

BLACK LIVES MATTER BLOOMINGTON



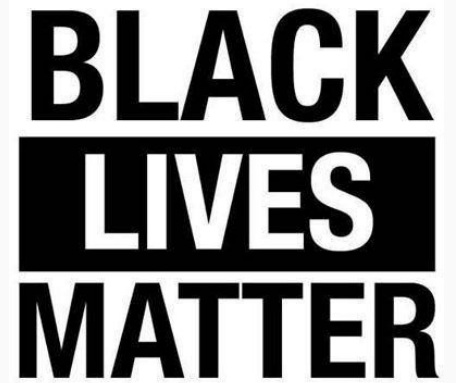
BLM Questionnaire & Candidate Responses

Bloomington, Indiana

2018 PRIMARY ELECTIONS

Table of Contents

Questionnaire.....	1
Robert Chatlos.....	3
Dan Canon.....	6
Liz Watson.....	9
Shelli Yoder.....	16
Kate Wiltz.....	22
Matt Schulz.....	25
Margie Rice.....	26
Chris Gaal.....	30
Christine Talley-Haseman	34
Catherine Stafford.....	37
Geoff Bradley.....	43
Darcie Fawcett.....	44
Patrick Stoffers.....	44
Jacob Franklin.....	44
Matt Pierce.....	51
Penny Githens.....	53
Jared Stancombe.....	56



Introduction

On April 24, 2018, Black Lives Matter Bloomington launched its first candidate questionnaire. We included as many candidates running in the primary on Tuesday, May 8 in Monroe County and the State of Indiana as time allowed. These candidates received eighteen questions about issues important to Black Lives Matter. Below are the questions, as well as the responses we received from candidates. We have included those who declined our offer to take the questionnaire but made a statement.

Questions

- 1) Describe your platform. Tell us what populations are most impacted by your platform policies and your specific plan to reach out and work with these communities.
- 2) Describe your experience working on social justice issues. What influence have you had on policies in this community that help marginalized populations, especially black and brown citizens?
- 3) What do elected officials need to do to improve the freedom, health and safety of black people? What specific actions will you take to accomplish that?
- 4) As a leader, what specifically would you do to build trust and faith with the black community? What would be challenges you might face and what would you do to overcome those challenges?
- 5) What role do you think local government needs to play in improving the physical and mental health of black people? What specific issues around health do you think are currently not being addressed at all or sufficiently?
- 6) How do you define privilege? How has privilege impacted decisions you have made as an elected official, or if you are running for the first time, as an engaged community member? If you are elected, how will you use your privilege to assist black and brown communities?

Questions

- 7) What role do you think local government has in protecting all black lives, regardless of gender, gender identity, ability, age, income? What intersectional policies or suggestions would you recommend for protecting these lives?
- 8) What have you done and or how would you go about recruiting, inspiring, supporting and training people of color to become political leaders in our community?
- 9) To the best of your knowledge, describe why people of color are disproportionately targeted and arrested by the criminal justice system. What ideas do you have to make the justice system more equitable and impartial?
- 10) Given the bias in our criminal justice system against black and brown people, what do you consider to be the top priorities for reforming our justice system?
- 11) What suggestions do you have for reducing the jail and prison populations in the current moment? Should prisons be abolished in your lifetime?
- 12) Name an issue facing school-aged children of color that you think needs to be better addressed and discuss how you would address it. Issues of particular interest to this organization include curriculum, busing and redistricting, before-and-after-school programs, and lunch programs.
- 13) How, specifically, do you foster respectful, empathetic collaboration with people who think differently from you? Provide an example of when you have done this either in your role as a community member or as an elected official.
- 14) Do you support programs focused on harm reduction, restorative justice, de-criminalization of drugs, reducing nuisance crimes and quality of life policing, and/or jail diversion programs? Choose one or more of those programs (or comparable ones that you are aware of) and describe how you have or would support that program or programs.
- 15) What concerns do you have about the militarization of our police force? What would you do, and what can the community do, to protect people of color from the effects of militarization, as this equipment is disproportionately deployed against people of color?
- 16) To better understand issues that people of color face, what groups would you reach out to?
- 17) Describe the profile of your average donor. What is the average size of donations you receive? Please describe any contributions that you think our organization would be interested in.
- 18) Would you be willing to participate in a candidate forum on the issues raised in this questionnaire?

U.S. House District 9 Candidates

Robert Chatlos (D)

- 1.) Unity, Diversity, Inclusion. While minority groups make up only around 10% -12%, 3% black in our district, poverty will be the target of much of my policy agenda. Regardless of race, poverty seems to be a continued breeding ground for racial divisions and economic disparity between whites and minority groups. Data is extremely important when targeting where the money goes for social programs as there is often a false narrative that minority groups are disproportionately benefiting from government help. Often it is just the opposite. I will use this office to educate the constituency that poverty is a universal problem and that it has negative implications across all economic and social groups.
- 2.) I will be forthright in saying the nature of my work has not left much time over the last decade to be involved in activism. I have been active in LBGT, needle exchange and HIV prevention, foster care, and minority youth focused organizations in my past. Obviously winning the seat in November will be a mandate to continue my work at an official level and I so look forward to having the opportunity.
- 3.) Inclusion. Purposeful pro-active inclusion. Not lip service either. I will make racial and minority issues a priority. Not to take sides, but to build bridges and interdependence both economic and social between all people. I want a level playing field with all players having fair access to the benefits of modern society and government. It won't happen unless we work together.
- 4.) I almost fantasize about having town hall meetings that focus on outreach to white people to come forward and have an opportunity to speak their minds regarding racial issues. It might not be pretty but I never hear about our elected officials making good on their desire to have these "serious talks" about our problems. Let's have those talks. I will. I will at least try. Black people and white people have to start talking to each other and I will be more than happy to use the office to facilitate those opportunities.
- 5.) Regional and local governments are going to need financial support so that access is available to mental health services. Obviously administering public services falls largely on local government and if they don't have the resources needed, communities fall short. This would be a good time to point out we really must move forward on Universal Single Payer Healthcare. A lot of our problems will be resolved by having equal access to healthcare.
- 6.) I do believe "white" privilege has been a factor in society. I've been cognizant of it in my own experiences. However, I have noticed over the course of my lifetime that privilege is becoming more economic in nature than about skin color. In some ways I have to wonder if some of those crying foul about minority groups disproportionately benefiting from

government services and economic opportunity are actually experiencing an overall reduction of quality of living standards for everyone. It has been extremely difficult for me to acquire loans and get access to government services in recent years and I've even wondered to myself if my experiences are similar to what black folks and minorities have faced for decades. Just a point to ponder.

7.) Equal consideration and protection under the law must be given to all people regardless of who they are. I understand the main point of contention for BLM is abuse and corruption by law enforcement that disproportionately impacts black people in a negative way. I think there is a burden of proof on government agencies to account for unfair practices and remedy problems where they exist. I think it is a reasonable expectation for all citizens to be treated equally and have accountability for any infringements upon our civil rights.

8.) Help me win the primary, I'll show you. Politics has become horribly incestuous. I want to shake it up if I win. For lack of a better expression on my sentiments... "I want a freakin rainbow staffing my office!" Lead by example here. It's not even about fairness. It's about necessity. We have to incorporate all kinds of people from all walks of life and it is the foundation of my campaign as you may be aware.

9.) Very complicated question. Where to start? It's a cycle, it's also a combination of structured oppression and cultural norms at this point. People will argue for or against that but I won't tolerate the nonsense that blacks haven't been screwed over the last few centuries. The line is blurry I will admit sometimes, but there is something to be said for personal responsibility and how do you gauge that when you aren't working with a level playing field for 400 years. I think once again, I want to set policies that do two things. 1.) Policy that builds interdependence and stability between different people and economic groups. 2.) Policy that removes the burden of responsibility from the government for people's lack of upward mobility. In other words, if your basic needs are provided for and you have a level playing field to work from, you are therefore ultimately responsible for your actions. I want policies that remove excuses from anyone that they don't have a fair shot at success. Sometimes that involves deregulation as well as implementation of social programs. Sometimes targeting specific groups, sometimes not. I think the best way to achieve equality for minority groups is by implementing opportunity equally/fairly and as needed across all vulnerable demographics because resentment will build from one group to another. It's just the way it is. People generally don't see the big picture that others may have had different experiences or challenges.

10.) Track data, target abuse, eliminate those that are bias. Eliminate mandatory sentencing and legalization of marijuana while decriminalization of chemical substances. Education and job opportunities are easy to mention but that doesn't come without housing, healthcare and food security. So many of our problems are interwoven. I have heard that many black communities are unfairly policed in excess. Is it true? Once again good data is important here. End for profit prisons. I guess I don't mind (maybe) if there is private contracting of our prison system, but it has to be done at cost. It's not the place of corporations to profit off of anyone's misfortunes, including the victims of the crime. Crime is not a commodity, people are not commodities. It just begs for new customers if you ask me.

11.) Cut loose non violent drug use offenders. Eliminate mandatory sentencing. Harm reduction policies. Not because these things are “bleeding heart liberal” policies. It’s because they work. I think we have to have a place in our society where our worst behaved citizens have to serve out their lives. I also believe it is about “correcting” people’s behavior and helping people integrate back into society whenever possible. We can’t be naive however, as some people just don’t want to play fair and we don’t live in a perfect world. Some people have to be locked up. What that looks like in the future depends upon our ability to function at a higher social capacity than what we have been.

12.) Food, hunger is a weak spot for me. I can’t deal with hunger issues. No one should go hungry in this country. I don’t care what the politics are. I really don’t. I’d really like to see lunch part of our education programs. Japan has wonderful programs where the kids are interactive with food preparation and cleanup. We can do the same. It’s not a hand out, it’s just part of doing business and we can afford to feed kids at school. At least once a day kids have a good meal, right? I guess it’s too much to ask for.

13.) I think people become defensive when they feel or think they are being judged. I just let people know I don’t place their thoughts and opinions as a condition of their value as a human. Actions can certainly draw a line in the sand and I won’t tolerate certain types of behavior. Overall though I just have the ability to see both sides of an issue and I’ve had some great discussions with Pro Lifers here in Bloomington while they were protesting over at Planned Parenthood. I think respect and listening can’t be “faked”. People know when you care and when you don’t. Humility is a wonderful strategy for getting people together.

14.) Yes, please see above answer 11.

15.) War machines are for war. I reject the need for such equipment for civil use. Now, that being said I can see where armored police vehicles may have a place in civil service. We have witnessed terrible acts of mass violence at our schools and public venues and I understand the desire to have such protective equipment available by police departments including ours here in Bloomington. The problem is that there really can’t be a guarantee that such equipment will only be used as intended or promised. I understand that. So we have to decide within our communities what trade offs we are willing to accept for the levels of security and readiness we provide. Specific to Bloomington? I think such transparency and discussion could have been handled better in this matter on both sides, but ultimately it is the will of the people through our elective process to get what we want. If that process is fair that is. While it is clear that the purchase of our “Bearcat” is on track for delivery, I must say I think the police are unlikely to abuse their capabilities and that has everything to do with community involvement. I applaud that. I think it’s ok for our government to be “put on notice” from time to time. In fact it’s our obligation. It’s our government.

16.) I’ll work with any group that is for the equal and ethical treatment of humans. I’m not really a protest, rally type of guy and I don’t favor militant expressions of protest but it has its place in our society. (I understand BLM is more provocative). It’s just not my thing, but it is my job to listen and respond to the constituency fairly. I will say this, if I’m elected I think people will be amazed at the access they have to this office. Even people I don’t agree with and I it will be my job to let people know throughout the district that they have access. I kind

of don't have the right to ignore people at the very least. I do worry a bit about how busy I'm going to be because of that. If people have legitimate concerns, they will be addressed in a timely manor however democracy has it's limitations. It's not a magic wand. Anyhow, how am I suppose to get everyone working together if I'm only talking to certain people or organizations?

17.) I do not solicit donations. I may have fundraisers in the future, however I do not accept corporate, PAC (OF ANY KIND), union, special interest, or shady money of any kind. I will have to change my fund raising model if I win the primary, but it will be radically different from what my opponents will be doing. I have to be free of influence, it's really been my greatest struggle and I've pretty much driven my personal affairs right into the ground. I may lose my business and my house regardless of the election's outcome. That will be determined in the weeks to come, but it's my choice. My average donations have been private donors (mostly friends and a few supporters) with an average donation of \$58.00. I have raised less than the minimums that would trigger public reporting to the FEC, and I'm actually proud of that considering my circumstances.

18.) Of course. Although I long for an actual debate, where there will be truth and suffering. The forums are not the best format for supposition and refutation.

Thanks for the opportunity to share. I will need your support if I win the primary and see my campaign as opportunity build credibility of BLM within the community and throughout the district. I would like to see BLM progress to outreach activities with white people and EDUCATION. It might not be pretty but we have to try as I said. People will learn if given the opportunity. I believe that. I really will be focusing on racial divisions, because that's kind of the "go to" for political bad actors, as we have seen with the current executive branch of our federal government.

Dan Canon (D)

1) Describe your platform. Tell us what populations are most impacted by your platform policies and your specific plan to reach out and work with these communities.

Specifics on my platform are available in great detail on my website, www.canonforindiana.com/priorities. Generally speaking, I believe that we should be working toward an America where everyone has the tools and opportunities they need to be able to live their best lives. The populations impacted by our policy proposals would primarily be the poor, the working classes, and other vulnerable populations. We think, of course, that everyone would benefit from our policies, but we do not intend to cater to the wealthy at the expense of everyone else.

My first order of business will be to establish a robust, responsive constituent services program right here in my district. People here do not want platitudes and promises; they want to see you getting elbow-deep in the community and taking real action. I would like to establish no fewer than five offices in the District, so that people do not have to drive half a day to get to their congressperson's office. I would like run services out of those offices that are responsive to everyday constituent needs, and also be a hub for directing people to other

valuable resources in their communities. People need to know that they have a voice in their own government. What better way to show that than to actually do things that need to be done right here at home, on a day-to-day, personal basis?

I also intend to begin (and indeed have begun) an extensive immigrant outreach program to help with the much-needed work of integrating our segregated communities. We have launched a website and video in Spanish, and we intend to continue Spanish-language outreach to better serve the needs of the growing Latinx community in IN-09. Please see <https://canonforindiana.com/esp>.

We have also coordinated with grassroots organizers and groups since the beginning of this campaign, including BLM (Louisville and Bloomington), to ensure that people of color are being heard and have a seat at the policymaking table. We will continue to do that leading up to the election and after I am in office.

2) Describe your experience working on social justice issues. What influence have you had on policies in this community that help marginalized populations, especially black and brown citizens?

