle Way House, Indiana Legal Services, and the Monroe County Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

I love this community, and I am dedicated to improving our local justice system. I want to create a model here that will influence the rest of the state and the nation! Please join me as an advocate for a safe and just Monroe County!

County Commissioner – District 1

Lee Jones

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Please list your campaign committee members, or your support team:

Abbey Jones, Treasurer

General Unspecified Support: Regina Moore, Steve Volan, Cheryl Munson, Eric Spoonmore, Dale Jones, Don Moore, Chris Frederickson, I have been endorsed by the DWC, a process that included a personal interview as well as a vote of support for me by over 66% of their membership. Several of the experienced members have been advising me since the beginning of my campaign.

1) Why are you running for office, or re-election, and what do you hope to accomplish as County Commissioner? If you are running for re-election, please include your accomplishments in the prior term.

The thing that pushed me into filing was my opponent's January financial report. Out of his 19 itemized contributions 12 came from engineering, architectural, development, and trash hauling firms, all of whom are doing business with the County or hope to. He also got a significant contribution from ASI who does security for County Government. I have been watching this sort of behavior with great distaste at the federal level, and I don't think we need to tolerate it at the local level.

I also have the qualifications. I've served on the County Council for the past 5 1/2 years, the Plan Commission for the past 9 years, and Community Corrections Board for 5 1/2 years. In the past I was on the Parks & Rec, Bloomingfoods, Hilltop, and Farmer's Market Boards. I was also elected Treasurer, Vice Chair and Chair of the Democratic Party.

One of the first things I would want to work on is strengthening Community Corrections. Their programs and services are spread throughout County buildings. I hope to be able to find a way to gather all of it under one roof, thereby making it much more accessible and allowing for a wrap-around-care approach. This is one of the most effective, efficient and humane ways to alleviate some of the problems with the jail and the opioid crisis.

I also think my experiences on the County Council will allow me to facilitate better communications between the Commissioners and Council, which makes County Government more efficient.

I hope to help continue the work the Commissioners have done on energy saving and encouraging the community to do the same.

It is important that the areas being most effected by I69 be well planned. I hope to be able to preserve the natural, wooded look as one approaches Bloomington. It makes our County stand out from the Cookie Cutter look of most smaller cities on interstates.

2) What is the overall theme of your campaign and how will you share and explain it to the community?

My theme is Principled Leadership. I have demonstrated my adherence to this theme during the 5+ years I have served on the County Council. At times I have taken quite difficult positions, against powerful forces, because I believed it to be the most principled thing to do. I have talked about the theme of my campaign in three forums so far, and sent a fund-raising letter explaining

it to people who have supported me in the past. It will be featured on my mailings and literature, and when I go door to door I will be talking about it. I also have it featured on my Facebook page.

3) What are the top three issues Monroe County faces and how do you plan to address these issues?

1. The Opioid epidemic
2. The Overcrowded jail
3. The Effects I69 will have on our Community

4) Please list your political experience, both here and elsewhere, including any grassroots activity in which you participated or led.

Between High School and 1998 I helped out numerous campaigns by going door to door, passing out flyers, helping in the office, driving people, and providing food for Headquarters. In 1998 I played a significant role, mostly doing office organizing, for Brian O'Neill's County Commissioner Campaign. In 1999 my husband and I ran Tim Mayer's campaign against Joyce Poling for City Council. In 2001 I was elected Treasurer of the Monroe County Democratic Party. In 2003 I was elected Vice Chair, and then in 2004 I was elected Chair. I resigned as Chair of the Party in 2009. For the next three years I helped in minor ways with a number of campaigns and for the Party. In 2012 I was elected as an at large member of the the County Council. I was re-elected in 2016.

I was raised as a Quaker which means grass roots efforts have always been a part of my life. As a child I attended rallies, held signs, etc. along with my mother. In High School I helped her with draft counseling for the Viet Nam war. During college I participated in most of the roots activity happening on campus. Since then I have spent a lot of time promoting and teaching about organic gardening or farming, which I think of as a grass roots activity. In 1997 the Sycamore Gun Club attempted to move to within a mile of us using IU's eminent domain to subvert County regulations. My husband and I organized a rural neighborhood association and we were able to successfully fight it off. Over the next few years I spoke to several neighborhood associations about how to prevent incompatible development. I was involved with a group of people who lobbied to have a citizen appointed to the BEDC board. I was involved in the first Earth Day and have continued to participate off and on ever since. In 2004 when Mike Englert ran for County Commissioner, with Chaim Julian managing his campaign, my husband and I helped develop one of the defining issues of his campaign; fighting off the Shawnee Bluffs high density development on Lake Monroe that would be using a Package Sewer Treatment Plant.

5) In what way(s) do you consider yourself to be socially, politically, and economically progressive?

In pretty much every way. Being raised as a Quaker made that fairly inevitable! While I believe everyone is born equal, I know that everyone is not born facing equal circumstances. I think it is

important to try to give less privileged people a more level playing field. I believe in Science and Technology. Economic Development is necessary to better the condition of the community but should be undertaken in a sustainable manner that does not threaten the health of the environment we all depend on. While I prefer to be fiscally prudent, it is in the context of economic progressivism. I used to be a liberal Democrat, until that became unfashionable. Now I'm a progressive.

6) What are the guiding principles of your political philosophy and how will these principles inform and guide your decisions and actions as County Commissioner?

I think County Government should reflect the hopes and concerns of the citizens. One should never allow outside influences make the decisions. As Commissioner I believe the most important thing is to recognize that people are meant to live as communities, not as islands. For communities to be successful everyone should be treated with respect even when there are differing opinions. It is important for an elected official to develop a sense of the entire community, not just the "movers and shakers." A Commissioner should try to be sensitive to the community as a whole when making decisions. It is also important to think about what impacts decisions will have in future years. Most of all, it is important to never get the idea that you know what is best for people better than they do.

Holding office is a leadership position, and I believe as such office holders should be expected to demonstrate principled, ethical leadership

7) Describe your ideas for engaging community members through more informed., active, and inclusive participation in the community and in our government.

Engaging the community is actually a two-way street. If the citizens are too busy, bored, or uninterested to make any effort it is very difficult to engage them. However, I think any time elected officials make themselves casually available it can be a good opportunity to explain how the different aspects of government work. As a vendor at the Farmer's Market I often have opportunities to inform people. When they have more knowledge, they become more involved.

People can also become particularly concerned about certain issues. This is an opportunity to introduce them to government and how it works. By encouraging them to attend relevant meetings, to reach out to other citizens through organizations, letters to the editor, public service announcements, etc, they become more involved. Often, they can be encouraged to apply for a Board or Commission appointment to deepen their involvement. Occasionally this leads to a desire to run for office.

