

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

**Monroe County Treasurer**

Ann Collins (R)

Jessica McClellan (D)

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

**COLLINS:** B.S., Business Administration, 1986, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH. Majored in Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing and Logistics. Business Development Director for ACT Accounting. Investment Liaison for It's Good To Be Home, LLC. Non-profit Development Director. Business Services Manager at Domino's Farms Services Inc. (A subsidiary of Domino's Pizza.)

**McCLELLAN:** My current experience is in property assessment for taxation, county operations, non-profit financial management and community organizing. I am a level II Indiana Assessor/Appraiser. From past experience, I enjoy managing staff, monitoring daily financial activities, and producing daily and monthly financial reports. I have been responsible for reporting financial activities to a non-profit board of directors. I serve on the financial committee of a local non-profit board and review financial reports and internal financial controls.

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

**COLLINS:** Bring ethics back to local government. I won't stay silent or say "I can't do anything" when another office holder steals or misappropriates funds. We aren't elected to throw up our hands and say "We can't do anything". We elect people to do something about the problems.

We need to bring the "courthouse" to surrounding townships so those not living in Bloomington, can see county government work for them where they live.

Finally, I will balance daily. I won't leave the office until the day's work is done or there is an immediate plan to handle any backlogs.

**McCLELLAN:** My priorities are professional training for staff, open communication, and full disclosure of financial activities and audits. My staff will be trained by state auditors and local professionals to the highest standards necessary to be competent and knowledgeable. Training will focus on strengthening internal controls, improved software, and better data quality. Communication means greater interaction between my office and the auditor, neighboring County treasurers and auditors, banks and vendors. It will be my responsibility to make State

Board of Accounts audits smooth and hassle free, to make their findings public and our corrective actions available for inspection. At a minimum, my financial data will be accurate and on time. I believe these steps will make our Treasurer's operations one of the best in the state.

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

**COLLINS:** Part of my core campaign is also taking a pledge not to fire employees without cause and any employees that are in a checks and balance position will not be fired unilaterally. I don't plan on terminating any employees but if performance or behavior requires it, it will not be on a first offence and I'll partner with HR to correct any issues. This way, voters can be assured if an employee discovers something is being done incorrectly, that employee won't just be fired, as has been done in the past. The county won't change the policy, so I'll change it for my office to lead county personnel policy into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. If McDonald's, Wal-Mart, and Cook can do this, so can we.

**McCLELLAN:** My duties as Treasurer are simple and concise. I must be able to prove at the end of every business day that the money we say we have matches the money in our bank account. This ensures the health and integrity of our treasury. I have begun researching audits, manuals and best practices guidelines for Indiana local governments. Two people must verify all transactions. We need to look very hard at segregation of duties, timely completion of quality data entry and professional development. I will look for ways to streamline processes and offer more convenience to taxpayers. It will take a lot of preparation and daily perseverance – we do thousands of transactions. The reward is a clean audit – the best measure of responsible fiscal management.