

Democrats pick Nicole Browne as new Monroe County - Herald-Times (Bloomington, IN) - March 22, 2016

March 22, 2016 | Herald-Times (Bloomington, IN) | Ernest Rollins 812-331-4357 | erollins@heraldt.com

With 36 of 69 votes of Democrat precinct chairs or vice chairs acting as proxies during the Monroe County Democratic Party caucus, Nicole Browne was selected Monday to serve as the next county clerk.

Browne, who was appointed chief deputy clerk in January 2012 and served as interim county clerk recently, clinched the party's nomination for the county office over **Caren Stoll**, executive assistant for the Monroe County Prosecutor's Office, who received 20 votes, and Ashley Cranor, chief deputy recorder and past candidate for clerk, who received 13 votes. Linda Robbins, the former county clerk, resigned last month for health reasons. She endorsed Browne in her resignation letter.

"I am very excited," Browne said. "It has been an anxious time, but the opportunity to continue to serve Monroe County as clerk is one I look forward to, I cherish, one for which I am incredibly grateful."

Some immediate goals once she takes office, Browne said, are getting the county through another election and through Little 500 weekend.

During the annual Indiana University bike races and related parties, the clerk's office provides additional support for the courts as they open extra weekend hours. As for the upcoming primary and general elections in a presidential year, Browne said staff have already started getting voting equipment, volunteers and other necessary arrangements ready, and that will continue.

"We have experienced our best election ever and the best is yet to come," Browne told the crowd gathered at the courthouse during a question-and-answer session during the caucus. Questions from fellow Democrats ranged from why candidates chose to run for the office to changes they would like to see implemented.

Browne said that having worked under Robbins, she brings experience to the office and will be able to hit the ground running. As far as the various initiatives started under Robbins, such as an increased effort to make the office paperless as the state mandates offices to do more electronic filing, Browne said she will continue to build on what has already started.

As for who she will consider to be her replacement, Browne said "she didn't want to put the cart before the horse" and will take time to find someone to fill her previous position within the office.

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Ernest Rollins 812-331-4357 | erollins@heraldt.com, 'Democrats pick Nicole Browne as new Monroe County clerk', *Herald-Times* (online), 22 Mar 2016 <<https://infoweb-newsbank-com.ezproxy.monroe.lib.in.us/apps/news/document-view?p=AWNB&docref=news/15BC4F320D218E98>>