Efforts such as Citizens Academy can further educate people who have become interested in government.

8) Will you pledge to not accept donations from corporations, businesses, and people whose activities are overseen by your office?

Yes Yes

No

Please explain why or why not.

If I were to accept donations from entities doing business with the County, even if I didn't let it influence my decisions, there could be an appearance that it had. I never have behaved like this and I prefer to not even give the impression that I could be complicit with unethical behavior.

9) How do you balance the rights of property owners with the need for responsible urban and rural development?

As a member of the Plan Commission this is something I have been doing for the past nine years. When I was first appointed we were working on a new Master Plan. What we most frequently heard from rural residents was a desire to be able to carve off a piece of land for their children or parents. This led to the rural zoning ordinance which allows exactly that while still preserving large tracts of land.

When it comes to growth in the more urbanizing areas I think what is most important is that new development be compatible with the area in which it is happening. This allows for new development with much less opposition from the people who are already there.

10) Please describe your proposal(s) for dealing with the opioid crisis.

Once again, I think strengthening Community Corrections is very important. Most opioid addicts did not intentionally choose to become addicted. There is almost always an underlying cause, either physical, mental, or both. Even people who become dealers are often just trying to support their habit. In most cases if the addiction is dealt with criminal behavior is avoided. We should be pro-actively diverting people from the criminal system by reaching out to provide addiction treatment, but also treatment for the underlying causes.

When illegal behavior does occur, it should be punished in some manner, but if a person is not a threat to the community or themselves, sending them to jail is likely to just worsen the situation. Community Correction programing and services will be much more successful in modifying behavior, which allows an addict to become a productive member of society.

County Council District 2

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Advisors: Tomi and Jim Allison, Dan and Pat Combs, Charlotte Zeitlow

1) Why are you running for office, or re-election, and what do you hope to accomplish as County Council member? If you are running for re-election, please include your accomplishments in the prior term.

I am running for County Council for a few reasons. First, I believe my two daughters deserve a role model who actively contributes to the community and follows through on commitments. Second, I have specific skills that will benefit the collaborative decision-making undertaken by the Council. I have extensive experience in program development and evaluation, as well as strategic planning and organizational development. I would like to use my thoughtful and critical approach to assist Monroe County in creating efficiencies through partnerships and effective evidence-based programs.

2) What is the overall theme of your campaign and how will you share and explain it to the community?

My campaign is about compassion, sustainability, and problem-solving. These qualities are evidenced through: public health and restorative justice approaches to the social services needs of our community; clean energy and sustainable resource management strategies to our economic and environmental needs; and an emphasis on programs and services that have specifically articulated, measurable goals and objectives that target outcomes with evidence-based action.

3) What are the top three issues Monroe County faces and how do you plan to address these issues?

Monroe County faces a constellation of issues that stem from addiction, cycles of poverty, and a lack of federal and state support for those affected by these and other social disadvantages. In addition, the area's watersheds are threatened by potential changes to environmental protections that keep our water clean and our forests intact. Our challenge is to solve these problems while maintaining a sustainable level of smart economic growth. Monroe County has a robust network of organizations working to support the community's health. Nonprofits, businesses, city and county governments bring strengths and strategies to the challenges facing our citizens and natural environment. To the extent possible, I plan to use my position as a member of Council to connect people and programs, encourage partnerships that capitalize on complementary strengths, and promote budgets that use this approach to find innovative, evidence-based solutions.

4) Please list your political experience, both here and elsewhere, including any grassroots activity in which you participated or led.

I am a first-time candidate. I am relatively new to the formal political scene. However, I am a life-long Democrat. As a high-schooler, I canvassed in Cincinnati, Ohio as part of an affordable urban housing initiative in the 1980s. I worked with Habitat for Humanity and the Rainforest Action Network in college in the nineties. More recently, I took a big step in supporting party politics by managing Amanda Barge's successful campaign for Monroe County Commissioner in 2016. I currently serve on the Monroe County Environmental Commission. Less political, but very grassroots, is my work in one of the MCCSC elementary schools where I implemented a classroom and cafeteria recycling program with the support of staff and a small team of volunteers. Finally, another example is my experience working with the Ohio State University Extension. As a state-level program manager, I developed, evaluated, and taught programs for landowners. Working with forestry, wildlife, fishery, and watershed professionals, I directly educated citizens on conservation practices and best management approaches to managing private property across the state.

5) In what way(s) do you consider yourself to be socially, politically, and economically progressive?

I am an advocate for justice and equity in both social and environmental contexts. With respect to economic development, I firmly believe that any cost-benefit analysis must be accountable to the costs paid by our natural environment and disadvantaged social groups. In a political context,

I strive for collaborative and innovative solutions that allow our government to be the best guardian of its citizens.

6) What are the guiding principles of your political philosophy and how will these principles inform and guide your decisions and actions as County Council Member?

Principles of justice, equity, and inclusion frame my view on the obligations of the government to its citizens. However, those same words describe the obligations of a citizenry to its government as well. In other words, a just and fair democracy depends on the participation of its citizens, while at the same time working to support the health and wellness those citizens. That said, the government is but one of the systems at work in supporting society and individuals journey toward betterment. As an elected member of our local government I will foster public input in my decision-making. I will look for ways to amplify the efforts of government with inclusive approaches like public-private partnerships and inter-local agreements. I will also advocate for solutions that are fair and level the playing field for all members of our community.

7) Describe your ideas for engaging community members through more informed., active, and inclusive participation in the community and in our government.

We need to meet people where they are, both culturally and geographically. I plan to hold regular office hours where I am available electronically and in-person to answer questions and discuss issues. Further, I will "advertise" my position and availability in community-based venues such as township, school, neighborhood, and other offices and events. Finally, across all these opportunities, I will educate and inform our citizens about the role of the County Council and relevant local issues.

8) Will you pledge to not accept donations from corporations, businesses, and people whose activities are overseen by your office?

Yes

No

Please explain why or why not.

"Money isn't speech and corporations aren't people" (David Kairys, civil rights attorney). In a progressive democracy, elected officials serve the people,. In short, that is the power and strength of democracy, and that is the basis of local governance.

9) How do you propose to balance economic development with environmental issues?

Our local community has been successful in implementing sustainable and green energy projects across both city and county facilities. I would like to continue this legacy and commitment to sustainable development. In my work on the Monroe County environmental commission, we have recently looked at ways we can evaluate and recognize local businesses' sustainability to encourage green business practices. In terms of economic growth, we must prioritize, and when necessary incentivize environmentally responsible investment. IU faculty member and Nobel Laureate, Elinor Ostrom, detailed the ways in which our common natural resources can be sustainably managed at the local level. By working at that local level, I hope to support opportunities for individual landowners and private business to invest in our community for the long-term using models that account for impacts to water and air quality, as well as more subtle, but equally important ecosystem services.

