

Larrin Wampler, Republican Candidate for Monroe County Council At-Large
Responses to questions from the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce
For the Nov. 3, 2020 General Election

- 1. Monroe County government will be significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. What will be your funding priorities for the county? With the expectation of decreased revenues in the coming years, what projects or departmental budgets, if any, do you expect will see funding cuts?**

I anticipate the government being able to support the essential programs that are required to be funded. I do however believe that you will see impact on the budgets of programs that are not essential or required. The non essential programs that have additional funding sources (ie federal, private donors) may have greater cuts.

- 2. Mayor John Hamilton has proposed an 0.25% increase in the Local Income Tax (LIT). The Monroe County Council will be among the entities that must vote to approve or reject the proposal. What is your position on a LIT increase?**

I oppose the LIT. This is not the time to impose more taxes on an already hurting local economy. This tax should not be imposed on counties without representation or ability to voice their opposition. This will cause further hardship on the community as we struggle to recover from COVID 19.

- 3. The Monroe County Council has the authority to enact or repeal the Food & Beverage Tax, which is intended to fund the expansion of the Convention Center. What is your position on the future of that tax and the expansion project?**

I do not anticipate this project happening in the near future. In the meantime millions are being in taxes from individuals, These taxes should be returned to the individuals in light of the current state of the economy and financial hardships of the taxpayers.

- 4. This summer, the Monroe County Council held a special public forum on the future of law enforcement funding. What's your position on law enforcement funding, both in terms of the sheriff's budget and the overall needs of our local criminal justice system?**

I am against any funding cuts and do not support reallocation of their funding. The recent manpower study shows that we need more law enforcement officers to continue to keep our community and the law enforcement officers safe. Recent events around the country should be an example of what happens when they do not have the support, funding or manpower to respond.