I have worked as a civil rights lawyer for my entire career. As such, I necessarily have represented members of marginalized and vulnerable populations every day. Much of that work has been in cooperation with social justice organizations, including BLM, SURJ, and the ACLU. I have represented people of color in employment discrimination matters, inmates' rights issues, police brutality cases, and criminal matters. See <http://www.wlky.com/article/man-sues-lmpd-says-officers-savagely-beat-him-1/3739025>

<https://insiderlouisville.com/metro/class-action-lawsuit-filed-against-clark-county-government-and-sheriffs-for-unconstitutional-inhumane-conditions-of-female-prisoners/>

In addition, throughout my career I have written and spoken extensively about civil rights issues affecting marginalized communities. See, e.g., <https://www.salon.com/2016/11/20/this-is-how-they-try-to-make-america-white-again/>

I have also served as an adjunct professor of criminal justice at IvyTech, and of civil rights law at the University of Louisville's Brandeis School of Law. In those courses, I taught a number of issues directly pertinent to the topic of racial justice overall, including the school-to-prison pipeline, mass incarceration, extrajudicial killings of unarmed people of color by the police, and militarization of local law enforcement units.

In this campaign, I was the first candidate nationwide to openly call for the abolition of ICE, which is an agency devoted almost solely to carrying out an agenda of ethnic cleansing in the United States. See <https://www.thenation.com/article/its-time-to-abolish-ice/>. I have also supported the end of punitive solitary confinement, decriminalization of marijuana,

demilitarization of the police, and other criminal justice reforms which would primarily benefit people of color. I am also one of few candidates to support a commission on reparations, which I've recently written about for a national publication. See <https://www.salon.com/2018/03/31/why-cant-we-talk-about-reparations-a-congressionalcandidate-broaches-an-unmentionable-topic/>

3) What do elected officials need to do to improve the freedom, health and safety of black people? What specific actions will you take to accomplish that?

People look to elected officials to be the moral compass for the nation. We emulate the behavior of people in authority - that's just part of the human condition. A lot of times what people believe is morally right is just right because authority figures say so. As such, we have a tremendous responsibility to that institution.

Elected officials have got a unique opportunity to get a message out. They're in the public eye, they're on the ground talking to constituents, what they say and do matters. I think we have to denounce racism every step of the way and in the strongest terms possible. We should not give white supremacists a single inch in public discourse. That may be the most effective thing we can do because when you sign up to become an authority figure you have to lead by example, and people will follow your lead.

On a legislative/executive branch front, there are some concrete things that can be done. In late June 2017, the DHS eliminated 3 very big dollar grants to organizations that were working to deradicalize neo-nazis. I'd push to re-establish funding for programs like that. The DOJ should be enforcing civil rights laws both criminally and civilly; the DOJ essentially chased the first KKK out of existence and took a vigorous enforcement role in the 1960s, but has essentially abdicated that role since the Nixon administration.

I'll support any legislation that serves to dismantle white supremacy. That means shutting down the drug war by removing marijuana from the CSA, move to a model that treats drug addiction as a public health problem rather than a criminal justice problem, and getting rid of private for profit corporations in the criminal justice system - just to name a few things.

In particular a legislative fix to overturn the case of *McKleskey v. Kemp*, as discussed extensively in Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow*, so that courts can address disparate impact discrimination in the criminal justice system is long overdue.

I also think we can fight it in employment by working to tighten up Title VII of the Civil Rights Act and ensuring greater protections for workers who've been discriminated against. Strengthening unions would help a lot with this too, so I'd support the Employee Free Choice Act (or something like it) that would make it easier for workers to organize and engage in collective bargaining.

Additionally, I intend to take and support measures that will help struggling families, including but not limited to: a livable wage; single-payer healthcare; tuition-free public college; increased support for public PK-12 programs; nationwide paid parental, family, and sick leave through an expansion of the federal Family Medical Leave Act, similar to the programs currently in place in Washington state, New York state, and elsewhere, including support for the FAMILY Act (H.R. 947); and more, as detailed on our campaign website.

Finally, our history of slavery, segregation, redlining, selective policing and mass incarceration has left an ever-widening racial wealth gap. Closing this gap should be a critical part of a mission to improve America. Take, for example, the recent study from Brandeis University determining that external factors do nothing to correct the racial wealth gap. Education, full-time work, a stable family life -- none of these things narrow the chasm between black and white. Another study shows that black people who are born into wealth fare worse than white kids born into poor families. White wealth is now, on average, at least 10 times that of black wealth. For the 12 percent or so of our population whose ancestors were brought here to be property, raising wages and offering free college, without doing more to rectify these enormous imbalances, isn't likely to "unrig" the economy. Even the most aggressive affirmative action program -- which would almost certainly be unconstitutional in the eyes of this Supreme Court -- would not do the job. We should have a serious conversation about reparations for the descendants of victims of the trans-Atlantic slave trade.

17) Describe the profile of your average donor. What is the average size of donations you receive? Please describe any contributions that you think our organization would be interested in. Our average donor is a working-class person of modest means. Our average contribution is \$25.

18) Would you be willing to participate in a candidate forum on the issues raised in this questionnaire? Yes.

Liz Watson (D)

1. Describe your platform. Tell us what populations are most impacted by your platform policies and your specific plan to reach out and work with these communities.

My campaign has focused on advocating for Hoosiers that our representatives in Washington have left behind for too long, including communities of color, low-income workers and families. I have outlined a broad social and economic justice agenda in my campaign, which includes the \$15 per hour minimum wage bill that I led the development of and advocated for in Congress, Medicare for All, strong public schools, affordable child care and universal pre-K, protection from wage theft and an expansion of overtime rights, the right to paid family and medical leave, predictable schedules, strong harassment protections, equal pay for equal work, protections from predatory lenders, ban the box legislation, to amend our civil rights

titles to include sexual orientation and gender identity, and the right of workers to come together and bargain in a union, among other goals.

Each and every one of these policy goals addresses inequities in our country that disproportionately impact marginalized communities. I am proud of the contribution I have made to forwarding these important goals, but of course they are goals I share with the larger progressive community, including Black Lives Matter, the NAACP, the National Organization for Women, the Leadership Conference for Civil and Human Rights, the Congressional Progressive Caucus (which has endorsed me in this race) and the Congressional Black Caucus, whose members and staff I worked with closely during the two years I spent as Labor Policy Director for the Democrats in the House. During that time, my boss was a senior member of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Throughout my campaign I have made a point of reaching out to people of color in the community and holding as many town halls and open public meetings in every county in the district as possible. I have held town halls on the tax law, health care, public education, jobs and infrastructure, medical marijuana, the opioid crisis, and the environment. I put a premium on listening to people in our communities and developing constructive solutions together.

Progressives have plenty of reasons to be troubled by the regressive turn our politics has taken on the state and national level, in Congress, in our courts, and with the current administration. I believe we need to exercise the strongest possible oversight over this administration to stop the attacks on immigrant families, to safeguard and strengthen federal policy guidance for schools to stem the worsening tide of out of school suspensions and expulsions for students of color, and to restore protections under Title IX for LGBTQ students that were summarily dismantled by this administration in early 2017.

2. Describe your experience working on social justice issues. What influence have you had on policies in this community that help marginalized populations, especially black and brown citizens?

I have worked on social justice issues since I was a teenager growing up in Bloomington. I volunteered at Middle Way House and as an intern for Rep. Frank McCloskey, where I learned about the importance of constituent services. In law school, I represented survivors of domestic violence, helping them obtain restraining orders and temporary custody of their children. I also worked in a legal services office representing immigrants and people of color, helping them obtain public assistance benefits.

After law school, I started a practice within a legal services nonprofit of providing free legal services to low-wage workers, helping them obtain unemployment benefits and fight back against wage theft and discrimination. I also represented low-income moms who were unfairly denied public assistance in fair hearings to help them get the benefits back that they and their family needed. Most of my clients were people of color. During law school I also

worked at two plaintiffs' employment discrimination law firms where I conducted intake for new clients and legal research.

I also served as Executive Director of the Georgetown Center on Poverty, Inequality and Public Policy at Georgetown Law Center, where I convened a policy series, *Marginalized Girls: Creating Pathways to Opportunity*. From that work, I co-authored a report with Professor Peter Edelman, titled *Improving the Juvenile Justice System for Girls: Lessons from the States*, and offered innovative solutions for federal and state governments, based on successful reforms in Connecticut, Florida and California.

This report addressed an alarming trend, which is that the percentage of girls in the juvenile justice system has increased dramatically over the last 20 years, and black girls were the fastest growing segment of the population, and 20 percent more likely to be detained than white girls. Addressing this issue is crucial, because detention can be catastrophic in the lives of young women: it is associated with early mortality, and crimes are most often associated with trauma that has not been addressed in any fashion. Among other things, our report recommended ending the practice of detaining girls for status violations and technical violations of court orders, dismantling the school-to-prison pipeline, diversion of girls out of the adult criminal justice system, and education at training at all levels of the justice system to help professionals recognize the needs of girls. On the heels of this report's publication, Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro introduced legislation to address the needs of girls involved or at-risk of involvement in the juvenile justice system, citing my report.

I am also a strong proponent of providing summer and year-round jobs and wraparound services for out-of-school youth to help them reconnect with school and employment. The Opening Doors for Youth Act (H.R. 1748) is federal legislation I helped develop to achieve these goals. It provides funding for summer and year-round jobs for disconnected youth, as well as wraparound services to address the root causes of disconnection.

I founded a low-income worker's project at the National Women's Law Center, where I worked with grassroots organizations, unions and worker centers to advocate for decent working conditions. I developed H.R. 3071, the Schedules that Work Act, to curb difficult scheduling practices in low-wage jobs. I led a coalition to advocate for introducing this bill in Congress, where Senator Elizabeth Warren introduced it. It has been introduced in state legislatures and city councils across the country as well, and it has been enacted in several localities.

I also developed H.R. 4227, the Fair Employment Protection Act, to strengthen harassment protections after the Supreme Court's Vance decision, which established a restrictive definition of "supervisor" – making it far less likely that low-wage workers would prevail in harassment claims. Maetta Vance worked in the cafeteria at Ball State. She alleged racial harassment, but her claims were dismissed on a technicality. I led the development of this legislation to help people in Ms. Vance's position have their day in court. In addition, I

worked with SEIU on a child care campaign and the “Fight for \$15” initiative.

For two years, I served as the Labor Director on the House Education and Workforce Committee for the Democrats. The ranking member of that committee is Rep. Bobby Scott, who has a long and illustrious history as a champion for communities of color. I led the development of the \$15 minimum wage bill that Senator Sanders introduced in Congress. As the National Employment Law Project has recognized, women and people of color disproportionately earn under \$15 per hour. More than half of African American workers, and about 60 percent of Latino workers, earn under \$15 per hour. The median African American women earned only 63 percent of what the median white man earned in 2015; for Latina women, it is even less: just 54% what white men earned.

I also worked on legislation to combat union-busting (the Workplace Action for a Growing Economy Act, H.R. 3514) and wage theft (the Pay Stub Disclosure Act, H.R. 4376). The union-busting issue is an important racial justice issue, because the racial wage gap narrows significantly when people of color are in unions, and the tools we have to combat union-busting are not strong enough. I worked closely on this initiative with United Food and Commercial Workers, Unite Here! and SEIU.

I have been a long time advocate for paid family and medical leave, and fair treatment for pregnant workers. I took on Walmart when they failed to allow pregnant women to have minor accommodations – like water bottles or to sit down during a long shift – so that they could continue living and working safely during pregnancy. I have written law to strengthen equal pay protections, specifically including gender identity protections to address the pay gap for transgender workers.

3. What do elected officials need to do to improve the freedom, health and safety of black people? What specific actions will you take to accomplish that?

Mass incarceration has had a devastating impact on communities of color. Between 1970 and 2005, the number of people incarcerated in the United States increased by 700%. That is unacceptable. The racial disparities in incarceration rates are staggering, and the statistics reflect persistent racial bias in our criminal justice system. More than half of those who are incarcerated are black or Latino, although these two groups make up less than a third of the overall population. I support the Safe, Accountable, Fair, and Effective (SAFE) Justice Act (H.R. 4261), which would improve our criminal justice system through federal sentencing reform, ensure better probation policies, reduce crime, and save taxpayer dollars.

I also support decriminalizing the possession of marijuana on the federal level, and specifically, removing marijuana from the Controlled Substances Act. This step is vital to stemming the tide of over-incarceration, especially of people of color. According to the ACLU's data, between 2011 and 2012, 62% of SWAT deployments were for drug searches. It is clear that the war on drugs has devastated minority communities, and that we need to move

toward prevention and intervention, and away from mass incarceration. The Marijuana Justice Act (H.R. 4815), would incentivize states to change outdated marijuana laws, create a fund to reinvest in communities of color most affected by failed drug laws, and provide for expungement of criminal records related to use or possession.

It is also essential that we make economic opportunity available to people re-entering the job market after a period of incarceration. It is really only in the last generation that an employer would consider the criminal record information of job applicants, but today, an estimated 87% of employers conduct criminal background checks. One study estimates the number of Americans with criminal records at 70-100 million. Almost all of them attempt to re-enter the workforce but find themselves shut out of good jobs that would allow them to escape poverty. To end this practice, I support federal legislation to “ban the box” which would ensure that an applicant’s job qualifications are considered before an employer asks questions about whether an employee has an arrest or conviction record, and that such inquiries occur later in the hiring process and are job-related.

We must address racial disparities in law enforcement practices. Across the country, there has been an increasing militarization of local police, and this disproportionately impacts and potentially threatens people of color. An ACLU investigation of the deployment of SWAT teams found that black people make up 39 percent (the largest share) of those affected by such deployments. The nationwide conversation about preventing the militarization of police in the context of the severe racial disparities that permeate our criminal justice systems nationwide is very important.

In Congress, my racial justice platform would include strengthening oversight of the transfer of military equipment to civilian police forces, as well as promoting evidence-based practices for de-escalation, support for the development of recommended best practices and protocols for the deployment of any SWAT- style teams and equipment to prevent disparate treatment and militarization, and training in addressing unconscious bias. I support H.R. 1556, the Stop Militarizing Law Enforcement Act, which would prevent the transfer of military equipment and weapons from the Department of Defense to federal and state law enforcement agencies.

According to publicly available data, roughly half of those killed by police in the recent past have been black or Latino. Addressing racial disparities in policing is critically important and urgent. I am a supporter of the CAM-TIP Act (H.R. 124) which would support local police departments' purchase of body cameras. The federal government must immediately start collecting information about police-involved shootings of civilians, and the federal government should also collect data on the deployment of SWAT teams in state and local policing. I believe that measures should be taken to ensure that investigations of police-involved shootings are undertaken by someone other than the police themselves to promote full and fair investigations, and that district attorneys should not be permitted to investigate police departments with whom they have had longstanding, close professional relationships. I support community policing measures that address excessive use of force and foster

trusting relationships between community members and police.