10) How has the 2010 Property Tax Cap Amendment to the Indiana Constitution affected your budget priorities? How do you maintain a progressive agenda in light of the resulting budget cuts?

The property tax cap amendment should not change budget priorities. The property tax cap does affect how we budget for these priorities. My priority areas for government spending remain focused on community needs and critical services for our most vulnerable populations, protection of our natural resources, and careful economic development. In Monroe County, we are lucky to have a relatively large assessed value upon which to base our tax rates. That keeps tax rates relatively low while generating adequate funding for the County budget. Because of the ways in which our maximum tax levy is calculated, it is important to review the historical data on state income growth so that we can prepare for the resulting fluctuations and use the little room we have on property assessment with great care. Some alternative funding sources that can be used to maintain our priorities include grants, partner-leveraged funding, and referendum taxes. Referenda are based on community vote and take a lot of energy and effort to enact. However, they are good at implementing progressive, community-based initiatives and supporting valued services threatened by unstable funding. I will remain open to a variety of alternative funding streams while working to stabilize our primary revenue sources.

Circuit Court Judge, Division 2, Seat 2

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Gracia Valliant
Marcia Veldman
Betsy Walsh
Sue Wanzer
Lara Weaver
John Whikehart
Shelli Yoder
Charlotte Zietlow

1) Why are you running for office, or re-election, and what do you hope to accomplish as Judge? If you are running for re-election, please include your accomplishments in the prior term.

I have dedicated my career to public service as a progressive Democrat - first on the Bloomington City Council, and then as the elected Prosecuting Attorney. I am now running for Judge to continue that commitment to progressive community leadership and public service. I have over twenty years of diverse legal experience in this community - approximately half of that time spent as a prosecutor, and half in private practice in a local law firm. In private practice I represented clients in criminal defense cases, including court-appointed public defender case. I also handled civil cases including family law (divorce, custody, visitation), personal injury, contracts, and immigration law. I understand the challenge of representing clients, defending their constitutional rights, as well as the importance of representing the public interest as an elected official and community leader. I have seen our justice system from many different perspectives, and that balance and broad diversity of experience is important in order to effectively serve our community as a judge. As prosecutor, I worked hard to develop a progressive approach to public safety that reflected the values of this community. I focused on prevention, building valuable community partnerships, and creating new resources to improve public safety. My accomplishments have made significant contributions to quality of life and have been recognized with several awards. As a member of the Board of Judges, I will draw on both my experience as a legal professional and my background as a community leader to creatively promote evidence-based problem-solving approaches to important issues facing our community - such as the need to collaborate with local partners to better address drug and alcohol addictions, and mental health treatment. I take issues of fairness and justice seriously. As a judge, I pledge that I will listen, treat people with respect, and do my best to ensure the fair and equal administration of justice in our community.

2) What is the overall theme of your campaign and how will you share and explain it to the community?

Progressive Community Leadership and Public Service

- Experience
- Fair and Equal Justice
- Problem-Solving Resources
- Community-Based Justice

3) What are the top three issues Monroe County faces and how do you plan to address these issues?

1. Increase in CHINS cases - The opioid crisis has resulted in a significant increase in the number of "Child In Need of Services" or CHINS, not only in Monroe County, but throughout the State of Indiana. This has been referred to as a "parenting crisis" that goes hand in hand with the opioid crisis. The Board of Judges will need to cooperate internally to meet the demands of this increased caseload, as well as collaborate with partners in the community to ensure that appropriate services are available to meet the needs of this vulnerable population. I stand ready to work with colleagues on the Board of Judges and build community partnerships to expand resources to meet this challenge.

2. Expand problem-solving community resources/partnerships - With the new Indiana criminal code the Indiana legislature shifted much of the burden from the Department of Corrections to local government for low level felony offenders. However, the legislature has not provided adequate funding necessary to expand those services at the local level. While Monroe County is fortunate in that we generally have more resources than many other rural communities in Indiana, these are still insufficient to meet the increased demands from these changes in the law in combination with the effects of the opioid epidemic. The Board of Judges must provide a community leadership role to further develop additional local resources to provide drug and alcohol addictions treatment services, and mental health treatment in our community. My background, experience, and positive record of community-collaboration makes me uniquely well-suited to accomplishing this difficult task as a member of the Board of Judges.

3. Fair and Equal Justice - Above all a good judge needs the ability to set aside personal biases and ensure the fair and impartial administration of justice. As a judge, I pledge to listen, treat people with respect, and ensure that everyone is treated fairly and equally under the law. I believe that is not only something of which I am capable, but something I have practiced professionally and am competent in achieving. I strongly believe in the principles of fair and equal justice. I will listen to the unique facts presented in each case and make fair and impartial decisions based on the evidence presented and the rule of law.

4) Please list your political experience, both here and elsewhere, including any grassroots activity in which you participated or led.

I have been elected to local public office five times previously (twice to City Council, and three times as Prosecutor), and have continuously served this community as a progressive Democrat since first being elected in 1999. I have supported numerous local Democratic candidates over my many years of involvement in the local Democratic Party. I have helped with the campaigns of many friends over the years who have been local Democratic candidates and elected officials. I have consistently sponsored and funded the local Democratic Party, including events,

fundraisers, and dinners for nearly two decades, and have worked closely with several party chairs during that time. While I was a student at Indiana University, I was actively involved in many local progressive organizations both on campus and in the community. Examples of some of my previous grassroots involvements include: during the mid-1990s I sat at the Farmer's Market every weekend for an entire summer with a petition in favor of Single-Payer National Health Insurance. Similarly, during the summer of 2005 I sat at a table at the Farmer's Market with a petition against the privatization of Social Security. I was the main person who organized those local efforts. I am currently a member of Democracy For Monroe County.

5) In what way(s) do you consider yourself to be socially, politically, and economically progressive?

I have dedicated my career to public service as a progressive Democrat on the City Council and as Prosecutor. I am running for Judge to continue that commitment and will seek to make further contributions that reflect the progressive values of this community. Prior to serving as an elected official, my entire adult life has been dedicated to promoting social and environmental justice. As a student, I was involved in numerous organizations both on campus and in the community - actively organizing events, speeches, and meetings. Those who have known me since those early days, know that I have maintained my commitment to progressive values, and sustained my active involvement in working towards social change throughout my life.

6) What are the guiding principles of your political philosophy and how will these principles inform and guide your decisions and actions as Judge?

