

**Keys to the Candidates**  
**Compiled by the League of Women Voters of Bloomington-Monroe County**  
**for the**  
**2016 General Election**

**Monroe County Auditor**

T. Ann Boehm (R)  
Therese K. Chambers (I)  
Catherine Smith (D)

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

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

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

**SMITH:** -8 years experience- Monroe County Treasurer  
-4 years experience-Chief Deputy Auditor/Financial Director  
Retired AT&T Engineering Project Manager  
Master of Science, Mechanical Engineering, NC State University  
Executive MBA Program (Financial Management) Wake Forest University  
Vibrant and caring advocate for taxpayers, service driven, kind and respectful to all, holding public service as the highest calling and putting others before self. I take phone calls and customer visits personally.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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