4. As a leader, what specifically would you do to build trust and faith with the black community? What would be challenges you might face and what would you do to overcome those challenges?

Making myself accessible as a candidate and as a representative are key to building trust and faith with the black community. I believe I already have demonstrated the kind of representative I would be through my campaign. I have held town halls on issues that people have told me are the most pressing matters facing us in Southern Indiana. Many of these issues impact communities of color, including public education, the opioid crisis, common sense gun reform, the Tax Scam that recently passed Congress, medical marijuana, health care.

I anticipate that the greatest challenges I will face will be in trying to fight for racial and economic justice in a federal government that is resistant to progressive change. To overcome that challenge, I will endeavor always to be clear about where I stand, including the legislation I support and want a hand in creating, and in communicating those stances and always being open to feedback and ideas from the community.

I've met with groups and community leaders dedicated to the causes of racial justice, economic justice and social justice. I'd like to continue and accelerate this outreach work immediately after the primary, if I am elected.

17. Describe the profile of your average donor. What is the average size of donations you receive? Please describe any contributions that you think our organization would be interested in.

Our campaign recently reported our fundraising numbers for the first quarter of 2018. Our total raised in this campaign is over \$572,000. We were proud to have raised more than Trey Hollingsworth for the third quarter in a row, and more than the other Democratic primary candidates combined. Perhaps most important, we have 4.5 times as much cash on hand as our closest competitor, meaning we have run a budget-conscious campaign and will be well-positioned to take on Trey in the fall. We did all of this while refusing all corporate PAC money. The average donation for the first quarter of 2018 was \$53, with over 2,459 individual donations, and the median donation was \$10. In total, as of the end of March, our campaign has received 5,147 individual donations.

I have received the endorsements of 31 labor unions in Southern Indiana, and financial contributions from these unions as well. This support means so much to me because I know that every dollar comes from the contributions of hard-working Hoosiers in these unions. I believe that BLM would be interested in this support, given that labor unions are key to providing economic security for working families. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. stood up for

union rights throughout his life, proclaiming, “All labor has dignity.” He died standing up for black sanitation workers in Memphis, in the midst of a strike. These workers were so poor, they received public assistance benefits despite working 60 hours per week. This strike was part of the black freedom struggle: the head of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) called the strike of their local’s workers “a race conflict and a rights conflict.” As the candidate in this race who has nearly unanimous support from organized labor in this district, I share that view as well. Union rights and racial justice are inextricable, and as we know, unions have been under attack for decades, and have suffered terrible setbacks in Indiana. Fighting for unions is a key issue of racial and economic justice that I have put front and center in my campaign. I’m endorsed by the Progressive Change Campaign Committee, Emily’s List, the Feminist Majority Foundation, National Organization for Women, OUR Revolution-Evansville, and End Citizens United, among others. Some of these organizations have provided financial support, but the vast majority of my contributions have come from individual donors.

18. Would you be willing to participate in a candidate forum on the issues raised in this questionnaire?

I would be an enthusiastic participant in a candidate forum organized by BLM! I look forward to working with you, and especially hearing more about your reviews on the issues I have discussed here. Thank you so much for this opportunity to share my positions and priorities with you!

Monroe County Council

Shelli Yoder (D) District 1

1) Describe your platform. Tell us what populations are most impacted by your platform policies and your specific plan to reach out and work with these communities.

I am excited and honored to run for re-election to the Monroe County Council to represent District 1. I will work to continue providing courageous, progressive, and visionary leadership in response to our county's needs. I will take my experience and passion for education, job training, access to health care, affordable housing, equality and inclusion, and community engagement to advance smart and environmentally sustainable growth, effective and responsive government, and support for our neighbors with the greatest needs.

To that end, I have worked steadfastly to pass a fiscally responsible and responsive county budget each year. I voted to increase funding and support to CASA and our Youth Services expansion. I approved the Ivy Tech Community College expansion to address workforce development needs and increase life sciences training opportunities. I led the charge on the County Council to respond boldly to the opioid crisis with an emphasis on evidence-based and proven effective approaches to substance misuse and addiction, and I have been a bold advocate for our needle exchange program, one of the first clean needle programs in the State of Indiana. I also strongly support through steadfast funding our county's health clinic, Monroe County Futures Health Clinic, as well as our local Planned Parenthood affiliate.

For the next four years, I will focus on ...

- Addressing substance misuse and addiction using evidence-based and proven effective approaches. I am forward thinking and results driven when it comes to programs and solutions I support. I will focus on efforts that work to decriminalize substance misuse and addiction and will favor approaches that view these devastating realities as public health crises. More importantly, I will continue working to bring community stakeholders together to develop and enact a pre-booking diversion program for low-level drug crimes that emphasizes keeping people in the workforce and getting them connected to treatment and mental health services.

- Approaching county budgeting and management in a fiscally responsible and responsive manner, remaining ever nimble and committed to progressive solutions and approaches. As we look ahead at the serious impacts on managing county resources, the state law prohibiting a municipality from annexing property will expire on June 30, 2022. It will be imperative over the next four years to work to advocate for legislation that would protect the county and township shares of local income tax and hold harmless our public schools, county health clinic and services, and our public library from circuit breaker losses stemming from

annexation. There are certainly areas that make sense for annexation - "islands" that are surrounded by the city, for example. But overall, all county stakeholders need to be included in the discussion and process: Ivy Tech, Indiana University, our public schools, rural transit, townships, library, and all of our residents, those who own property and those who may not. The impact is great and will need planning, not surprises.

- Advancing affordable housing initiatives within the county. Historically, these types of initiatives have been available to municipalities. But additional affordable housing tools are becoming available to communities, including county governments. I will work to ensure Monroe County is doing all we can to take advantage of programs and tools, like Opportunity Zone created by the tax "reform" bill. Programs such as this have the potential to increase access to affordable housing, a serious need that exists within Monroe County.

2) Describe your experience working on social justice issues. What influence have you had on policies in this community that help marginalized populations, especially black and brown citizens?

Criminal Justice Reform and Students Against the Death Penalty, grassroots organizer, Nashville, Tennessee, 2000-2002; Planned Parenthood, advocate, Tennessee and Indiana 2001-present; 2004 Patient's Bill of Rights (Mental Health Advocacy), grassroots organizer, 2006-2009; Moms Demand Action, member and supporter, 2016 – present; 2017 Opioid Summit, co-founder and grassroots organizer, 2017 – present; Opioid Commission, founding member and organizer, 2017 – present; Head Start Policy Council, policy board member, 2013 – present; South Central Community Action Program, board member, 2013 – present. I am also a member and on staff at First United Church, a UCC affiliated denomination. Our church has a long history of involvement in the civil rights movement of the 1950s and into present day. Our church is very white, and we acknowledge that of all the concerns facing our society, perhaps none is as critical as racism. We have regularly scheduled "Sacred Conversations on Race" that occur each Sunday morning and our Justice Fridays that occur monthly.

3) What do elected officials need to do to improve the freedom, health and safety of black people? What specific actions will you take to accomplish that?

As a member of the County Council, we must do all we can to improve the freedom, health, and safety of black people. I can and do advocate and support initiatives that create living wage jobs, improve access to holistic health services (mental health as well as physical health), provide greater access to substance misuse treatment, educational opportunities, public transit, and stable housing. On the Council, I will also request our Sheriff's Department, Community Corrections, Youth Services, and Prosecutor's office include in their annual report a racial breakdown of those served to note any racial disparities. As a co-founder and co-chair of the State of Indiana's only county initiated opioid summit, I will increase outreach to our black communities and historically black churches. I can continue

supporting and working to improve access to our Rural Transit program, Volunteers in Medicine, and our community college opportunities with Ivy Tech.

4) As a leader, what specifically would you do to build trust and faith with the black community? What would be challenges you might face and what would you do to overcome those challenges?

I am white. I am a woman. I have a college degree. My parents are still married. I was never homeless. I have a job. I am married to a white man. I have health insurance. I am privileged in many ways. Acknowledging this privilege and working to understand its impact and becoming more and more aware of racial biases are good first steps. But they are not – by far – the only steps. As a leader, I will work diligently to seek out differing viewpoints, guidance and wisdom from local leaders from Black Lives Matter, NAACP, Democratic Black Caucus, El Centro Comunal Latino, and other social service agencies. I will continue my work on the Equity and Inclusion Committee in the Kelley School of Business. I will support better data collection and analysis in my role with the county and on the county council. I recognize these privileges are also the challenges I face because trust of “my type” has been destroyed due to racist policies and unchecked biases. I am sensitive to the hard work that is necessary to rebuild this trust. I will do all I can to make it so.

5) What role do you think local government needs to play in improving the physical and mental health of black people? What specific issues around health do you think are currently not being addressed at all or sufficiently?

Local government can improve data collection, analysis, and dissemination of services rendered via all county departments. As a county councilor, I will continue to support our county’s health clinic, Futures. I will also continue supporting Volunteers in Medicine, Planned Parenthood, and All Options. I will support projects that acknowledge equal opportunity, increase job opportunities, workforce development, higher wages, and provide health insurance benefits. Accessibility and affordability continue to be a struggle, and we must do more.

6) How do you define privilege? How has privilege impacted decisions you have made as an elected official, or if you are running for the first time, as an engaged community member? If you are elected, how will you use your privilege to assist black and brown communities?

I define privilege as being given unearned benefits due to belonging to a specific social group due to certain aspects of a person’s identity: race, class, gender, sexual orientation, language, geographical location, ability, and religion, to name a few. Privilege does not negate hard work and hardship. Being privileged does not mean a person has not worked hard or has had an easy life. Being a white woman is hard. Being a black woman is harder. Being a Muslim, black woman is even harder still. Privilege is unearned, so it is easy to forget its power.

That's why it is imperative that I seek guidance and wisdom from those who do not share the same privileges. As a county councilor, I have had an opportunity to shape the values of our county based on how we prioritize our budgets. I supported the expansion of our youth services. I voted to increase the funding of CASA. I voted to expand funding of our elections and Voter Registration program. I support critical social service agencies like Volunteers in Medicine, Planned Parenthood, and Mother Hubbard's Cupboard through our Sophia Travis Community Grants, and I will continue doing so.

7) What role do you think local government has in protecting all black lives, regardless of gender, gender identity, ability, age, income? What intersectional policies or suggestions would you recommend for protecting these lives?

Protecting all black lives, regardless of gender, gender identity, ability, age, and income is critical. It is the role of local government to ensure that the policies in place protect the marginalized and oppressed because when a county works for those who are most at risk of exclusion, including people of color, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, age, and income, it works for everyone. I support policies that:

- Promote health, equity, and sustainability
- Support intersectoral collaboration
- Engage stakeholders
- Ensure structural and procedural policies and benefits within the county's hiring practices and employment that protect these lives

8) What have you done and or how would you go about recruiting, inspiring, supporting and training people of color to become political leaders in our community?

I was and continue to be an early contributor and supporter to the Monroe County Democratic Black Caucus. I commit to proactively recruit, mentor, and engage people of color to become political leaders in our community.

9) To the best of your knowledge, describe why people of color are disproportionately targeted and arrested by the criminal justice system. What ideas do you have to make the justice system more equitable and impartial?

Systemic racism, white privilege and unchecked biases disproportionately target people of color. These same factors influence wages, education, housing, health, and mental health, and not for the better. These same factors also increase chances of encountering the criminal justice system. It is an awful cycle. One simple step would be to require implicit bias training of all county elected officials and employees.

10) Given the bias in our criminal justice system against black and brown people, what do you consider to be the top priorities for reforming our justice system?

- Improved case management
- Improved communication between and within departments and city/county relations
- Improved data collection, analysis, and sharing
- Implement implicit bias training for all local law enforcement
- Evidence-based practices

11) What suggestions do you have for reducing the jail and prison populations in the current moment? Should prisons be abolished in your lifetime?

Nonviolent drug crimes need to be decriminalized and jail diversion programs enacted, ones similar to the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion program I am pushing for in my platform and currently on the county council. Abolishing prisons in my lifetime seems lofty, but a necessary, absolutely plausible and just first step is the de-privatization of the current prison system. Privatization of the prison system is immoral, unjust, and must end.

12) Name an issue facing school-aged children of color that you think needs to be better addressed and discuss how you would address it. Issues of particular interest to this organization include curriculum, busing and redistricting, before-and-after-school programs, and lunch programs.

All of these issues listed above are critical. Considering nearly 20% (18.9%) of children in Monroe County are food insecure, our lunch program is of utmost importance. Without nutrition our entire well-being is compromised -- from education to earnings potential over the course of a lifetime. The 18.9% is not broken down by race, but I suspect the average is higher for school- aged children of color.

I support non-shaming food services and breakfast/lunch programs being fully funded within our school district. The meals must be nutrient rich and full of whole foods like vegetables and fresh fruits. I will work to make sure our local schools are addressing and being PROACTIVE with these critical issues. I will also support school board candidates who take this vital and foundational necessity of food security to heart and make it part of his or her platform.

13) How, specifically, do you foster respectful, empathetic collaboration with people who think differently from you? Provide an example of when you have done this either in your role as a community member or as an elected official.

Most recently, I was approached with a business proposal that would reduce the county's carbon footprint and introduce green and innovative trash transfer options and practices within our county. Based on the information I was given, I agreed to serve as the registered

agent. Later, I would discover I was lied to and deceived. I felt horrible about the anxiety and fear I caused the people of our county. I met with every stakeholder, resident, and concerned citizen and listened to their harsh criticism of me and my decision. I remained open to them. I tried to remain non-defensive. I met with them as frequently as needed. Through this empathic collaboration, I discovered the truth, and it changed me. I made the decision to testify before the Board of Zoning Appeals and reveal information that I had come to discover even though I was told that I would be sued if I came forward. I did anyway. The project was stopped, and the truth exposed.

14) Do you support programs focused on harm reduction, restorative justice, decriminalization of drugs, reducing nuisance crimes and quality of life policing, and/or jail diversion programs? Choose one or more of those programs (or comparable ones that you are aware of) and describe how you have or would support that program or programs.

My work on the county council to date illustrates my strong support for harm reduction and restorative justice. I have made jail diversion programs (E.g. Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion) part of my campaign platform. Through my involvement and leadership with the opioid summit and throughout the crisis in our county, I have responded with action, funding, and bold leadership.

15) What concerns do you have about the militarization of our police force? What would you do, and what can the community do, to protect people of color from the effects of militarization, as this equipment is disproportionately deployed against people of color?

The effectiveness at reducing crime and keeping our communities safer through the purchasing of military or military style equipment for local community policing and law enforcement is absolutely unclear. But what we do know is historically, this equipment has been disproportionately used against people of color. Furthermore, in a 2017 study, the increased militarization of a local law enforcement agency actually showed an increase in the fatalities among the local police officers. Such outcomes are horrific. The consideration of such purchases or the justification of need MUST be brought before the local community to allow for input and thoughtful examination BEFORE announcing the purchase. This approach demonstrates transparency and de-escalates feelings of fear and intimidation. I would also support an analysis that looks at the total expenditures (city and county) on law enforcement and corrections as a proportion of the combined total budget, as compared to expenditures on the resources and services such as health and mental health, education, youth development, workforce development and public transportation.