I strive to be an independent and critical thinker who does not simply accept information because it confirms my own pre-existing belief system. I seek out and compare alternative viewpoints in order to challenge my own accepted ideas and personal biases, and to learn from different perspectives. In doing so, I strive to base my opinions on evidence and fact and remain willing to change my mind and update my opinions. I believe these skills will assist me to be a more fair and impartial judge who will keep an open mind and listen to all the evidence presented in a case and provide the opportunity for a full and complete hearing before reaching a conclusion that will have likely have significant consequences for the litigants involved.

7) Describe your ideas for engaging community members through more informed, active, and inclusive participation in the community and in our government.

During my time as prosecutor I have been the driving force behind a number of valuable community partnerships that resulted in the creation of new problem-solving resources to address important community issues. These include the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program, a pediatric version of that SANE program, the creation of Susie's Place Child Advocacy Center, Dropout Prevention and Child Safety initiatives, improving Adult Protective Services and better addressing issues affecting the elderly, development of a Volunteer Guardianship Program, and the creation of a Mental Health Court. My efforts were recognized with several awards including the 2016 Haines Turner Award from

the Community Justice and Mediation Center (CJAM) for contributions to justice that heal and restore the Monroe County community. In pursuing these initiatives, I have always invited as many stakeholders to the table as possible in order to gather their input and invite a broad range of participation. I believe that true community collaboration requires us to put aside our own narrow interests in order to accomplish something together that we could not have done individually. As prosecutor, I drew upon my previous experiences as a community organizer to expand upon the traditional role of the position in order to creatively and successfully address important public safety issues. I believe these same skills and connections to the community will be an asset to the Board of Judges that will assist in collaboratively addressing the many challenges facing our community in the future.

8) Will you pledge to not accept donations from corporations, businesses, and people whose activities are overseen by your office?

Yes

No

Please explain why or why not.

I have not accepted contributions from corporations or businesses. If there were a legitimate issue regarding my neutrality in a particular case, I would consider the option to recuse myself from the case in order to avoid the appearance of any impropriety.

9) What role should a Judge's personal beliefs and values play in the decisions the Judge renders?

A judge should carefully strive to set aside personal biases and ensure the fair and impartial administration of justice. I will listen to the unique facts presented in each case, treat people with respect, and make fair and impartial decisions based on the evidence presented and the rule of law. Having practiced as a prosecutor, and in private practice representing clients in criminal defense cases, including court-appointed public defender cases, as well as a wide variety of civil cases and immigration law hearings, I have seen our court system from many different perspectives. I believe that diversity and balance of experience is important and valuable for someone to effectively serve as a judge. In addition, I know from the experience of practicing in a number of jurisdictions outside Monroe County, that our local justice system has developed its own unique progressive culture over the years. As prosecutor over the last eleven years, I have made significant contributions toward creating that progressive culture. We focus attention on rehabilitation, treatment for drug and alcohol addictions, mental health treatment, problem-solving resources, prevention efforts, and valuable community collaborations such as the Nurse Family Partnership program. That focus does not happen automatically and cannot simply be taken for granted. That progressive culture in our local justice system is something that must be worked on constantly, because that work is never done. And the personal philosophy and progressive values of the people who are in that system makes a significant difference. In order

to maintain and build on the progressive culture and resources of our court system and ensure that it reflects the progressive culture of our local community, the people serving in that system must themselves understand and reflect those progressive values. I have a proven track record of working to ensure that our local justice system reflects those progressive values. As a member of the Board of Judges I will continue to find ways to work proactively with others in the community to create the resources and collaborations required to make a difference for improving the quality of justice in our community for years to come.

10) What are your views on Judge's use of social media?

A judge should limit their use of any public social media profile to matters of general public concern, and not post any information related to specific cases or litigants. A judge must be careful not to make public statements indicating the pre-judgment of issues due to bias or prejudice of an issue that is likely to come before them.

Additional comments:

I would appreciate the support of Democracy for Monroe County as the progressive Democratic candidate for Monroe Circuit Court Judge in Seat 2, Division 2.

Catherine Stafford

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catherine@staffordforjudge.org

Website (if any):

www.staffordforjudge.org

Please list your campaign committee members, or your support team:

Pat Williams, Campaign Chair
Kyla Cox Deckard, Marketing Committee Chair
Pamela Hensler, Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair
Heather Lacy, Events Committee Chair
Geoff McKim, Data Committee Chair
Amanda Barge, Monroe County Commissioner
Anna Bednarski
Nicole Bolden, City of Bloomington Clerk
Bill Breeden

Susan E. Coleman
Doug Davis, CASA Volunteer
Lesley Davis
Susan Davis, Certified Wildlife Rehabilitator
Rick Dietz, Former Chair, Monroe County Democratic Party, Former Monroe County Council Member
McKenzie Goodrich, Shine Insurance Agency
Dorothy Granger, City of Bloomington Common Council
Susie Hamilton
Rachel Kearney/Realtor, F.C. Tucker | Bloomington Realtors
Erin Martoglio, Attorney
Colleen Maynard
Barbara McKinney, Attorney
Bob Molnar
Kara Reagan, Attorney
Melissa Richardson
Mary Kay Rothert, Environmental Activist
Margie Goodwin Schrader, Attorney
Eric Slotegraaf, Attorney
Justin Steele, Attorney
Sue Wanzer, MCCSC School Board
Maryann O'Leary Williams, Attorney

1) Why are you running for office, or re-election, and what do you hope to accomplish as Judge? If you are running for re-election, please include your accomplishments in the prior term.

I believe that a good judge is one who knows the law, listens to both sides carefully, weighs the evidence, and makes a prompt and well-reasoned decision. I hope to fulfill that role as your next Monroe Circuit Court Judge in Division VI.

I've been an attorney for more than 20 years, practicing in many areas and focusing for the past ten years on family law. One of my favorite things about being a lawyer is being able to help those in need. I started volunteering in law school and I keep up that commitment today.

If elected, I plan to work with our local nonprofit and legal community to further assistance for pro se litigants (those without attorneys). The percentage of pro se litigants is increasing, and courts can improve the services offered to them, for example, by organizing classes for pro se litigants in small claims and family law, encouraging and supporting the efforts of walk-in clinics such as Counsel in the Court, and working with state courts to provide do-it-yourself forms for many common simple legal needs. However, it is important that this assistance to pro se litigants not take place in the courtroom, where doing so would require a Judge to step out of a neutral role.

As an attorney, I have spent twenty years serving as an advocate. Although I advocate for one side, a critical part of helping my clients prepare for negotiation, mediation, and court is always to pause, put ourselves in the shoes of the other side, and consider why the other side might disagree with our proposals, what the other side might be scared about, what the other side might

want. This mindset helps us reach settlement more than almost anything else we do. Likewise, a good judge thinks about the case from all perspectives.

