

BLM Btown's 2024 Long Form Primary Election Voters Guide

Grading Rubric: All grades of the candidates is based on the following criteria

Awareness:

Position:

Vision:

Voices at the Table:

Commitment & Effectiveness:

Passion & Comportment:

Overall:

Assessment Guide: All criteria is graded using this assessment

Strongly Agree

Mildly Agree

Agree

Neutral

Disagree

Mildly Disagree

Strongly Disagree

2024 Long Form Voter's Guide

Indiana Senate

[Valerie McCray](#)

Awareness: MA

Position:MA

Vision: MA

Voices at the Table: SA

Commitment & Effectiveness: SA

Passion & Comportment: SA

Total: Mildly Agree

Dr. Valerie McCray's responses are well thought out, well reasoned and showed her extensive knowledge of each issue in each question. Her views on mental health in the jails/prisons & on multiple issues in the questionnaire show a unique ability to lead in our state on those issues. Though there were a few questions on issues we'd like to discuss further with Dr. McCray we see lots of ability to grow and use her own Black experience in these issues in the Senate.

Indiana State Senate District 40

[Shelli Yoder](#)

Awareness: SA

Position: SA

Vision: SA

Voices at the Table: SA

Commitment & Effectiveness: SA

Passion & Compartment: SA

Total: Strongly Agree

Shelli Yoder's answers are extremely detailed, researched and it is clear she not only takes the BLM Btown questionnaire seriously, but also relishes the chance to speak about her extensive knowledge on the topics of each question. Her answers are well reasoned, her positioning sound and her care for answering each in detail is evident. She responds to each question with policies that either she supports or has authored in the State House. As Cis-White woman Ms. Yoder's work on these responses are refreshing to say the least.

Indiana State House Representative 62

[Thomas Horrocks](#)

Awareness: A

Position: A

Vision: A

Voices at the Table: N

Commitment & Effectiveness: A

Passion & Compartment: MA

Total: Agree

While it is clear Thomas Horrocks could do more reading, researching and understanding of intersectional anti-racism though he is fairly knowledgeable about most of the issues in the questionnaire. We would have liked to see more detail in policy, programs he supports and ideology when it comes to food insecurity, and housing. We would like to mention that as a former Military officer he does not support the militarization of the police. We wish Mr. Horrocks would have provided more details to his actual policies, platform and plans.

Monroe County Commissioner District 2

[Peter Iversen](#)

Awareness: A

Position: MA

Vision: A
Voices at the Table: MA
Commitment & Effectiveness: MA
Passion & Comportment: MA
Total: Mildly Agree

Peter Iverson is knowledgeable about many of the topics that appear in the questionnaire, but sometimes is unaware of the nuance of them. He has done a lot of advocacy work for county initiatives that BLM Btown has supported. His responses to affordable housing questions highlight the extreme need for change in the Commissioner's office & his platform shows his policy shift. Overall Mr. Iverson seems to have solid connections to local organizations dealing with the issues in our questionnaire and plans to continue their work within the context of the county's work.

[Julie Thomas](#)

Awareness: D
Position: N
Vision: D
Voices at the Table: N
Commitment & Effectiveness: SD
Passion & Comportment: D
Total: Disagree

Julie Thomas fails to provide details to some of the key questions in our questionnaire, questions in particular about Racism that ask for policy and or local situations where different policy is needed. Due to these undetailed answers we see little of her vision, awareness or positionality on these important issues in our questionnaire. It is clear she is not un-knowledgeable about the issues but that rather she doesn't take the time here to dig into the details and her own positioning around them. When asked about state issues she dodges how she will deal with them locally. Given Ms. Thomas's long term as a Commissioner we are confused by her avoidance of details.