16) To better understand issues that people of color face, what groups would you reach out to?

I would like to sit down with the leadership of Black Lives Matter and listen to your concerns and ideas for county government. Our local NAACP chapter has always been a resource I have turned to for guidance and input. I reached out to the president of our local chapter,

Jim Sims, when I was considering the vote for the Monroe County Convention Center expansion and the Food and Beverage Tax. I will continue turning to our local Democratic Black Caucus leaders for guidance and input. I will also continue reaching out to our social service agency leaders and ask how certain votes, projects, and ideas impact those they serve.

17) Describe the profile of your average donor. What is the average size of donations you receive? Please describe any contributions that you think our organization would be interested in.

When I closed my 2016 campaign for U.S. Congress, Indiana's 9th District, I had approximately \$6688 remaining. I transferred that money into my Shelli Yoder for Monroe County account. This Spring, I also received a \$750 contribution from the Democratic Women's Caucus PAC for their endorsement. I do not have a Primary opponent and have been saving these funds for the General Election. However, I did make a contribution to the Indiana Forest Alliance in the amount of \$3300 for environmental sustainability efforts in Central Southern Indiana.

18) Would you be willing to participate in a candidate forum on the issues raised in this questionnaire?

Yes. I would be willing to participate in a candidate forum on the issues raised in this questionnaire.

Kate Wiltz (D) District 2

1) Describe your platform. Tell us what populations are most impacted by your platform policies and your specific plan to reach out and work with these communities.

My platform encompasses the following three priorities:

- Funding public health services for those affected by addiction
- Supporting public transportation, sidewalks and paths, and trail systems that connect all of citizens with safe, accessible routes to the places they need to be
- Sustainable management of our natural resources

While these issues affect us all, and everyone in our community benefits from addiction services, safe routes, trails, and transportation, and clean air and water; any policy around these issues impacts marginalized populations and those suffering from lower socio-economic status first. As these services, connectivity, and environmental protections are implemented across Monroe County, they must be brought to those most in need first. We are only as strong as the least among us, and if our government is to serve the people, it must not leave anyone behind.

2) Describe your experience working on social justice issues. What influence have you had on policies in this community that help marginalized populations, especially black and brown citizens?

As a first-time candidate, I am new to politics and policy-making. However, I have worked for social and environmental justice for over 30 years. In Cincinnati, I canvassed for an affordable housing initiative. In Washington, D.C., I volunteered for Habitat for Humanity. Later, I used my grounding in environmental studies and natural resource management to educate land owners on conservation practices. Environmental justice is social justice. In my current job, I advocate for municipal planning that incorporates open spaces and trails into underserved, and typically minority populated, areas.

3) What do elected officials need to do to improve the freedom, health and safety of black people? What specific actions will you take to accomplish that?

Elected officials must seek out the opportunities to reduce barriers and connect people across racial lines. However, that is not enough. When a part of our population is not afforded the same opportunities or resources, equality is not enough. Further support is needed to lift up those who are not on the same playing field. Specifically, I will support programs that connect the black community to resources and services in housing, education, health, and economic justice.

4) As a leader, what specifically would you do to build trust and faith with the black community? What would be challenges you might face and what would you do to overcome those challenges?

I listen to learn. I will continue to both listen and learn as a member of Council. I think that the biggest challenge to building trust and faith with the black community in Bloomington might be my naïveté. The most powerful bond between people comes from a shared lived experience. That is something I do not have with the black community. As a privileged white woman from a privileged white suburban background, I can listen. I can learn. And when I see bias, injustice and wrong, I can act. I will act.

5) What role do you think local government needs to play in improving the physical and mental health of black people? What specific issues around health do you think are currently not being addressed at all or sufficiently?

The health and wellness of the people is the duty of government. Whether it is protecting people from pollution and degradation of our environment and neighborhoods or providing access to healthcare, food, and safe places to work and play. Health disparities occur when some populations have more access to opportunities and resources over generations (see www.countyhealthrankings.org). In Indiana, the county health ranking data make these

unjust and avoidable differences in health very clear. As a group “blacks are less healthy than those living in the bottom ranked county,” so while Monroe County is in the top 25% of counties for length and quality of life, these data don’t show the same health outcomes for blacks, regardless of where they live. This is an injustice and it is systemic. It will not right itself, and the government is responsible for its correction. Specifically, Monroe County must support efforts to improve access to care, increase educational and economic opportunities for people of color and other vulnerable populations. This requires some very difficult, but critically important conversations.

6) How do you define privilege? How has privilege impacted decisions you have made as an elected official, or if you are running for the first time, as an engaged community member? If you are elected, how will you use your privilege to assist black and brown communities?

Privilege is the advantage granted by dominant societal norms to those whose power keeps those norms intact. Privilege is that seemingly innate power that is wielded like a wand rather than a sword – casting a spell of illegitimacy.

Privilege is what allows me to be able to run for office. I have said this several times over the course of my campaign. I simply would not be able to participate at this level if I didn’t have the social supports that have defined my life: upper-middle class upbringing; post-graduate education; fully employed spouse. All of these stem from the social status of my parents, and their parents – educated, involved, financially comfortable at our humblest and wealthy in their retirement.

When elected, I can use my voice to speak to others and for others; but most importantly, I will use my power to engage black and brown people in their communities

7) What role do you think local government has in protecting all black lives, regardless of gender, gender identity, ability, age, income? What intersectional policies or suggestions would you recommend for protecting these lives?

The concept of intersectionality in social justice is progressive and powerful. I have been impressed with the variety of groups that find common ground in fighting to be seen and heard. Marginalized groups vary widely, in particular in how easily they are recognized by others. The color of one’s skin is the most visibly identifying of these groups. People with disabilities, different genders and ages, those in poverty, all have some level of anonymity – or at least ambiguity. People of color stand out. That has been an historical weakness; but it is a modern power. By having a recognizable presence within these other groups, black people bring that power – the power of visibility – to other marginalized populations.

Local policies that ban intersectional discrimination and emphasize an abundance of opportunities for all groups will allow higher level conversations and more rapid and pervasive social change.

8) What have you done and or how would you go about recruiting, inspiring, supporting and training people of color to become political leaders in our community?

Monroe County government currently has only one person of color serving as an elected official. Politics is a club – it is an “all are welcome” club that can be very exclusive. As a member of County Council I will seek out opportunities to bring people of color onto our local Boards and Commissions through appointment. I will encourage those people of color currently working in our government departments to seek career advancement and community involvement, and I will support them in those efforts. All of this is dependent on establishing and nurturing personal relationships. It is through talking and listening to each other’s stories that we can strengthen the connections needed to bring others along and show them opportunities matched to their interests and goals.

9) To the best of your knowledge, describe why people of color are disproportionately targeted and arrested by the criminal justice system. What ideas do you have to make the justice system more equitable and impartial?

This is a topic about which I have much to learn. My sense is that there is more implicit bias than any of us can account or atone for.

13) How, specifically, do you foster respectful, empathetic collaboration with people who think differently from you? Provide an example of when you have done this either in your role as a community member or as an elected official.

I rely on listening and learning. By that, I mean I use intentional listening – active listening. These are techniques used in a variety of disciplines, from social work to public engagement. When you practice these approaches and incorporate them into your interactions with those whose opinions differ from yours, you begin to hear without reacting and listen without projecting. I have done this professionally as well as when talking to voters during my campaign, and it has enriched my view of our community and the issues that affect it.

14) Do you support programs focused on harm reduction, restorative justice, decriminalization of drugs, reducing nuisance crimes and quality of life policing, and/or jail diversion programs? Choose one or more of those programs (or comparable ones that you are aware of) and describe how you have or would support that program or programs.

I support harm reduction, restorative justice, decriminalization of drugs, and jail diversion programs. As I understand it, reducing nuisance crimes and quality of life policing are law enforcement outreach approaches that support at risk populations with a positive presence in the community. I support that as well. I prioritize preventative, fiscally responsible programs that reduce harm. Specifically, I welcome evidenced-based initiatives like combining services of fire, police and social service providers in 911 calls of overdoses so citizens can immediately be linked to help and treatment options both in and outside the jail.

15) What concerns do you have about the militarization of our police force? What would you do, and what can the community do, to protect people of color from the effects of militarization, as this equipment is disproportionately deployed against people of color?

I am concerned that a militarized police force may have more fire power than necessary, and individuals can make devastating decisions when placed in stressful situations. I have a hard time thinking of a situation in which a police officer would need to be armed with an automatic weapon. That said, I support the necessity of police to protect themselves and the public from volatile and dangerous situations. Our government is multifaceted and has specific balances of power. Elected officials are the voice of the people, and in that role act to balance the power of government departments. Officials can and should develop policy that clearly stipulates lines within which law enforcement should operate. That policy should be informed by stakeholders from both law enforcement and communities of color, in addition to others. Finally, ongoing training on these intents and uses is imperative.

16) To better understand issues what people of color face, what groups would you reach out to?

I have reached out to the president of the Democratic Black Caucus, and I would continue to engage that group, the Latino Democratic Caucus and your group to inform me on the concerns and challenges facing people of color.

17) Describe the profile of your average donor. What is the average size of donations you receive? Please describe any contributions that you think our organization would be interested in.

This question gives me pause. I thought that the people who had supported my campaign with donations were a diverse lot, from different “circles” and backgrounds. As I sit here trying to come up with a description of my average donor, I keep coming back to the color of their skin. The average donor to my campaign is white. Actually, all the donors to my campaign are white. The only donations BLM might find of mild interest are those stemming from my endorsements by the Democratic Women’s Caucus and Democracy for Monroe County. The women’s caucus seeks to elevate women candidates, and as such serves as an ally and potential model for other groups supporting a disenfranchised demographic. DFMC supports candidates based on their commitment to social justice and progressive ideals. In this sense, their endorsement indicates my commitment to elevating all of us.

18) Would you be willing to participate in a candidate forum on the issues raised in this questionnaire?

Sure! But what I’d really like is to have conversations with your core team and others on these issues.

Monroe County Prosecutor

Matt Schulz

I regret that I am/was unable to provide full responses to your questionnaire within the time frame allotted. Your questions are important, and I would welcome the opportunity to respond more fully in the future. This includes in a forum or other setting.

I am running for Monroe County Prosecutor to seek justice, to advocate for victims of crime, and to ensure the safety of this community we are all fortunate to call home. These reasons may seem intuitive, but they encompass the core mission of the office and to the collective identity of this community. Monroe County is a wonderful place to live, work, and play, and I am proud to have my children growing up here. Monroe County is not, however, immune to violent crime, sex crimes, domestic violence, drug/alcohol offenses, and other crimes threatening community safety. We must aggressively prosecute these crimes, while also addressing the challenges of those facing addiction, mental health issues, and poverty.

Data suggests that defendants across the country, as compared to citizens at large, are poor, young, under-educated, disproportionately black, and predominantly male. There are many layers to the data, and I believe most involved with the Justice System in Monroe County are working diligently to keep the community safe, to reduce recidivism, to reduce the jail population, and to reduce reliance on a cash bail system that disproportionately impacts marginalized communities. There is still work to be done, but we are fortunate Monroe County is currently participating in a Pretrial Release Pilot Project Program. This program was created after the Indiana Supreme Court initiated a study of pre-trial release assessments that resulted in a new rule urging trial courts to use evidence-based risk assessments to inform pretrial release decisions. This is important because it reduces the reliance upon cash bail by informing courts of flight risk and public safety issues. I am proud of our courts, and I will support the continued use of this program. Further, I will support continued use of and expansion to the current Problem Solving Courts including Drug Court, Mental Health Court, Veterans Court, and others. Finally, we can be creative in seeking sentences and in our plea agreements to provide incentives for treatment, education, and job attainment.

I am a criminal law attorney with the perspective of having been a deputy prosecuting attorney here in Monroe County, as well as in representing criminal defendants as I do currently. I am also on the faculty and serve as Chair of the Criminal Justice and Legal Studies departments at Ivy Tech Community College in Bloomington. I work with, practice in, study, and teach students on the many challenges within criminal justice system. As Prosecutor, I will ensure that the law is applied evenly in a fair, just, and professional manner with dignity across the board.

Again, I appreciate that you have reached out for information, and I hope that this limited response is helpful to you.

Margie Rice

Hello and thank you for the opportunity to respond to thoughtful questions. I'm addressing the five questions as directed but am incorporating ideas that are responsive to other questions, as well.

1) Describe your platform. Tell us what populations are most impacted by your platform policies and your specific plan to reach out and work with these communities.

My overall theme is social justice & reformation.

Because I strongly believe in accountability, I also believe in Social Justice or the just and fair relations between each individual and the society in which the individual resides. Social Justice assumes a mutual or reciprocal relationship. Each owes a duty to the other.

I recall writing in my law school admissions exam that, as a lawyer, I hoped to "level the playing field." I had never heard the term "Social Justice" before, but I grew up hearing stories being discussed between my father (a factory worker), my mother (a minimum-wage-paid clerk in a local hardware store: think Kleindorfer's) and my maternal grandmother (born in 1904, educated to the eighth-grade, and a proud Democrat in a small town full of Republicans). The stories I heard were about people who seemed to not quite understand how "the system" worked and who ended up worse off than those who did understand how "the system" worked. Usually there was a disparity in income and education between those two groups. I vowed, I think at an early age, to learn how the system worked and to unlock the doors for those who did not or could not understand on their own. Without knowing the term, I pledged my support for Social Justice.

My vision for Monroe County is one in which we give real meaning to Article I, Section 18 of the Indiana Constitution, which states that our penal or criminal code "shall be founded on the principles of reformation, and not of vindictive justice."

2) Describe your experience working on social justice issues. What influence have you had on policies in this community that help marginalized populations, especially black and brown citizens?

I consider myself to be a liberal Democrat based on my belief that government has a responsibility to be a part of the solution when it comes to addressing society's many challenges.

I have never held elective office, but I have long worked with organizations and as a professional on issues such as children's welfare, women's health and empowerment, environmental protection, labor rights, GLBTQ equity, education, elder care, animal welfare,

social services, and a myriad of other causes.

I'm running to further advance issues of social justice, recidivism reduction, domestic violence prevention, and restorative justice. I want to serve as an example that government can be a progressive engine promoting economic & social justice, environmental stewardship, fiscal responsibility, and constitutional integrity.

3) What do elected officials need to do to improve the freedom, health and safety of black people? What specific actions will you take to accomplish that?

Elected officials need to remember they were elected to represent all people --- not just people who contributed to their campaign, not just people who voted for them, not even just people who voted at all --- there were elected to represent all people.