As a Guardian ad Litem, appointed by the court to represent the best interests of the child, and as a mediator, I serve as a neutral party, trying to find middle ground, but still considering the case from all perspectives. The more I've served as a neutral party, the more I've become interested in serving as a Judge.

I hope to accomplish the establishment of a night court aimed at low income pro se litigants and increased efficiency and transparency of the court system (see #3, below).

2) What is the overall theme of your campaign and how will you share and explain it to the community?

The overall theme of my campaign is to share why I'm running (see #1, above), and to share and explain it with a "League of Women Voters" style approach. For example, I share a chart of who is running for what judicial office on the FAQ page of my website. I also have been sharing a blog series about what to look for in a judicial candidate and have gotten 1,000-2,000 visits to each of the blog posts (which I've boosted on Facebook). I'm on the seventh post now, with the remaining three timed to go out pre-primary.

3) What are the top three issues your office faces and how do you plan to address these issues?

I believe the top three issues facing the Monroe County Courts are these:

1. Need for improved Access to Justice by low income people and (related) Needs of Pro Se Litigants (those without attorneys):

Although Monroe County has a legal services office, a district pro bono office, and even a nonprofit focusing on reduced fee cases, there is still too limited availability of free or reduced cost services. The most common types of cases where litigants are pro se are family cases, such as divorce, paternity, custody, and support; and small claims cases, such as evictions and debt collection.

I propose creation of a court aimed at low income pro se litigants with family law cases, with the assistance of community partners to provide volunteer assistance. The Pro Se Court would start as a once-a-month evening court session and would be a comprehensive problem-solving court where:

- A. Parties would start by being assigned a volunteer guide for the evening;
- B. Next, parties would see certified legal interns who, with attorney supervision, would help them to help complete court forms;
- C. Volunteer mediators would then attempt to resolve any disputes; and

D. Finally, the judge would hear any remaining unresolved issues.

Access to justice is incredibly important---I started my career as a legal services attorney and I know how much need exists for this type of court. It's my hope that Monroe County can not only establish and expand a court geared at low income pro se litigants, but also be a leader in modeling this for Indiana.

2. Impact of Opioids and other substance use disorders on family law cases:

The prevalence of Substance Use Disorder in our area is not unique—it's faced by most communities in the US, and unfortunately no one has a great solution. I was involved in the first Monroe County Opioid Summit, led by Amanda Barge and Shelli Yoder, and I hope to continue work with the Opioid Commission. I want to continue interactions with the local groups in this area, such as Indiana Recovery Alliance, to ensure that the courts are sensitive to the issue and able to de-stigmatize substance use where possible. I have been trained on naloxone use and keep a supply in my office.

Unfortunately, substance use disorder impacts not only criminal cases, but also family law cases, where it is often a basis for change of custody petitions and Child in Need of Services (CHINS) cases. Indiana removes children from their families at a rate twice the national average. (<https://www.indystar.com/story/opinion/2018/01/11/why-indianas-child-protection-system-failing-its-not-lack-money/1024255001>).

I wish I had a concrete solution for Substance Use Disorder and its impact on families. I don't. I will continue to work closely with local groups and to keep abreast of evidence-based solutions for families—solutions that focus on keeping families together as much as possible.

3. Need for improved efficiency of the court system:

Our courts are overburdened. It can take months to get a hearing date, and then months to get a decision after court. As a small business owner, running my own firm for the past 13+ years, I've embraced technology as a way to be more efficient. I took my law firm paperless in 2012—the first private firm in town to do so. I use templates to increase consistency and allow me to focus on what's unique about each case rather than spending time on the rote. I'm comfortable with the Judges' Edition software that is used to manage cases, which I've been using regularly when I serve as a Judge Pro Tempore (a substitute judge).

4) Please list your political experience, both here and elsewhere, including any grassroots activity in which you participated or led.

Although I am a lifelong Democrat, I count several Republicans among my closest friends and pride myself on working hard to maintain productive and respectful dialogue and communication with all people of good intentions.

I am the third generation of my family to be active in local Democratic politics. My grandmother, Bee Stafford, helped former Mayor Tomi Allison with her campaigns in the 80s; my parents and aunts and uncles have been officeholders and volunteers. I've been personally active since helping my friend Alex Service (daughter of former District Six City Councilwoman Pam Service) with Pat William's state-wide campaign in the mid 80s.

I moved from occasional volunteer to dedicated staffer in the early 2000s, after returning to Bloomington from Minnesota. I am a founding board member of the Democratic Women's Caucus and have been a volunteer for three other judicial campaigns before launching my own.

Monroe County Democratic Party

- Outreach Committee, 2017 - present
- Precinct Vice-Chair, Washington Township 2016 - 2017
- Voter Protection Coordination, November 2016
- Monday Night Blitz Coordinator, 2006
- Treasurer, 2004-2005
- Precinct Vice-Chair, Bloomington 1, 2003-2005
- Voter Protection Training, 2004

Democratic Women's Caucus

- Member
- Member of original Steering Committee and Drafted original Bylaws

Democracy for Monroe County

- Member
- Outreach Committee, 2017 - present

Democrat's Club

- Member

Harvey for Judge, Campaign Manager, 2016

Haughton for Judge, Committee Member and Treasurer, 2006

Harper for Judge, Committee Member, 2005-2006

Rick Dietz for City Council, Committee Member, 2003

Volan for City Council, Campaign Manager, 2003

5) In what way(s) do you consider yourself to be socially, politically, and economically progressive?

My history includes active work on behalf of low income people (for example, as a former Legal Services attorney and frequent pro bono volunteer), racial justice (for example, as a member of the NAACP and Monroe County Showing Up For Racial Justice (SURJ)'s Leadership Team), for children (for example, as a CASA board member and pro bono CASA attorney), for immigrants (for example, as a pro bono attorney for Know Your Rights!, a walk-in clinic where we helped undocumented residents with guardianship and custody papers to protect their children in the event that they are detained), and in my work with the DFMC, DWC, MCBDC, and MCDP over the years.

However, it's important to note that my personal political philosophy cannot and will not determine how I would rule on individual cases (see #6, below).

6) What are the guiding principles of your political philosophy and how will these principles inform and guide your decisions and actions as Judge?

As a progressive candidate, my guiding principles are fairness, equity, and transparency.

To further those goals, I would work to implement new initiatives in partnership with the community to improve access to justice, help for pro se litigants, and public outreach and education about the courts. My political philosophy will not determine how I would rule in a particular case. My planned new initiatives are detailed in #3, above.

