

2009 SPPACE QUESTIONNAIRE

**Bonnie Rushing
Monroe City Council**

1. **What are the top three issues your community needs to address? How would you propose to tackle these issues?**

The top three issues that my community needs to address are *Crime Prevention/Citizen Safety, Code Enforcement, and Public Transportation*. I propose to tackle these issues, firstly, by considering the city's budget and other resources that will empower me to accomplish goals, relative to the foregone issues concerning my community/city.

2. **Because of present economic realities, what changes do you propose to your town's policies and regulations?**

Recognizing the present economic realities and the effects of same, I do not propose to change my town's polices and regulations at this juncture; however, futuristically speaking my decision for change may become evident. My town's master plan establishes a vision for the Monroe of tomorrow by building on its strengths, learning from the past and determining the courses of action necessary to reinvigorate what is already in place.

3. **Do you believe your town should fund school capital costs, parks, roads, transit, police and fire protection needs for your town? Should purchasers of new homes be responsible for funding these services for the entire town? Do you believe that these types of proposals are a fair way to pay for required services to existing taxpayers?**

Yes. I believe that my town should fund school capital costs, parks, roads, transit, police and fire protection needs for my town. Conversely, I do not believe that purchasers of new homes should be responsible for funding the aforementioned services for the entire town. Finally, I believe that these types of proposals is/is not a fair way to pay for required services to existing tax payers.

4. **How would you encourage your town's/community's economic growth while including a variety of housing types and prices?**

I would encourage my town's economic growth while including a variety of housing types and prices, by sharing factual information that Monroe provide a stable employment base with potential for expansion for this reason; it is the county seat of government; therefore, due to the suburban- urban transformation, there is an opportunity to cater to the needs of the growing populace.

5. **Recently adopted ordinances and policies have increased development costs and as a result will increase prices for office, industrial and retail space, as well as housing. What could be done to lower development costs in order to prevent families and businesses from relocating across county lines?**

In an effort to prevent families and businesses from relocating across county lines due to increased development costs resulting from adopted ordinances and policies pertaining to office, industrial and retail space, and housing, I suggest the following resolves:

- ... Provide property owners with property tax exemptions for a specified period to invest private capital in new or rehabilitated structures for residential purposes.

- ... Determine eligibility for *Community Development Block Grant* funds –an incentive for redevelopment/ revitalization purposes.
- ... Provide incentives in the form of tax incentives, rent concessions or utility bill concessions for a certain time period.

6. **Would you support a cost/benefit analysis for existing and proposed land use regulations in order to ensure that the purported benefits outweigh their negative impact on economic development and housing affordability?**

I would support a cost/benefit analysis for existing and proposed land use regulations in order to ensure that the purported benefits outweigh their negative impact on economic development and housing affordability. My support is predicated on the fact that by being the county seat- a political lighthouse- and historically, a major trade center for Union County, Monroe has some land uses that will continue to provide a strong foundation for the future and, therefore, are worth retaining.