As important as representing all people is, it's just as important that an elected official be accountable to all people. Leaders listen, then lead and not the other way around. I'm committed to involving citizens in the justice system and fully informing them about how their taxpayer dollars are being used.

I propose creating a Community Engagement initiative within the Office of the Prosecutor. The primary mission will be twofold.

First, community outreach. As a candidate, I'm seeing firsthand the interest of community and citizen groups with a sincere concern of improving their community. There are literally dozens of organizations that would welcome contact from the prosecutor's office and appreciate a genuine opportunity to give input on decision and policy-making processes.

Second, just as I did as Corporation Counsel for the City of Bloomington, I will ensure that a staff member in the office of prosecutor will serve as a Public Access Counselor. That position will serve to respond to requests for public information, but it will also be responsible for overseeing statistical analysis and making sure statistics that are generated are made readily and easily available for public consumption and comment. Everyone should know how important issues such as domestic violence and fairness in charging decisions are being handled. Prosecutorial discretion should face nothing less than maximum accountability. Monitoring, maintaining, and making specific data on cases publicly available is my pledge.

Law & Order is an antiquated way of looking at the justice system. It's driven by a "lock 'em up and throw away the key" mentality. And history has proven, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that that approach has failed. Justice is about fairness and reformation. It's so sad to see that in our nation, there is practically no "correction" in the "Correctional System." Jails and prisons have become warehouses. Minority populations are being disproportionately - and increasingly - subjected to injustice in the "justice system."

17) Describe the profile of your average donor. What is the average size of donations you receive? Please describe any contributions that you think our organization would be interested in.

Ours is a grassroots driven campaign. Our donors reflect many walks of life within the community. Most of our donations are less than \$100. It's a very friends & family influenced effort. But our greatest contributors are not people who have given money. The most significant contributions we've received are volunteer power. Additionally, many people have given of their time to discuss their life experience and to give advice on how they feel the prosecutor's office can be improved. One quick example of this important grassroots input are three addicts who have taken their valuable time to educate me on the challenges they've faced in their lives and detailed what worked and what didn't when it came to recovery. The same is true of social workers who have explained the importance of the issue of trauma and the role it plays in lifelong issues, especially among those living in poverty.

18) Would you be willing to participate in a candidate forum on the issues raised in this questionnaire?

I've participated in candidate forums that have addressed some of these issues directly or tangentially and intend to do so in the Fall should I be fortunate enough to be elected the Democratic nominee.

Monroe County Judges

Seat 2, Division 2: Chris Gaal v. Christine Talley-Haseman

Chris Gaal

Describe your platform. Tell us what populations are most impacted by your platform policies and your specific plan to reach out and work with these communities.

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

I have dedicated my career to progressive community leadership and public service - first on the Bloomington City Council, and then as the elected Prosecuting Attorney. Now I am running for Judge to continue that commitment.

I have over twenty years of diverse legal experience in this community - approximately half of that time spent as the elected 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 cases. I also handled a variety of general civil cases including family law (divorce, custody, visitation), and also practiced 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 believe that balance and broad diversity of experience is important in order to effectively serve our community as a judge.

As prosecutor, I developed an approach to public safety that changed the culture of the prosecutor's office to reflect the progressive values of this community. I focused on prevention, building valuable community partnerships, and creating new resources to improve public safety and better serve vulnerable populations - including women, children, and the elderly. I worked proactively with others in the community to develop the Sexual Assault Response Team, the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program along with a pediatric version of that program, Susie's Place Child Advocacy Center, the Pharmaceutical Safe Disposal Program, the Nurse Family Partnership, a dropout prevention coalition, and a Mental Health Court - among other initiatives. I also focused a great deal of energy on improving Indiana's Adult Protective Services program. These efforts were recognized by 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.

As a member of the Board of Judges, I will draw on both my experience as a legal professional and community organizer to creatively promote evidence-based problem-solving approaches to important issues facing our community - such as the need to better address drug and alcohol addictions and mental health issues through rehabilitative treatment in collaboration with local partners.

As Judge I pledge to listen to the evidence presented in each case, treat each individual with respect, and render fair and impartial decisions based upon the evidence presented. I strongly believe in the principle of fair and equal justice, and will do my best to ensure that our local justice system administers justice fairly and equally in each case. My goal will be to instill the sense in each litigant that, regardless of the ultimate outcome of their case, they were afforded a full opportunity to be heard.

For more information see www.chrisgaal.org

2. Describe your experience working on social justice issues. What influence have you had on policies in this community that help marginalized populations, especially black and brown citizens?

I have dedicated my entire adult life to working on progressive social justice and environmental issues. This started during my time as a student at Indiana University, continued through involvement in many different community organizations over the years, and eventually led to running for local political office in 1999. Issues have included organizing in favor of single-payer national health insurance, and against the privatization of social security - among others.

Some formative and relevant experiences include the following:

In 1992 I helped organize students at Indiana University to protest a plan by the Indiana University Trustees to sell land owned by IU in Noxubee County, Mississippi. IU was planning to sell the land to Federated Technologies Inc. (FTI), which intended to build a hazardous waste incinerator on the property. At that time, Noxubee County was 75% African American, with an unemployment rate of 14%. Local residents were protesting the plan to build the incinerator in their county out of concern for the toxic pollution and negative health effects that it would generate - disproportionately affecting African-Americans. We organized a coalition of both black and white students in the Student Environmental Action Coalition and the Black Law Student Association. Together we rented vans and drove down to Noxubee County Mississippi. There we met with local residents to discuss the issue, and plan how best to coordinate our efforts to stop the sale of the land by IU. Together we then continued on to New Orleans to attend an historic conference on Environmental Justice that was the first event of its kind in the nation. This was at a time when issues of environmental justice/racism were just beginning to be recognized in the law, and groundbreaking new lawsuits were being filed in an attempt to have the disparate racial impacts of environmental pollution recognized as a violation of civil rights laws. Soon after this trip, the IU Trustees announced that the sale of land in Noxubee County to FTI would not go forward. The strategic coalition of black and white students working together, and the coordination of efforts both in Mississippi and Indiana - contributed to stopping the proposed hazardous waste incinerator in Noxubee County, Mississippi.

After my first year of law school (1994) I took a summer internship with the Maurice and Jane Sugar Center for Economic and Social Justice in Detroit, Michigan - a public interest and civil rights law firm. I conducted legal research in a case in which we represented the NAACP in Flint, Michigan in a groundbreaking civil rights lawsuit against the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) for permitting a power-generating incinerator that would burn construction/demolition waste and emit toxic lead air pollution disproportionately affecting the local African-American community. At that time, approximately fifty percent of all children living in Flint between the ages of six months and five years old experienced elevated blood lead levels, raising serious concerns about negative health effects from lead

poisoning. The proposed power station was permitted in a predominantly African-American neighborhood, and across the street from an elementary school. African-Americans constituted 55.8% of the population living within one mile of the proposed facility, although only 19.6% of the surrounding county. Soil samples taken from within one-mile of the proposed facility revealed already elevated lead levels. The lawsuit alleged that the MDEQ failed to take into account the cumulative effects of lead contamination to which children in Flint had already been exposed, and that the negative environmental impact of the new facility would disproportionately affect African-Americans in violation of civil rights laws.

This was a groundbreaking lawsuit at a time when the concept of environmental justice/racism was just beginning to be recognized as a civil rights legal issue. See: Kary L. Moss, *Environmental Justice at the Crossroads*, 24 Wm. & Mary Env'tl.L&Pol'y Rev. 35 (2000)

3. What do elected officials need to do to improve the freedom, health and safety of black people? What specific actions will you take to accomplish this?

I believe Monroe County should aspire to become a community that fully embraces tolerance, diversity, and safety for all residents. To move us further toward that goal, I hope that local government, community leaders, and other stakeholders can work together to foster improved communications and build trust in a spirit of positive community collaboration.

In order to seek input and gain a better understanding of issues faced by people of color in our community, as prosecutor I proactively requested meetings with representatives from the local chapter of the NAACP, the City of Bloomington Commission on the Status of Black Males, the City of Bloomington Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs, the City of Bloomington Human Rights Commission, and the City of Bloomington Safe & Civil City program.

As prosecutor, I supported a pilot “pre-trial release” program that moved Monroe County away from over-reliance on cash bonds. While other prosecutors in Indiana were extremely critical of this ten-county pilot program, I enthusiastically embraced the concept from the beginning and ensured that my office cooperated fully so that it would be implemented successfully in Monroe County. The recent First Annual Report on the State of the Black Community reported preliminary data showing that the number of days of pretrial incarceration for blacks was lower than whites - the reverse of a previous study from over a decade earlier. If this preliminary data is correct, then it is most likely explained by the impact of the new pre-trial release pilot project. As a member of the Board of Judges, I hope to further support our county’s commitment to this process of eliminating the cash bond requirement so that Monroe County’s pilot project can serve as a positive example for other communities in our state.

17. Describe the profile of your average donor. What is the average size of donation you receive? Please describe any contributions that you think our organization would be interested in.

I received small donations from a large number of local individuals. Each of these are itemized in detail in my attached CFA-4 campaign funding disclosure form. In addition, I contributed my own funds.

18. Would you be willing to participate in a candidate forum on the issues raised in this questionnaire?

Possibly.

Christine Talley-Haseman

1. Describe your platform. Tell us what populations are most impacted by your platform policies and your specific plan to reach out and work with these communities.

As a judicial candidate, my platform is both the United States Constitution and the Indiana Constitution, both of which impact every single person that would appear before me as judge. I ensure that each person who appears before me is treated with respect and is treated equally to everyone else in the courtroom.

2. Describe your experience working on social justice issues. What influence have you had on policies in this community that help marginalized populations, especially black and brown citizens?

I am a member of the NAACP and the Monroe County Black Democratic Caucus, and I am honored to be a Supported candidate in this election by the Monroe County Black Democratic Caucus. In my private practice, I have served any person that ever came to me seeking help, if I was in a position that I was able to help them, without regard to their race, gender, sexual identity, sexual orientation, age, or other issues that marginalize our citizens. I am limited by attorney client privilege and confidentiality as to what I can say regarding some situations, but within those limitations, I can say that I have had the opportunity to represent clients in child abuse and neglect cases whose rights and children's rights are protected by the Indian Child Welfare Act. I have needed to and had the opportunity to not only ensure that my clients' rights were protected under the Indian Child Welfare Act, but also to engage the services of an expert on the Indian Child Welfare Act, who volunteered his time to ensure that I fully understood not only the Act, but the reasons that the Act became necessary to protect Indian children and their families. This expert also graciously volunteered his time to educate the Court regarding the Act and the necessity for the Act to protect Indian children that are involved in the child welfare process.

I have been a child advocate for twenty years, representing the best interests of children in child abuse and neglect cases, juvenile delinquency cases, guardianships, adoptions, and high conflict divorce and paternity cases. I have represented over 200 children in the last

twenty years to ensure that their best interests have been protected. In this work, I have had the opportunity to represent children that are members of marginalized populations, and worked to ensure that their interests were appropriately represented before the courts so that the children's needs were identified and met within our legal system.

In addition to my own work as a child advocate, I am a volunteer attorney for the Monroe County CASA program and I was a founding member of the Owen County CASA program Board of Directors. The CASA programs are another way of ensuring that children who are members of marginalized populations receive full and effective advocacy and representation within our legal system.

I am a member of the Board of Directors of the National Alliance for Mental Illness – Greater Bloomington Area (“NAMI”). NAMI is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. As a member of the local NAMI Board of Directors, I work with other NAMI members to “educate, advocate, listen and lead” in the area of mental health. NAMI and our members work to improve the lives of members of our community that are suffering from mental illness, without regard to the race, gender, etc. of the person. It is important that all individuals suffering from mental illness have access to treatment, and that treatment needs to come from appropriate mental health professionals, not from our criminal justice system.

3. What do elected officials need to do to improve the freedom, health and safety of black people? What specific actions will you take to accomplish that?

The Judicial Canons of Ethics limit what judicial candidates can say regarding issues that may come before the candidate as a judge on the bench. Specifically, Canon 4.1(A)(13) prohibits judicial candidates from making pledges, promises or commitments as to actions that they would take in connection with cases, controversies or issues that might come before the Court. It is my belief and understanding that the Judicial Canons of Ethics do not allow me to provide a response to this question, as the issues of the freedom, health and safety of black people could come before me if I am elected as Judge of the Monroe Circuit Court, Seat 2, and I must not make any statements as a judicial candidate that could then raise questions about my impartiality if a case involving those issues does come before me.

17. Describe the profile of your average donor. What is the average size of donations you receive? Please describe any contributions that you think our organization would be interested in.

I have self-financed the majority of my campaign at this point in time. A fundraiser was held for me shortly after the conclusion of the last finance reporting period, so I am including those donations when I respond in saying that the average size of donations that I receive, aside from the money that I have donated myself, is approximately \$100.00.

My recently filed CFA-4 shows a very generous contribution from Frank Sullivan, Jr. and Cheryl Sullivan. I believe that your organization would be particularly interested in this campaign contribution, as Frank Sullivan, Jr. is a former Justice of the Indiana Supreme Court, and a current Professor of Practice at the Indiana University McKinney School of Law in Indianapolis. I am honored to consider Justice Sullivan as one of my mentors, and racial justice is an issue that he has been committed to throughout his life and his career. In a speech that Justice Sullivan gave last October, at the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Indiana's First Annual Banquet in Indianapolis, he stated the following:

"I've been thinking about diversity since I was a teenager 60 years ago and here is what I have concluded:

I have concluded that it is human nature to gravitate to people like ourselves; I call it a centrifugal force toward sameness.

That is, for almost all of us, the people with whom we spend the most time are people of the same color as we; almost certainly too of the same sexual orientation; and likely of the same gender.

The point is this. We all have an unconscious bias to be with people like ourselves; we are all pulled by a centrifugal force toward sameness.

A commitment to diversity is a commitment to recognize and to overcome this unconscious bias, this centrifugal force toward sameness, so that when and where we are in a position to socialize and, even more to select, or to mentor, or to promote, we will consider men and women different than ourselves, not just those who are the same.

And I say that commitment to diversity is imperative."

18) Would you be willing to participate in a candidate forum on the issues raised in this questionnaire?

Assuming that you anticipate that such a forum would be after the May 8 primary election due to time limitations, I would be willing to participate in a candidate forum on the issues raised in this questionnaire. As would be the case for the other judicial candidates, my responses to questions that may be posed at a forum would be limited by the Judicial Canons of Ethics for judicial candidates.

Seat 3, Division 6: Catherine Stafford v. Jeff Kehr

Catherine Stafford

1) Describe your platform. Tell us what populations are most impacted by your platform policies and your specific plan to reach out and work with these communities.