7) Describe your ideas for engaging community members through more informed, active, and inclusive participation in the community and in our government.

I have already begun to build partnerships in the community towards my planned initiatives. For example, as I've been developing the Pro Se Court (see #3, above), I've reached out to Justice Unlocked (a local nonprofit that provides sliding scale legal services), District 10 Pro Bono Project (which recruits pro bono attorneys and pairs them with low income residents in need of legal services), the IU Maurer School of Law clinical faculty, and the IU Political Science department.

I also would very much like to reach out to community groups to talk about the inner workings of the courts. In the next 2-5 years, I would like to help start a local high school mock trial team. I coached high school mock trial for five years when I lived in Minnesota, and it was a great way to get students involved in knowing their rights, learning to argue productively, and learning about the law.

8) Will you pledge to not accept donations from corporations, businesses, and people whose activities are overseen by your office?

Yes

No

Please explain why or why not.

Most judicial races do receive modest donations from lawyers and law firms, and those lawyers and law firms do then appear in front of the judges.

I do pledge to follow the Indiana Code of Judicial Conduct, Cannon 4.2, which allows judicial candidates' committees to take contributions from lawyers and law firms so long as the contribution is reasonable. My campaign committee is properly instructed to ensure that any contribution by a lawyer or law firm is modest and reasonable in scope. Here is the Canon that applies to this question:

RULE 4.4: Campaign Committees

(A) A judicial candidate* subject to partisan or nonpartisan election*, and a candidate for retention who has met active opposition, may establish a campaign committee to manage and conduct a campaign for the candidate, subject to the provisions of this Code. The candidate is responsible for ensuring that his or her campaign committee complies with applicable provisions of this Code and other applicable law.*

(B) A judicial candidate shall direct his or her campaign committee:

(1) to solicit and accept only such campaign contributions* as are reasonable;

(2) not to solicit or accept contributions for a candidate's current campaign more than one (1) year before the applicable primary election, caucus, or general or retention election, nor more than ninety (90) days after the last election in which the candidate participated; and

(3) to comply with all applicable statutory requirements for disclosure and divestiture of campaign contributions.

Comment

[1] Judicial candidates are prohibited from personally soliciting campaign contributions or personally accepting campaign contributions. See Rule 4.1(A)(8). This Rule recognizes that in many jurisdictions, judicial candidates must raise campaign funds to support their candidacies, and permits candidates, other than candidates for appointive judicial office or candidates for retention who have not met active opposition, to establish campaign committees to solicit and accept reasonable financial contributions or in-kind contributions.

[2] Campaign committees may solicit and accept campaign contributions, manage the expenditure of campaign funds, and generally conduct campaigns. Candidates are responsible for compliance with the requirements of election law and other applicable law, and for the activities of their campaign committees.

[3] At the start of a campaign, the candidate must instruct the campaign committee to solicit or accept only such contributions as are reasonable in amount, appropriate under the circumstances, and in conformity with applicable law. Although lawyers and others who might appear before a successful candidate for judicial office are permitted to make campaign contributions, the candidate should instruct his or her campaign committee to be especially cautious in connection with such contributions, so they do not create grounds for disqualification if the candidate is elected to judicial office. See Rule 2.11.

9) What role should a Judge's personal beliefs and values play in the decisions the Judge renders?

A Judge cannot pretend to never have personal beliefs, but it is terribly important that the personal beliefs not dictate how to rule in a particular case. A judge needs to follow the law and decide each case based on the law and the facts of that case.

However, a Judge's personal beliefs can help play a role in setting up a compassionate, accessible, transparent, and efficient court, and in ensuring that low income people have more access to the court system. These are two initiatives that I plan to begin (see #3, above).

10) What are your views on Judge's use of social media?

Judges are permitted to use social media in Indiana. The Judicial Conference of Indiana, Ethics and Professionalism Committee, Best Practices and Tips Regarding the Use of Social Media, released in 2013, (<http://www.in.gov/judiciary/iocs/files/Social-Media-Best-Practices.docx>) makes clear that judges may engage in extrajudicial activities such as use of social media, so long as “certain precautions are taken. At baseline, judges should ‘employ an appropriate level of prudence, discretion and decorum in how they use this technology’.” (Internal cites omitted). (Some states do limit use of social media by judges).

Judges and judicial candidates need to be careful about such practices as friending one attorney but not another, joining questionable groups, or engaging in any speech on social media that could be interpreted as a pledge, promise, or commitment to rule a certain way. In their statements, judges and judicial candidates also need to be careful to minimize the need for the judges to disqualify themselves from cases.

If elected, I would plan to continue limited use of social media, including: friending any local attorney who wishes, limiting any speech that could be construed to be a pledge, promise, or commitment to rule a certain way, and limiting any speech that could lead to a need to disqualify myself. In fact, when I launched my campaign on May 9, 2017, I began following those practices.

Additional comments:

The primary job of a judge is to hear disputes and render a prompt, fair decision. Interestingly, fewer of 5% of Indiana cases are jury trials (even fewer in Monroe County: .1% in 2016 and 2017) (<https://www.in.gov/judiciary/2671.htm>; ICOR). Thus, the vast majority of cases are decided at Bench Trials by a Judge or in alternative ways---such as mediation, arbitration, and negotiation, and a judge can have an impact on the availability of those alternatives.

Circuit Court Judge, Division 9, Seat 8

Darcie Fawcett

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Website (if any):

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Please list your campaign committee members, or your support team:

List of your support or campaign committee members:

Endorsed candidate by the Democratic Women’s Caucus.

Fawcett for Judge Committee:

Tomi Allison	Allison Chopra	Jennifer Armstrong
<i>Honorary Chair</i>	<i>Chairperson</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>
Lisa Abbot	Cathy Fuentes-Rohwer	Darryl Neher
Jim Allison	Rachel Guglielmo	Susan Nelson
Amanda Barge	Amelia Lahn	Vi Simpson
Chris Chopra	Richard Lewis	Doris Sims
Tom Coleman	Elizabeth Mann	Lindsey Smith
Kyla Cox-Decker	Carol McCord	Chris Sturbaum
John Decker	Regina Moore	Sue Wanzer
Janet Decker	Glenda Murray	Lara Weaver
	Patrick Murray	Pat Williams

1) Why are you running for office, or re-election, and what do you hope to accomplish as Judge? If you are running for re-election, please include your accomplishments in the prior term.

I am running for judge because I am committed to justice and equality in our community. My professional experiences and my outlook make me the best qualified to serve. We should be proud of our local court. It is a court that has focused on the needs of the underserved and the promise of equality and justice for all. I will keep that focus and extend that promise, as I have a solid reputation for hard work and a lifetime commitment to progressive values and service to others.