Monroe County Commissioner District 3

[Penny Githens](#)

Strongly Disagree:

Penny Githens chose to not follow our directions around the questionnaire and instead wrote a statement couching it as a "wholistic" approach. We rejected this statement and marked her as unresponsive as she did not do what was asked of her. Our assessment

is not based on a whim or by chance it is a well thought out, researched and curated collection of questions by Black leaders, educators and activists in our local community. Her statement says there is “no disrespect intended” but we believe that simply is not the case. The disdain for the length of our questionnaire and its format reflects as a disdain for a Black led organization and exemplifies white exceptionalism which is a white liberal form of white supremacy. She is implying that the work as prescribed by Black leaders is not the right work she should be doing that she knows better. This has been a running theme with Ms. Githens since we first encountered her.

“It is often the white liberals who believe that their progressive ideologies separate them from the racism of the extreme right. It is people with white privilege who believe that they are not an impediment to anti-racism who carry white exceptionalism like a badge of honor.” quote from Layla Saad “Me and White Supremacy”

Jody Madeira

Awareness: MA

Position: A

Vision: A

Voices at the Table: A

Commitment & Effectiveness: A

Passion & Compartment: A

Total: Agree

Jody Madeira positioning and awareness at first seem to be consistent with BLM Btown’s values, but with a closer reading of her language there are certain phrasings and word choices that miss the mark. Her positions are often “reform” based white liberalism which lack the vision of the intersectionality of BIPOC concerns. Her responses are well reasoned and researched; she is clearly well educated especially in regard to her legal profession, but ultimately we wonder if her legal profession will be a hindrance to intersectionality and anti-racism in practice rather than policy. While she understands policy there is a missing leap from good policy to differential results & positive outcomes for BIPOC folks.

Steve Volan

Awareness: A

Position: A

Vision: A

Voices at the Table: A

Commitment & Effectiveness: N

Passion & Compartment: A

Total: Agree

Steve Volan gave adequate answers to our questionnaire, he showed he is knowledgeable but we felt he lacked details in his answer. Volan's mixed record as a city councilor means we are unsure of his positioning on some of these issues especially due to the lack of details provided. We worked with Mr. Volan before on some issue put forth by the city when he was a city councilor, he was supportive of our efforts to block the barecat and helped find actionable ways to do so even if we ultimately did not succeed. Overall we are unhappy with his lack of details.

Monroe County Council At Large (pick 3)

[Matt Caldie](#)

Awareness: N

Position: A

Vision: N

Voices at the Table: N

Commitment & Effectiveness: N

Passion & Compartment: A

Total: Neutral

Matt Caldie is a fairly informed candidate but his knowledge is not reflected in policy or plans nor are they connected to existing policies, community programs or well established organizations. Mr. Caldie uses "reform" based white liberal language for most of the issues in the questionnaire. That positioning often lacks the intersectionality of BIPOC concerns and therefore misses the mark of being a transformative ideology. We felt there was a lack of details in his answers and understanding of the issues in the questionnaire.

[Trent Deckard](#)

Awareness: MA

Position: MA

Vision: MA

Voices at the Table: MA

Commitment & Effectiveness: MA

Passion & Compartment: SA

Total: MA

Trent Deckard is very aware of the local issues happening in our community and gives details about these issues and many of his responses. Mr. Deckard's awareness about the continuing issues and willingness to monitor those issues that Bloomington's

marginalized communities face is evident in his responses. His work with local organizations is well documented in his record as a county councilor. While he is not entirely perfect in his positioning he seeks out wise counsel of others in the community in the know.

[Cheryl Munson](#)

Awareness: SD

Position: D

Vision: MD

Voices at the Table: D

Commitment & Effectiveness: MD

Passion & Comportment: N

Total: Disagree

Cheryl Munson is lacking some basic awareness of these issues within the questionnaire. She seems to have not done enough research or reasoning while answering these questions nor does it seem she has consulted with people working in the fields our questionnaire covers. While she has been a county councilor for a long while it isn't clear if she has progressed in her positionality on the ever changing landscape of intersectional anti-racism. In particular her position on why Black people are incarcerated more than white people is highly suspect.