Response: As a judicial candidate, I do not and cannot have a specific policy-related platform. I believe that a good judge is one who knows the law, listens to both sides carefully, weighs the evidence, and then and only then makes a prompt and well-reasoned decision. If elected, I plan to work hard to make courts more transparent, more responsive, and more efficient.

I've been an attorney for almost 21 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.

The populations impacted by the courts include all of us—as each of us could be embroiled in a family law dispute, a small claims matter, a medical malpractice case, an eviction, or a business dispute at any time. Without a doubt, however, the populations most impacted are those who are marginalized most frequently in American society: people of color, the LGBTQIA+ community, low-income individuals—in other words, those without historic power and without access to attorneys.

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 a candidate, I'm working on plans to create a "Pro Se Court." Although Monroe County has a legal services office (Indiana Legal Services, Inc.), a district pro bono office (District 10 Pro Bono Project), and even a nonprofit focusing on reduced fee cases (Justice Unlocked), 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.

The Pro Se Court would work with the assistance of community partners to provide volunteer assistance. I'm already talking with professors at IU (undergrad and law school) and would

also reach out to community partners such as El Centro, Middleway House, Shalom Center, and other nonprofits and community groups to ensure that the Pro Se Court could best meet the needs of those who traditionally have had difficulties using the legal system.

The current model I'm envisioning for the Pro Se Court would start as a piloted 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 (second- and third-year law students) who, with attorney supervision, could help complete court forms;
- C. Then, volunteer mediators would 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. I hope to be issuing a press release about this project towards the end of April.

2) Describe your experience working on social justice issues. What influence have you had on policies in this community that help marginalized populations, especially black and brown citizens?

Response: I've been active in social justice my whole life. I went door-to-door with my mom when I was a preschooler, as she protested redlining in our diverse Indianapolis neighborhood, as she was trying to keep it diverse. I have been active with United Way, League of Women Voters, the Democratic Party, and many nonprofit organizations.

Most of my social justice work for the last twenty-five years has been as a law student and as a lawyer, providing pro bono (free) legal services to causes that I believe strongly in, such as going to Miami for spring break from law school in 1995, not for the beaches, but to help complete asylum applications for Haitian refugees fleeing the turmoil after the coup that deposed President Aristide. I volunteered as a law student at Legal Aid Society of Minneapolis, where one of my early cases involved going to the housing project tower in downtown Minneapolis to gather information about our client, who was being evicted due to 'housekeeping violations.' It turned out that the management wanted to evict our client, a low-income man of color, as he had been stabbed in the apartment and hallway of the building by an ex-girlfriend. He was HIV positive and the management felt the presence of his blood in the hallway after the stabbing was a housekeeping violation. We were able to stop his eviction. I also volunteered in my third year for advocates from the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, who were collateral descendants of Chief Crazy Horse, working to identify and remonstrate against bars throughout our country who had appropriated his

name against his family's wishes— Chief Crazy Horse had been against alcohol. Unfortunately, as you can see from the presence of a Crazy Horse bar here in Bloomington, much work remains.

After three years of volunteering consistently during law school, I was fortunate to receive the Minnesota Justice Foundation award, given to the top law student volunteer in the state, in 1996, which was presented to me by Sister Helen Prejean, noted death-penalty foe and author of "Dead Man Walking."

Since law school, I have continued to work at nonprofits, providing legal assistance to low income individuals as an attorney at Indiana Legal Services, Inc. (Bloomington, IN office,) and to volunteer my services while starting and building my own law firm, Stafford Law Office, LLC. I have been a consistent volunteer attorney for, first, the Volunteer Lawyers Network in Minneapolis immediately after law school, then for the District 10 Pro Bono Project here in Bloomington. Through District 10, which coordinates private attorneys to provide counsel to low-income individuals, I typically have at least two open ongoing cases at all times, plus I typically volunteer once a month at the legal walk-in clinic at the Justice Building, called Counsel in the Court. I have also volunteered at the Shalom Center's legal clinic, during the years that it was offered. In the spring of 2017, I volunteered many evenings at El Centro's "Know Your Rights" clinics, providing family law assistance to families at risk of deportation, helping draft legal documents to provide for placement of their children if the adults were detained (frequently, the adults did not have legal status but the children were US citizens). I am a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) volunteer attorney and I serve on the Monroe County CASA Board of Directors. CASAs are appointed by the court to represent the best interests of children who are caught up in abuse and neglect cases.

3) What do elected officials need to do to improve the freedom, health and safety of black people? What specific actions will you take to accomplish that?

Response: As a judicial candidate, I have pledged to work hard to build awareness of my own implicit biases and of explicit biases in our legal system. If elected, I would ensure regular preparation of studies and reports (prepared in conjunction and collaboration with those from the black community, such as the Commission on the Status of Black Males, the NAACP, the Monroe County Black Democratic Caucus, and Black Lives Matter) in the nature of the State of the Black Community Report that was given in February of 2018 at City Hall. I would want to regularly track not only the impact of our criminal justice system on our communities of color, but also would seek information on civil matters, such as small claims, evictions, divorce, custody, adoption, and CHINS (Child in Need of Services) cases to track whether we have disparate results for black people and others and if so to take steps to remediate those disparate results.

4) As a leader, what specifically would you do to build trust and faith with the black community? What would be challenges you might face and what would you do to overcome those challenges?

Response: I seek to be an ally to the black community. To me, that means engaging with the black community on a regular basis and listening. I have sought to be engaged with my friends in the black community and plan to continue that engagement. Challenges include, for example, ensuring that my support does not become divisive and that white voices do not take over. I am a member of Showing up for Racial Justice, the NAACP, and the Monroe County Black Democratic Caucus.

5) What role do you think local government needs to play in improving the physical and mental health of black people? What specific issues around health do you think are currently not being addressed at all or sufficiently? Response: No response due to time and as judges have little to do with health policy.

6) How do you define privilege? How has privilege impacted decisions you have made as an elected official, or if you are running for the first time, as an engaged community member? If you are elected, how will you use your privilege to assist black and brown communities?

Response: To me, privilege means the advantages I have simply by circumstance of birth. For example, I grew up as a privileged person, not only by color, but also by education, opportunity, and income. I continue to hold privilege due to my position as a white person, lawyer, and smallbusiness owner.

If elected judge, I will use my privilege to do my best to ensure a fair and transparent courtroom, to do education about the court system in our local schools, and to reach out to groups in black and brown communities to build bridges. I will continue my current work of acting as a mentor to law students, including students of color, helping guide them on paths to reaching their goals.

7) What role do you think local government has in protecting all black lives, regardless of gender, gender identity, ability, age, income? What intersectional policies or suggestions would you recommend for protecting these lives?

Response: I do think local government has an obligation to work to protect black lives, and that black lives are more at risk than white lives. I don't have policy recommendations for this as a judicial candidate, because judges aren't directly responsible for law enforcement policies.

8) What have you done and or how would you go about recruiting, inspiring, supporting and training people of color to become political leaders in our community? Response: I have been

active with the Monroe County Black Democratic Caucus, providing candidate training to members, to recruit and encourage people of color to run for office. I make it a point to attend events for and to financially support candidates of color---and to offer my knowledge of local politics as a resource if that would be useful.

9) To the best of your knowledge, describe why people of color are disproportionately targeted and arrested by the criminal justice system. What ideas do you have to make the justice system more equitable and impartial?

Response: Unfortunately, racism—both conscious and unconscious—is present in some way in most government systems. There are many ways to work on this problem. I would like to see more recruits to law enforcement from communities of color, more training for officers and staff, representation from communities of color in law enforcement review boards, and more people of color taking leadership roles in local government.

10) Given the bias in our criminal justice system against black and brown people, what do you consider to be the top priorities for reforming our justice system?

Response: At a county level, I would like to see regular statistics and data gathering about impact of our justice system—both criminal and civil—on communities of color (see elsewhere in responses for a more complete response to this portion of the question). We haven't had a local study on racial outcomes from our criminal justice system since 2002, when such was done by Clarence Gilliam and Guy Loftman. Our top priorities should be first, to identify the nature and extent of bias, then, in conjunction with communities of color, decide how to best make changes.

11) What suggestions do you have for reducing the jail and prison populations in the current moment? Should prisons be abolished in your lifetime?

Response. In the current moment, with the Monroe County Jail at more than 300 people, when the building capacity is 294 and we have a settlement with the American Civil Liberties Union to have a cap of 278, we need to use every reasonable alternative to reduce our jail population. (see, for example, a recent Indiana Lawyer article). Our local court is already a pilot location for Indiana's Criminal Rule 26, which focuses on bail reform that will allow judges to release arrestees earlier there is reasonable confidence the arrestee will not flee and will not be a public danger. We also need to continue the work of creating problem-solving courts, which focus on reform and deterrence rather than punishment as a primary goal.

12) Name an issue facing school-aged children of color that you think needs to be better addressed and discuss how you would address it. Issues of particular interest to this organization include curriculum, busing and redistricting, before-and-after-school programs, and lunch programs.

12) Name an issue facing school-aged children of color that you think needs to be better addressed and discuss how you would address it. Issues of particular interest to this organization include curriculum, busing and redistricting, before-and-after-school programs, and lunch programs. Response: No response here as judges have little to do with school policy at a county level and due to time.

13) How, specifically, do you foster respectful, empathetic collaboration with people who think differently from you? Provide an example of when you have done this either in your role as a community member or as an elected official.

Response. In my work as a family law attorney, collaborative practitioner, and mediator, I consistently engage in very difficult conversations with those on opposing sides from each other. I coach my clients on how to listen first, digest, and analyze before reacting (especially before reacting out of anger) and I strive to use those same principles myself. I work with parties who have very different racial, ethnic, and family cultures, helping to devise co-parenting plans to allow the children to thrive.

14) Do you support programs focused on harm reduction, restorative justice, decriminalization of drugs, reducing nuisance crimes and quality of life policing, and/or jail diversion programs? Choose one or more of those programs (or comparable ones that you are aware of) and describe how you have or would support that program or programs. Response.

Yes, wherever possible, I support harm reduction, restorative justice, reduction of nuisance crimes, and jail diversion. I cannot comment on decriminalization of drugs as that decision belongs to the legislature, not to the individual judges. I volunteered for the first Opioid Summit in Monroe County, as a member of the steering committee, where I learned about harm reduction, medical assisted treatment, and where I committed to being trained on how to use Naloxone. I did get trained in Naloxone use later in the fall of 2017 and keep Naloxone in my office and all my staff know this. I have many clients who have struggled with Substance Use Disorder and the consequences, such as losing custody of their children to the other parent or to the Department of Child Services. I would encourage all court staff to be trained in harm reduction and Naloxone.

15) What concerns do you have about the militarization of our police force? What would you do, and what can the community do, to protect people of color from the effects of militarization, as this equipment is disproportionately deployed against people of color? Response: No response here as judges have little to do with the purchase decisions of local law enforcement.

16) To better understand issues that people of color face, what groups would you reach out to?

Response: I'd reach out to the local NAACP, Black Lives Matter, the Monroe County Black Democratic Caucus, and to groups at IU, such as the African Student Association, the Black Law Students Association, and others.

17) Describe the profile of your average donor. What is the average size of donations you receive? Please describe any contributions that you think our organization would be interested in. Response: My average donor is a small amount donor, who is interested in our local justice system. I have received some donations from local lawyers and law firms, as well as from individuals. I have received some donations from my extended family. I have loaned my campaign some money personally. I attach my 2017 CFA-4 and my 2018 Pre-Primary CFA-4 which detail every contribution I've received where the amount was \$100 or more cumulative by year.

18) Would you be willing to participate in a candidate forum on the issues raised in this questionnaire? Response: Yes.

Seat 9, Division 8: Geoff Bradley v. Darcie Fawcett v. Alphonso Manns

Geoff Bradley

Good evening. Thank you for inviting me to participate in the first survey for the Black Lives Matter Bloomington Voter's Guide.

On Saturday afternoon I had the opportunity to meet ***** while I was canvassing on *****. I got to speak with her and she gave me some more information about the guide. When we talked I shared with her two limitations I had with completing a questionnaire.

The first was timing. Because of my constraints before the primary election, I will not have the opportunity to adequately address the topics raised or participate in any forums.

The second limitation has to do with the rules governing candidates seeking judicial positions. These rules are in addition to the campaign finance rules and general candidate rules.

Candidates for judicial seats have additional requirements and limitations for their conduct which are governed by the Indiana Code of Judicial Conduct. The overarching expectation of all judicial candidates is that they will keep an open mind and will carry out the duties of the office faithfully and impartially if elected.

If elected I intend and commit to you that I will perform my judicial duties with dedication, professionalism and diligence. Thank you again for the invitation and your understanding.

Darcie Fawcett

Thank you for sending the Black Lives Matter questionnaire to all candidates for the 2018 Election. Due to the Indiana Code of Judicial Conduct, I am unable to answer most questions. As a judicial candidate, I must demonstrate independence, integrity, and impartiality at all times, regardless of what I feel personally.

Furthermore, due to the intense schedule of campaigning, work obligations and being a single parent, I find myself with insufficient time to complete the questions I am allowed to answer.

I do, however, want to take a moment to emphasize that I have spent most of my adult life working to promote equality.

While obtaining my Bachelors of Arts at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, I double majored in Psychology and Education and Minored in Women 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 Chicago Public Schools- a school that was 100% African American, followed by one year in Indianapolis Public School.

Personally, I am engaged in many Boards and Commissions where I work to ensure that all voices are heard. I am also President of the Fairview PTO.

Upon reviewing my campaign literature and website (www.fawcettforjudge.com), you will see that I have history of a strong commitment to public service and abiding dedication to promoting equality and justice for all people.

Monroe County Commissioner: District 1

Patrick Stoffers (D)

1) Describe your platform. Tell us what populations are most impacted by your platform policies and your specific plan to reach out and work with these communities.

I am seeking re-election as Monroe County Commissioner with a platform comprised of three pillars:

a. Building a compassionate and caring community – this includes support for our safety net, and investments in innovative programs in our health department and our criminal justice facilities.

A new initiative I have proposed would seek to reduce food insecurity in Monroe County by bringing together all the sectors in our community to assess policy options at the local level. As food insecurity is tied to poverty, and Monroe County's Black and Hispanic communities disproportionately live under the federal poverty level, this initiative would impact these populations and seek to find solutions at the local government level. I have also recently supported the creation of Monroe County's Affordable Housing Commission. These issues are all linked strongly.

b. Standing strong on matters of equity and equality, and assuring our community is a welcoming place for all – this includes seeking diverse voices and experiences in our citizen boards and commissions which contribute towards important policy priorities. We have come a long way in this area, but have much more work to do.