As a graduate of the IU School of Law, I am an attorney trained in all areas of the law. I often work with the Family and Children Mediation Clinic, Community Legal Clinic, and the Protective Order Project. I have extensive courtroom experience. For over a decade, I have been a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, handling thousands of cases from theft to murder. I have to protect victims, weigh very difficult family dynamics, assess the influence of drugs and alcohol, and check and recheck that the system is treating its participants fairly, equally and with dignity. Like judicial

decisions, my prosecutorial decisions must be informed by the goal of justice and an outcome that serves victims and the community. The deliberative process of whether to file charges and how to proceed with each case, each defendant, and each victim is very much the same deliberative process of a judge considering the credibility of witnesses and the weight of the evidence.

As a deputy prosecutor, I work closely with our Probation Department, Alternative Supervision Programs and our Problem-Solving Courts. These Problem-Solving Courts are important because they require offenders to take responsibility for the changes they need to make. The courts and the community can and should make opportunities for offenders to accept responsibility for what they have done and to open pathways going forward. I embrace the broad integration of the problem-solving philosophy into the administration of justice to improve court processes and outcomes.

My dedication to equality is firmly entrenched and extends well beyond the courtroom. I have taught in the most underserved communities, first in Bangkok, Thailand, then in the Chicago Public Schools and finally in the Indianapolis Public Schools. The lessons learned there about tailoring a program to an individual's need and treating everyone fairly and with respect inform my work every day.

I came to Bloomington almost 20 years ago and have been engaged in the community ever since. I am a single mother of two young girls and it's important to me that they see my active participation in our community. My children attend Fairview Elementary and I serve as president of its PTO. I am also president of the Prospect Hill Neighborhood Association, a member of the Bloomington Urban Enterprise Zone Board, Vice President of the Board of Park Commissioners, Member of the Advisory Committee for the Unified Development Ordinance and of the Hospital Site Reutilization Steering Committee.

In sum, I believe in justice tempered with mercy and based upon the principals of reformatory justice that we value in Monroe County

2) What is the overall theme of your campaign and how will you share and explain it to the community?

The overall theme of my campaign is Experience, Equitable, and Engaged. My committee refers to them as the "Three E's." It is an easy way to remember the 3 main areas of my platform. All of my mailings and speeches are organized around these three concepts.

Fawcett has the experience the community needs.

This highlights the wide range of life experiences, ranging from living overseas to teaching in high need schools.

Fawcett works for fair outcomes.

This highlights all of the various programs I have worked with to ensure justice is achieved. It highlights the problem-solving courts that works to prevent an offender from reoffending.

Fawcett is engaged in our community.

This highlights my activities within the community and that enhance my understanding of how decisions of the court can impact others.

3) What are the top three issues your office faces and how do you plan to address these issues?

Opioid Epidemic

As a Deputy Prosecutor, I have seen the impact the opioid epidemic has had. I support well-reasoned evidence-based judicial interventions that get people into treatment, give consequences, cut the supply of drugs, support families and save lives. I would continue to support the use of Problem Solving Courts. Participants in these court take part in intensive treatment programs directly under court supervision. These courts address the unique needs of offenders with drug addictions and mental illness instead of simply leaving the offenders untreated in a jail cell. The opioid epidemic also contributes the Monroe County Jail being overcrowded. Many of the inmates do not pose a safety risk to the community, they have an addiction and cannot afford to post a bond in order to be released. I would work to ensure fairness of court procedures and would support the release of offenders who do not exhibit a threat to public safety. I would support ways, other than the use of cash bond, to assure these low-risk offenders attend their court hearings, regardless of their family's ability to bail them out of jail.

Congested Court Dockets

Being in court reflects a particularly vulnerable time, both personally and economically for the litigant. The sooner a person can go to court and resolve their legal issues, the sooner they can get back to work and back to their family. Judges need to be sensitive to their role not only as administrators of justice, but also as centerpiece participants in a system that is becoming prohibitively expensive. In order to do this, I will be on time to court. As simple as that sounds, keeping the calendar on track is vital to an efficient disposition of cases. A judge starting their day as little as 30 minutes late can wreak havoc on the parties' calendar, creating conflicts in their schedule and causing cases to be reset at a later date. I would also issue rulings in a timely manner; I would strive to do so within 30 days of the hearing.

Civic Education

One area I think the Monroe County bench could greatly improve upon is in civic education. I believe that a judge's work goes beyond hearing evidence and signing orders. Their public duty does not stop at the end of the bench. I would be more active in educating people by walking out of the courthouse and explaining the legal system in person. Civic education makes people better citizens and helps them work their way through the complexities of life. I would work to bring experts to Monroe County to talk about issues that impact our justice system. I would also like to see more of a partnership between the courts and local schools. I would work to establish a "Law Day" with schools, where students are able to watch appropriate legal proceedings to develop a deeper understanding of the role the courts play in everyday society.

4) Please list your political experience, both here and elsewhere, including any grassroots activity in which you participated or led.

I have been active in individual democrat candidate campaigns for many years, first for Chris Gaal's Prosecutor Campaign and then for Shelli Yoder's 2012 Congressional Campaign.

I was selected by the Indiana Democratic Party to participate in the 2013 Emerging Leaders Project class. I was one of 40 candidates selected from over 175 applicants from across the state. Emerging Leaders is a project of the Indiana Democratic Party that offers free training, mentoring and professional development opportunities to those who are interested in serving in elective office, party leadership or working on campaigns or in public service in Indiana.

I also have run my own campaign for Judge in the 2016 Democratic Primary in which I was endorsed by DFMC.

5) In what way(s) do you consider yourself to be socially, politically, and economically progressive?

I am socially progressive because I believe that everyone deserves a fair shot at a decent, fulfilling, and economically secure life. I believe that everyone should do his or her fair share to build this life through education and hard work and through active participation in public life. It is because of that belief I first became a teacher. I double majored in Psychology and Education and Minored in Women's Studies. As part of my teaching practicum I applied for and was chosen to be part of a Teach for Diversity Cohort that consisted of 12 elementary education majors who specifically wanted to teach in underserved communities. Following graduation, I obtained a teaching position at Kasetsart University in Bangkok Thailand. Upon returning to the states I taught for two years in the most underserved areas, first, two years in Chicago Public Schools, followed by one year in Indianapolis Public Schools. Working with diverse populations has given me different perspective and insights that will enrich our judiciary.

I also believe that everyone should play by the same set of rules with no special privileges for the well-connected or wealthy. It is because of this belief that I send my children to Fairview Elementary School. I have never wavered in my support for Fairview, even despite others suggesting to me that I should enroll them in a private school or opt to send them to another school in MCCSC. I strongly believe that every child has something to offer to the world, they just need to be given an opportunity and a level playing field.