It also means that when state and federal policies take us backwards, rather than forwards, I will speak up loud and strong and encourage others to do the same. My colleagues on the Board of Commissioners and I have had several opportunities to exercise this, especially in the past two years. We have taken strong stands against hateful immigration policies, racial discrimination and police violence throughout the nation, and mass gun violence perpetrated largely by young white males targeting public spaces like our schools.

c. Investing in infrastructure which pays dividends – prioritizing projects that create jobs and economic opportunities.

A couple of initiatives I am most proud of in this pillar are partnerships with Ivy Tech and the Monroe County Redevelopment Commission which brought our community the Lee Marchant School of Nursing and the Indiana Center for the Life Sciences on the west side. These educational facilities offer thousands of residents, including a significant proportion being people of color, new opportunities for economic empowerment by training for high demand fields. Most participants are easily able to transition into a stable career with area employers.

In order to more meaningfully engage with underrepresented communities, I personally can be more accessible. I strive to take up invitations for dialogue which take me outside of my comfort zone. Every time I do so, I open my eyes to new perspectives.

Structurally, I plan to request a new position in the Office of the Commissioners to facilitate citizen engagement. This position would be the outreach arm of our office, and would deploy new mechanisms for involvement on policy and projects. It could also assist in making recommendations regarding appointments to boards and commissions.

2. Describe your experience working on social justice issues. What influence have you had on policies in this community that help marginalized populations, especially black and brown citizens.

At the broader level, I have worked to create economic opportunities for members of our community struggling to rise above economic and social marginalization by investing in educational and economic pathways.

I was proud to support the creation of our Women's Commission many years ago when females lacked inclusion in local government and policy-making. I helped create our Human Rights Ordinance, and a Human Rights Commission that can review complaints regarding discrimination and matters of inequity.

3. What do elected officials need to do to improve the freedom, health and safety of black people? What specific actions will you take to accomplish that?

We have major health disparities between white, black, and Hispanic citizens.

I support programs that meet people where they are in life and provide the level of resources needed to equalize systemic disparities. For example, our hospital is investing in a visiting nurse program, which sends out nurses to visit low-income, first-time moms and wraps around them with support. This evidence-based program can help overcome cyclical disparities.

When we talk about freedom, our law enforcement agencies receive disproportionately more calls reporting "suspicious persons" who are of color. This is the implicit bias present in privileged white society that will take time to correct. Our health department and our area nonprofits have been offering trainings and forums on this, and I would continue to support those with financial resources sufficient to make a difference and reach more people.

As the County Executive on a board of three commissioners, we review and approve all invoices paid out from taxpayer funds, and we approve all contracts for services and purchases. This means that the final level of review for purchases or contracts of our Sheriff, of our jail, our health department, our judicial systems, and more all fall on our shoulders should something go wrong. It also means that departments know their purchases have to align with us philosophically in order to gain that approval. I would never have approved an armed or armored vehicle for our Sheriff department, and I am proud of our Sheriff for never suggesting one is needed. I have and would continue to scrutinize purchases in the name of public safety to assure they do not compromise who we are as a community.

17) Describe the profile of your average donor. What is the average size of donations you receive? Please describe any contributions that you think our organization would be interested in.

I would describe an average donor as a Democrat with roots in Monroe County. I have been fortunate to have received broad support throughout my tenure from hundreds of individuals, area businesses, labor unions, and Democratic political action committees. An average individual donation is \$40 while an average contribution from a business or union group has been closer to \$400.

18) Would you be willing to participate in a candidate forum on the issues raised in this questionnaire?

Absolutely.

Monroe County Clerk

Jacob Franklin (R)

I appreciate and am encouraged by #BlackLivesMatter sending the first ever Black Lives Matter Bloomington Voter's Guide questionnaire regarding this candidacy. I look forward to future interactions with #BlackLivesMatter Core Leadership Council. Also, I am happy to answer any questions that pertain to the functions and duties of the Clerk of Monroe Circuit Court. Please find my answer(s) to the questionnaire below.

1) Describe your platform. Tell us what populations are most impacted by your platform policies and your specific plan to reach out and work with these communities.

Not applicable to the Clerk of Monroe Circuit Court.

2) Describe your experience working on social justice issues. What influence have you had on policies in this community that help marginalized populations, especially black and brown citizens?

Not applicable to the Clerk of Monroe Circuit Court.

3) What do elected officials need to do to improve the freedom, health and safety of black people? What specific actions will you take to accomplish that?

Not applicable to the Clerk of Monroe Circuit Court.

4) As a leader, what specifically would you do to build trust and faith with the black community? What would be challenges you might face and what would you do to overcome those challenges?

Not applicable to the Clerk of Monroe Circuit Court.

5) What role do you think local government needs to play in improving the physical and mental health of black people? What specific issues around health do you think are currently not being addressed at all or sufficiently?
Not applicable to the Clerk of Monroe Circuit Court.

6) How do you define privilege? How has privilege impacted decisions you have made as an elected official, or if you are running for the first time, as an engaged community member? If you are elected, how will you use your privilege to assist black and brown communities?
Not applicable to the Clerk of Monroe Circuit Court.

7) What role do you think local government has in protecting all black lives, regardless of gender, gender identity, ability, age, income? What intersectional policies or suggestions would you recommend for protecting these lives?
Not applicable to the Clerk of Monroe Circuit Court.

8) What have you done and or how would you go about recruiting, inspiring, supporting and training people of color to become political leaders in our community?
Not applicable to the Clerk of Monroe Circuit Court.

9) To the best of your knowledge, describe why people of color are disproportionately targeted and arrested by the criminal justice system. What ideas do you have to make the justice system more equitable and impartial?
Not applicable to the Clerk of Monroe Circuit Court.

10) Given the bias in our criminal justice system against black and brown people, what do you consider to be the top priorities for reforming our justice system?
Not applicable to the Clerk of Monroe Circuit Court.

11) What suggestions do you have for reducing the jail and prison populations in the current moment? Should prisons be abolished in your lifetime?
Not applicable to the Clerk of Monroe Circuit Court.

12) Name an issue facing school-aged children of color that you think needs to be better addressed and discuss how you would address it. Issues of particular interest to this organization include curriculum, busing and redistricting, before-and-after-school programs, and lunch programs.
Not applicable to the Clerk of Monroe Circuit Court.

13) How, specifically, do you foster respectful, empathetic collaboration with people who think differently from you? Provide an example of when you have done this either in your role as a community member or as an elected official.

Not applicable to the Clerk of Monroe Circuit Court.

14) Do you support programs focused on harm reduction, restorative justice, decriminalization of drugs, reducing nuisance crimes and quality of life policing, and/or jail diversion programs? Choose one or more of those programs (or comparable ones that you are aware of) and describe how you have or would support that program or programs.

Not applicable to the Clerk of Monroe Circuit Court.

15) What concerns do you have about the militarization of our police force? What would you do, and what can the community do, to protect people of color from the effects of militarization, as this equipment is disproportionately deployed against people of color?

Not applicable to the Clerk of Monroe Circuit Court.

16) To better understand issues that people of color face, what groups would you reach out to?

Not applicable to the Clerk of Monroe Circuit Court.

17) Describe the profile of your average donor. What is the average size of donations you receive? Please describe any contributions that you think our organization would be interested in.

Not applicable to the Clerk of Monroe Circuit Court.

18) Would you be willing to participate in a candidate forum on the issues raised in this questionnaire?

Not applicable to the Clerk of Monroe Circuit Court.

As much passion as you all have in your cause, I have in inclusionary public service. These questions as presented are not relative to the office of Clerk of Monroe Circuit Court. I welcome and look forward to answering any questions that pertain to the specific duties and functions of the office I am seeking.

Simply, the Clerk of Monroe Circuit Court purview does not reach that far. This is an administrative office. I will do all I can to promote the election process in a legitimate, impartial and inclusionary manner.

I hereby pledge and assure all persons who utilize the Monroe County Clerk of Circuit Court office, shall be treated equal.

Nicole Browne (D)

Thank you for inviting me to participate in the Candidate Questionnaire. I genuinely appreciate your having included me in your candidate outreach efforts.

While I am a candidate in this year's Primary and General elections, as the current Monroe County Clerk, I am responsible for overseeing the elections in Monroe County. With fewer than two weeks until Primary Election Day, I regret not being in a position to give the Candidate Questionnaire the respectful and thoughtful attention it deserves in a manner timely enough to meet tonight's deadline.

Again, I appreciate your having included me. I look forward to delivering timely results, on Election night, following another successful election in Monroe County.

Indiana State House Candidates

Matt Pierce (D) District 61

My response to the Black Lives Matter candidate questionnaire is below.

All of my campaign finance reports can be viewed at <http://campaignfinance.in.gov/PublicSite/SearchPages/CommitteeSearch.aspx>.

1) Describe your platform. Tell us what populations are most impacted by your platform policies and your specific plan to reach out and work with these communities.

I view the job of state representative as supporting policies that will improve the quality of life for all residents of the community. Whenever an issue is being debated at the General Assembly, I always ask myself, “Whose voice is not being heard? Who can’t afford a high-priced lobbyist to make their case for them?”

I opposed policies promoting Indiana as a low-wage state, and I will continue supporting efforts to raise the minimum wage, make Indiana’s tax code less regressive, and improve worker benefits. For example, I voted against the transportation funding bill because it raised the gas tax and car registration fees that will disproportionately burden low-income families while at the same time the General Assembly was lowering taxes on corporations.

Money should not be siphoned-away from public schools to pay for private school vouchers and charter schools. Schools are struggling because the General Assembly has chosen to fund three school systems when it cannot properly support the system of public schools mandated by the state constitution. I have been an outspoken advocate for making early childhood education affordable for every family.

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

I regularly meet with citizens and organizations who are working on these issues so I can hear their perspectives on what the General Assembly needs to be doing and their opinions of legislation being considered by the legislature. Listening to the views of diverse groups is a fundamental duty of a legislator.

2) Describe your experience working on social justice issues. What influence have you had on policies in this community that help marginalized populations, especially black and brown citizens?

I have been a key participant in Indiana's criminal justice reform movement, coauthoring the legislation that reversed ineffective "tough on crime" policies from the 1990s that disproportionately affected people of color and replaced them with "smart on crime" policies that address the underlying causes of crime—drug addiction and mental illness.

Mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses were eliminated and judges given more discretion to consider the individual circumstances of defendants being sentenced for their crimes. Instead of spending money to build new prisons, millions of dollars have been redirected to fund drug treatment and mental health programs as alternative to incarceration. Specialized problem-solving courts such as drug courts are being expanded across the state. These courts administer programs that focus on treating addictions, finding gainful employment, and reintegrating individuals with their communities.

This process of redirecting the criminal justice system is on-going, and more needs to be done. One reason why I am running for reelection is to be a strong voice for continuing the reform movement and not backsliding into the failed policies of the past.

Unfortunately, there has not been any progress on adopting a hate crimes bill. Indiana is one of a handful of states without a hate crimes law. I have supported past efforts to enact the law, and I will continue working for its passage in the future.

I have consistently fought efforts to exploit those living in poverty. For example, I voted against a bill that would have allowed pay day lenders to charge interest rates of over 200 percent.

3) What do elected officials need to do to improve the freedom, health and safety of black people? What specific actions will you take to accomplish that?

I will continue supporting the Indiana Black Legislative Caucus which raises many of these important issues. As mentioned above, I have worked to move Indiana away from mass incarceration and toward programs that address the underlying causes of crime and help reintegrate people back into society.

While Indiana has poor health outcomes in the general population, in many cases health outcomes are worse for minority populations. One major cause of these disparities has been the lack of access to affordable health care. I voted to establish the Healthy Indiana Plan that expanded health coverage to citizens that needed health insurance but did not qualify for Medicaid. I also voted to expand Medicaid in Indiana under President Obama's Affordable Care Act. This made health insurance affordable for even more Indiana citizens.

I have also supported legislation to attack the problems of infant mortality, heart disease, and diabetes that particularly impact minority health. However, the legislature has done a poor

job of funding public health programs. The legislature should strengthen its support of county health departments so they can increase outreach efforts to minorities and better focus on the health problems they face.

17) Describe the profile of your average donor. What is the average size of donations you receive? Please describe any contributions that you think our organization would be interested in.

Contributions to my campaigns have varied over the years. Generally, it is a mix of small contributions from individuals of around \$50.00 and Political Action Committees (PACs) that tend to contribute around \$300.00.

Many PACs have stopped contributing to my campaigns because I have been an outspoken advocate for consumers. Large utilities like Duke Energy ended contributions to my campaign when it became clear I was a strong voice for electric utility ratepayers and an advocate for renewable energy. Major telecommunications companies like AT&T do not contribute to my campaigns because I fight industry-backed bills that are not good for consumers.

18) Would you be willing to participate in a candidate forum on the issues raised in this questionnaire?

Yes, I always participate in forums hosted by local groups whenever my schedule permits it.

Penny Githens (D) District 60

As I worked through the first half of your questionnaire, I realized that I was needlessly – and rather boringly – repeating myself. So, rather than directly answer each of your 18 questions, I decided to write a narrative explaining my background and experiences, my views on social justice, my links to the general community, and what I hope to do when elected to the Indiana General Assembly. With that said, I want you to know I would willingly participate in a forum sponsored by Black Lives Matter – Bloomington. Current donations to my campaign have come from family, friends, the Monroe County Democratic Women’s Caucus and the Morgan County Democrats. To date I have been endorsed by the Monroe County Democratic Women’s Caucus, Democracy for Monroe County, and 314 Action (<http://www.314action.org/home>); I have also earned the Moms Demand Action Gun Sense Candidate distinction. Once the primaries are over I will apply for “support” from the Monroe County Democratic Black Caucus. I will also be applying to various unions and other groups for endorsement.

Let me start with the obvious fact that I am white, and I believe what a local Black friend recently told me, that I can never fully understand the history behind being Black in America. With all that I have read and learned, I agree with that statement. However, that does not mean I have to support the status quo which puts a disproportionate number of Black men in jail/prison, identifies more Black students as being special education students, suspends and expels more Black students, and leaves Black women earning 38% less than white males.

(The gender pay gap is alarmingly worse for Latinas, who earn 46% less than white males.)

It's also distressing to me that Black women are 4 times more likely to die in childbirth than white women. All of the disparities that one could name lead to only one conclusion, there is still an enormous amount of bias in the United States, something that I find intolerable. I would like to see implicit bias training required for anyone who goes into teaching, medicine, counseling, law enforcement, banking, retail, etc.

I grew up in Richmond, IN, and my parents told me I could choose anyone I wanted as a friend, and my friends were welcome in our home. I have followed the same example with my own children. As an undergraduate I did my student teaching at Gary Roosevelt High School (Gary, IN). Within a month of college graduation, I became a Peace Corps Volunteer, teaching secondary science and math in Kenya. As a teacher I was treated with kindness and respect, and I was thrilled to be invited into the homes of some of my students. Living and working in a different culture was its own reward, but I feel I also learned a lot about "differences." In this case I was the one whose hair was rubbed to see how it felt, and I was the one whom little children might run from on a moonlit night as they referred to me as a "ghost."

After living in Connecticut, Philadelphia, and Nashville, my husband and I chose to return to Bloomington 26 years ago. It is the only home our two sons, now 26 and 28, have ever really known. A few years after returning to Indiana our older son was diagnosed with autism, and for the past 20 years I have been trying to make a difference in the lives of those with disabilities: I initiated and led the successful effort to have health insurance mandated for autism in Indiana, I have served on the boards of the state and local autism support groups, I have been a volunteer educational advocate for special education students for two decades, and I helped create – and continue to volunteer with – an adapted martial arts class at the Monroe County YMCA. Since retiring from the IU School of Education last year I have become a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Volunteer, working with children in the foster care system. I feel my actions, when it comes to helping others, speak louder than any words I might share with you.

But you are also interested in what I, as a state legislator, might do for those in the Black community. First, I think Indiana needs a hate crime law, and I would work with others to make this a reality. Unlike my opponent, I do not think it is sufficient to say that judges already have the discretion to add additional years to a sentence if circumstances appear to dictate it. When it comes to intersectionality, I also believe that we should add "sexual

orientation, gender identity” to Indiana’s civil rights law. Next, we need to end the gender pay-gap in Indiana. One of the ways to do this is to bring back the common construction pay legislation and to overturn Indiana’s “Right to Work” law which severely weakened unions.

Why do I bring unions into the discussion? Because when unions are strong the wage gap shrinks. We also need to increase the minimum wage. Moreover, we need to introduce high school students to trade schools and apprenticeships. This would require bringing more counselors into our middle and high schools. I’m going to get a little wonk-ish here: Did you know that in Indiana there’s an average of 1 school counselor for every 541 high school students (<https://www.schoolcounselor.org/asca/media/asca/home/Ratios13-14.pdf>), and that the recommended case load is 1 counselor for every 250 students? If we are to address bullying, reach underachieving students, truly do career counseling, and help students with the myriad of challenges that teenagers face, we need to redirect resources.

I need to tell you, too, that I am running for state legislature because I’m incensed at the direction this state is going. When I was growing up our public schools were properly funded, our infrastructure was sound, and working Hoosiers could earn a living wage. We’ve been slowly hacking away at school funding, our roads and bridges are crumbling, too many individuals living in rural areas are without reliable and affordable broadband, the sewers in places like Gary are in dire need of an upgrade, and the median wage has fallen from 14th in the country to 38th. At a time when 20% of Hoosiers face food insecurity, when 20% of our children live in poverty, and when 40% of households headed by single mothers are at or below the poverty line, it is time for people who care about others to step up and say, “No more!” Our state budget reflects our values, and my values include taking care of the most vulnerable. Instead of building a \$2 billion Rainy-Day fund, we should spend some of that money on education and on infrastructure, putting Hoosiers to work with good paying jobs.

According to NPR (<https://www.npr.org/2018/03/08/579193399/the-opioid-crisis-frightening-jump-to-black-urban-areas>), the current opioid epidemic that initially hit rural America is quickly spreading to the Black population in urban areas. And urban Blacks are now dying at a faster rate than those in suburban and rural areas. Part of my platform is focused on the opioid crisis: We need increased education, treatment, and prevention if we are going to reverse what has become a public health crisis. We need to take a public health approach to curbing drug addiction and stop trying to prosecute our way out of it. This means needle exchange programs throughout the state (something my opponent resists saying it “enables” people), medically-assisted treatment, prevention programs that start in the schools, and many, many more residential treatment facilities along with properly trained medical personnel and licensed clinical social workers.

During the summer and fall of 2017, I was one of the organizers of the “Your Voice Matters” campaign in Monroe County. This was an effort of the local Democratic party to connect with voters in a non-election year and ask, “What do you want from your government.” As we knocked on doors, the number one response we heard was healthcare. When the Affordable Care Act became a reality, I wish Indiana had opted to expand Medicaid coverage rather than

develop its HIP 2.0 plans. I believe we should condense all of the HIP 2.0 plans into a single program, eliminating the need for subscribers to pay the \$12 annual premium. We should also institute a graduated payment scale so that if one's earning exceed the threshold for eligibility, one starts to pay premiums instead of totally losing health insurance. I heard of a couple here in Monroe County, both of whom have diabetes, whose quarterly income exceeded the maximum allowed for HIP 2.0 coverage by \$20. They lost their health insurance and being so near the poverty line, they couldn't afford to purchase health insurance or their costly insulin. They had to wait 3 months before they could get back on HIP 2.0. This isn't right, and I feel we should be doing better.

At all levels of government, we also need to elect more women and individuals of color.

Emergent America has a saying that I'd like to use here: "You need to see it to be it." If you are a person of color you need to see people of color in office if you are going to think about running yourself. To that end I am a member of the Monroe County Democratic Women's Caucus (Steering Committee), the Monroe County Black Democratic Caucus, the Indiana 9th District Latino Caucus, and the NAACP. I am also working with Sneha Dave to create a Disability Caucus here in the 9th District. If you would like references about me from the Black Community, please contact Dana Black (<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100008716266214>), Jim Sims, William Hosea, Maqube Reese, Jennifer Crossley, Valeri Haughton-Motley, Ashley Hazelrig, Nicole Bolden, Nicole Browne, Geoff Bradley and/or Rafi Khalid Hassan.

I'm running for the Indiana House of Representatives because I want to improve the future for all Hoosiers.

Jared Stancombe (D) District 65

1) Describe your platform. Tell us what populations are most impacted by your platform policies and your specific plan to reach out and work with these communities.

- My platform is about leadership. Leaders can inspire people to work towards a vision and make a positive impact. I've been working with marginalized communities for most of my career. I worked in a middle school in Washington, DC, worked with refugees in Zambia, and with children in poverty in India. Now, I am working with the recovery community—the people recovering from substance use. I believe in meeting people where they are without judgment. I've been going to treatment centers, transitional housing facilities, faith-based organizations, family support groups, and religious services to better connect with the recovery community. I will continue this work.

) Describe your experience working on social justice issues. What influence have you had on policies in this community that help marginalized populations, especially black and brown citizens?

- I served as an AmeriCorps member with City Year in Washington, DC several years ago, where I worked in a middle school with a 100% African American student population. Many of my students faced challenges such as experiencing trauma at a young age, having unstable home lives, and having to take care of younger siblings. Many of my students brought their problems into my classroom and I tried to be a calming and relatable person they could reach out to and talk. Middle school is hard enough. 60% of my students had emotional-behavioral disorders such as PTSD and ADHD. At my school, I tutored, mentored, and coached about 80 middle schools daily. I served to address the achievement gap in Washington, DC.

3) What do elected officials need to do to improve the freedom, health and safety of black people? What specific actions will you take to accomplish that?

- I think we need to critically examine our criminal justice system, housing policies, and reach out to black communities to ensure they have access to affordable healthcare. I would like to see police officers screened during training for potential racial biases that could cause problems on the job. I would like to see surveys of people in our criminal justice system to examine racial bias in our courts. I would also like to see housing policies examined to see if landlords and real estate companies are exhibiting racial bias. Healthcare is housing and housing is healthcare. Finally, I would like to assess the amount of black people that have health insurance and in communities that don't, encourage them to sign up for HIP 2.0.

4) As a leader, what specifically would you do to build trust and faith with the black community? What would be challenges you might face and what would you do to overcome those challenges?

- I would just show up, listen, ask questions, and share my views. However, I understand that white privilege will be an issue to discuss. I am a white man running for political office. What's new? Indiana's Statehouse woefully lacks the diversity we need. I think being transparent, understanding, and aware of my privilege will allow me to overcome many of the challenges that I might face in working with the black community.

5) What role do you think local government needs to play in improving the physical and mental health of black people? What specific issues around health do you think are currently not being addressed at all or sufficiently?

- In my district, which does not include Bloomington, there is a real lack of diversity. I would say around 95% of my district is Caucasian. But I think that access to care is a real thing in general, especially among the vulnerable. In Lawrence County, 1 in 5 don't see a doctor due to

o cost. In rural areas, many people who are HIV positive do not get diagnosed until it becomes late stage. There is currently a Hepatitis A outbreak and last year we were under a public health emergency for Hepatitis C. We are also a “mental health desert,” with extremely poor access to mental health services. I think we need to focus on prevention, education, and linkage to care. We need to work on implementing evidence-based youth prevention programs, expanding access to mental health and addiction treatment services, expanding transitional housing, and creating low-barrier access points for people who may have a communicable disease to seek treatment. These access points could also perform regular health assessments for issues such as hypertension, heart disease, and other cardiovascular issues that are prevalent in the African American community.

6) How do you define privilege? How has privilege impacted decisions you have made as an elected official, or if you are running for the first time, as an engaged community member? If you are elected, how will you use your privilege to assist black and brown communities?

- This is the most important question on this survey. As a straight white male from a rural area, becoming aware of my privilege in my early 20s was an eye-opening process. In City Year, we did a “privilege line” where all 150 of us lined up in a park shoulder-to-shoulder. We were asked questions about our lives, such as if our parents had ever been divorced, if our parents had college degrees, if we were ever abused, if we ever had to worry about our next meal would come from, if we ever had problems finding band-aids of our skin color, etc. We had to take a step forward if we exhibited privilege and take a step back if we did not. At the end, I noticed my boss at the front, while I was in the middle. But I noticed that many of the black women were in the back, crying. Privilege is real. I would like to use my privilege not to just speak for those who aren’t as privileged but raise them up and get their voices out into the public discussion.

7) What role do you think local government has in protecting all black lives, regardless of gender, gender identity, ability, age, income? What intersectional policies or suggestions would you recommend for protecting these lives?

- I would recommend that Bloomington pass a Hate Crime Law, and that it be the example for the Indiana General Assembly to follow.

8) What have you done and or how would you go about recruiting, inspiring, supporting and training people of color to become political leaders in our community?

- At the Bedford North Lawrence High School candlelight vigil for victims of school violence on April 20th, I met Clarence Brown, a local community advocate who is black. He gave a speech to the students who attended, some of whom were half-black. He also prayed with the students as the names of every child who had died in the Columbine shooting and those after were named off. I would like to see him run for a local office, given his love for our community, especially for those who disagree with him. In regard to recruitment, I would

probably go to the churches and start there. There is a black church in Lawrence County. I believe that good political leaders are good citizens. I try to find people who exhibit good citizenship every day as I strive to lead the example. But elevating people representing minorities to make a difference in the political sphere is something I would love to start.

9) To the best of your knowledge, describe why people of color are disproportionately targeted and arrested by the criminal justice system. What ideas do you have to make the justice system more equitable and impartial?

- It is like it is almost by design. I believe that people of color are arrested disproportionately and arrested more than other populations because we have not yet discarded the racist policies of the past, such as “broken windows” policing, stop-and-frisk laws, and failing to recruit people to be law enforcement officers in their own communities. In a Department of Justice investigation after the murder of Michael Brown, it was found that over half of black residents had some sort of fine to pay off. Also, many officers were not from the region. We need better recruitment, selection, and training programs that seek to screen out law enforcement candidates for racial bias. We also need to do away with predatory laws and policies such as broken windows policing, stop-and-frisk, and we also need to do away with mandatory minimums, especially for non-violent crimes. We can make our criminal justice system more equitable and impartial if we get people representative of communities elected to office.

10) Given the bias in our criminal justice system against black and brown people, what do you consider to be the top priorities for reforming our justice system?

- Locally, I think that law enforcement does a terrible job at community engagement. I think that law enforcement officers, especially those beginning their careers, should be required to spend a significant amount of time working alongside community members in community service, outreach, and engagement efforts. We need better relationships between law enforcement and black communities. If law enforcement took an effort to listen to people’s stories rather than instantly judge them, we would have safer more prosperous communities.
- Nationally, I think we need to end private prisons and we need to seriously look at our laws so that we can end mass incarceration.

11) What suggestions do you have for reducing the jail and prison populations in the current moment? Should prisons be abolished in your lifetime?

- I am not in favor of private prisons. I am not in favor of people profiting from mass incarceration. When we take away the profit incentive, we take away the ability for our criminal justice system to prey upon the vulnerable.

12) Name an issue facing school-aged children of color that you think needs to be better addressed and discuss how you would address it. Issues of particular interest to this

organization include curriculum, busing and redistricting, before-and-after-school programs, and lunch programs.

- From first hand experience, we need more school counselors, social workers, and mental health professionals in our schools. Many students have adverse childhood experiences (ACE) and lack the tools and support to address trauma in their lives. We need trauma-informed care at our schools. This means training our educators, changing the way we manage student behavior, examining curriculum, and looking at school culture in general and making the reforms necessary to support children.

13) Do you support programs focused on harm reduction, restorative justice, decriminalization of drugs, reducing nuisance crimes and quality of life policing, and/or jail diversion programs? Choose one or more of those programs (or comparable ones that you are aware of) and describe how you have or would support that program or programs.

- I fully support Indiana Recovery Alliance in all their efforts in the Bloomington community. Christopher Abert is an inspiration to me. I attend his workshops and use naloxone kits he has procured in overdose prevention and response workshops I host monthly. I was trained by Chris himself. He is also helping me test people in vulnerable communities for Hepatitis C. I am in favor of harm reduction programs and I have personally advocated for them in the halls of the US Congress during AIDSWatch, a conference in Washington, DC that lobbies people in congress to pass legislation to protect people living with HIV and to prevent HIV from spreading as it did in Scott County, Indiana in 2014. 230 people in Scott County are living with HIV.

14) What concerns do you have about the militarization of our police force? What would you do, and what can the community do, to protect people of color from the effects of militarization, as this equipment is disproportionately deployed against people of color?

- I think we need to stop the purchase of military equipment by law enforcement. Most law enforcement officers do not have the training and discipline to deploy military equipment. But I think law enforcement officers make such purchases because they believe that weapons of war are more important to their jobs than learning about their communities and the people in them. I think there needs to be programs established to get law enforcement officers out of their cars and into communities specifically for building positive relationships. Also, we need to do a better job at recruiting people of color into law enforcement positions and into political office, especially as prosecutors and judges.

15) To better understand issues that people of color face, what groups would you reach out to?

- I do a lot of religious organization outreach in my work in mental health and addiction issues. I would likely continue my work in religious organization outreach, focusing on

churches where people of color are the majority.

17) Describe the profile of your average donor. What is the average size of donations you receive? Please describe any contributions that you think our organization would be interested in.

- My average donor is probably a white woman in her 50s or 60s. This also happens to be the population that may have skewed the 2016 presidential election. I receive an average donation of about \$25. However, I have also raised money from my friends who are people of color who have served alongside me in Global Health Corps, City Year, and other social impact and social justice programs across the globe.

18) Would you be willing to participate in a candidate forum on the issues raised in this questionnaire?

Yes.