Along with freedom and opportunity comes *responsibility* — personal responsibility and the responsibility we have to each other and to the common good. Personal responsibility requires each of us to do our part to improve our own lives through hard work, education, and by acting with honesty and integrity. Responsibility to others and to the common good requires a commitment to putting the public interest above the interests of a few and an understanding that strong families and communities are the foundation of a good society. It means working to achieve greater social justice and economic conditions that benefit civil society broadly. I put this into action by being the President of my neighborhood association, an appointed member of the Bloomington Urban Enterprise Association, Vice President of the Board of Parks Commissioner, member of the Advisory Committee for the Unified Development Ordinance, Board Member of the Bloomington Northside Exchange Club, as well as a member of the Hospital Site Reutilization Committee

6) What are the guiding principles of your political philosophy and how will these principles inform and guide your decisions and actions as Judge?

The easiest way to answer this question is to say that my political philosophy will not impact my decisions as a judge. People expect the law to have some fixed meaning and expect judges to base their decisions on their interpretation of both legal doctrine and the precedential application of laws in the past. While judges must strive to follow the law and make decision based on the evidence before them, judges are humans.

It is inevitable that a judge will use their moral sensibility, life experience, judicial philosophy, and political ideology to interpret and rule on the question of law that is before them. No text is self-interpreting and the very fact there is a case before the Court indicates that there is disagreement on a question of interpretation. If the plain meaning of the text was sufficient, there would be little reason to have courts. I will rely on my life experiences to find ways to help people improve their lives.

As demonstrated by my lifelong commitment to public service, I believe a broad capacity for empathy is crucial to judging. In filling in these gaps and ambiguities in the law, a judge will necessarily be making value-laden decisions that derive in part from her background and experience. The broader the background, and the greater her ability to step outside her own circumstances to see the law's effects on others, the greater will be the judge's ability to issue fair and just rulings.

In close, I will say I am a feminist and have a strong commitment to civil rights and equality. Although I am an outspoken advocate of equality, I do value and will follow the judicial requirement of working within legal precedent to make change. At the end of the day, regardless of whether I describe myself as liberal or conservative, I care deeply about the Court's institutional responsibility to the society and pledge to work hard to fulfill my obligations as a judge.

7) Describe your ideas for engaging community members through more informed, active, and inclusive participation in the community and in our government.

Actively engaging citizens helps improve public trust in the justice system. Greater trust, in turn, helps people feel safer, fosters law-abiding behavior, and makes members of the public more willing to cooperate in the pursuit of justice (as witnesses, jury members, etc.). Courts have often sought to minimize contact between themselves and their communities. The belief is that courts, to retain their independence and impartiality, need distance. Some judges understandably want to protect themselves from people who might try to influence their actions on pending cases. Judges are limited in how they can advocate for engaging citizens; however, I feel it is possible to maintain impartiality while actively collaborating with the community and listening to their concerns. Judges, of course, need to make clear at public meetings that they're not there to address specific cases but rather to discuss broad topics of interest to the community, such as categories of crime and local "hot spots." I would support the use of questionnaires—mailed or completed by volunteers who go door-to-door—to identify community problems. I would also attend community gatherings, such as meetings of block associations and business groups. I would also work to find roles for the public by using community volunteers to staff "impact panels" in which residents

explain to low-level offenders the negative consequences of their offenses on neighborhood quality of life. I would also consider the use of community groups to oversee offenders performing community service.

8) Will you pledge to not accept donations from corporations, businesses, and people whose activities are overseen by your office?

Yes __

No __

Please explain why or why not.

This is not necessarily a yes or no question. In general, I would say yes, I pledge to not accept donations from corporations, businesses, and people whose activities are overseen by my office. However, cases are assigned to judges in a random manner, which means I won't always know who future litigants will be.

Candidates for judicial offices in Indiana must adhere to the state's campaign finance laws. These laws regulate the amounts and sources of money given or received for political purposes. In addition, campaign finance laws stipulate disclosure requirements for political contributions and expenditures. I pledge that I will follow the campaign finance laws and if someone has donated to my campaign, I will recuse myself for that case.

9) What role should a Judge's personal beliefs and values play in the decisions the Judge renders?

A Judge's personal beliefs and values should not play a role in the decisions the Judge renders. As one of the three branches of government, the judiciary is neither greater or lesser than the other two branches. This creates a system of checks and balances that is aimed at preventing abuses of power. Only an independent judiciary is able to render justice impartially on the basis of law. This independence means that both the judiciary as an institution and also the individual judges deciding particular cases must be able to exercise their professional responsibilities without being influenced by the Executive, the Legislature or any other inappropriate sources. The principle of independence of judges was not invented for the personal benefit of the judges themselves but was created to protect litigants against abuses of power. It follows that judges cannot act arbitrarily in any way by deciding cases according to their own personal preferences, but that their duty is and remains to apply the law. (however please refer to my answer to question 6 for additional explanation)

10) What are your views on Judge's use of social media?

Pursuant to Rule 3.1 of the Indiana Code of Judicial Conduct, judges are permitted to engage in extrajudicial activities so long as the activities do not otherwise violate the Code. Therefore, when used appropriately, a Judge could use social media. However, when deciding how said social

media should be used, the judge should consider whether its use could lead to frequent judicial disqualification. In addition, it's important for the judge to consider whether using social media would give the *appearance* of undermining the judge's independence, integrity or impartiality. The judge should always be mindful that these networks are often public and adjust his/her postings accordingly so as to not violate the judge's ethical obligation to act, at all times, in a manner that promotes confidence in the judiciary. A judge likewise should consider the appearance created when an attorney or someone else appearing in the judge's court is connected to the judge through networks like Facebook or Twitter.

Even if the Judge is cautious in how she uses social media, there is the potential for inadvertent *ex parte* communication on the network about a case the judge is responsible for hearing. To avoid issues, the judge may want to remove the attorney or party as a "friend" from his Facebook or Twitter list until the case is over. This would prevent the impression that those attorneys are in a special position to influence the judge.

Typically, when I do use social media, mainly Facebook, I post about my children. Even this innocuous use of Facebook caused an unexpected problem for me when I was the Sex Crimes Deputy Prosecutor. I had a victim who was not happy with a charging decision I made. She looked at my Facebook account and discovered that I was "friends" with the defense attorney. Despite the fact this social media relationship had nothing to do with my decision, she was left with the feeling that it did. She wrote me a letter detailing her belief that I was biased against her and that the criminal justice system was not just.

Based on this experience, even though the Judicial Code of Conduct does not prohibit the use of social media, I think it is wise if a judge limits its use.