

Members of the Central Committee,

It is my honor to run for the position of Vice Chair of the Monroe County Democratic Party. If elected, I pledge to support the shared vision of our previous Chair, Jennifer Crossley, and our new Chair, David Henry. I am eager to help implement this vision and build the structures that will enable us to grow, inspire, and achieve progress in the face of rising extremism. In particular, I am passionate about diversity and inclusion, which means not only creating the opportunities that will bring new voices into the Party, but also supporting and training people with a range of experiences and perspectives for leadership roles in our community; gender and racial justice, which are crucial to building an inclusive democracy where rights are protected and not rolled back; and civic engagement, which is the foundation of a vibrant community where positive change is possible.

Who I am: I'm a longtime progressive advocate and community activist, and also a lawyer who specializes in international law and human rights. I have advocated for women's rights, reproductive justice, and immigrants' rights locally, nationally, and globally for over two decades. My focus on these issues is both personal and political—I started by trying to address discriminatory practices that I personally or those I lived and worked with encountered. I became a lawyer so that I could understand and use legal tools for advocacy and change, and learned how to apply those skills towards community organizing and activism by engaging deeply in my local communities.

Since moving to Indiana, I have been deeply involved in community and political advocacy. My primary goal has been to ensure that my daughter and the children of Monroe County will be able to grow up with all of the opportunities and rights that we have had, and to dedicate myself to building a better future for them. I currently serve as the Democratic representative to the Monroe County Election Board, a board member for All-Options, a founding member and co-chair of the Indiana Chapter of NAPAWF (National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum), Vice President of Monroe County NOW, and was Social Media Chair for the Indiana Chapter of South Asians for Biden. In 2020, I was elected to be an Indiana Delegate to the Democratic

National Convention, District IN-09, and in 2021 I was selected for Hoosier Women Forward, the Indiana Democratic Party women's leadership training program. I've also served on the City of Bloomington Board of Public Safety and Commission on the Status of Women. I recently testified before the Indiana legislature and lawmakers in other states about discriminatory Indiana abortion laws and in favor of reproductive justice.

In all of these experiences, I've built upon my previous leadership and advocacy experience and passion for public service. Before moving to Bloomington, I also worked at the United Nations, Division for the Advancement of Women, where I focused on human rights treaties and gender and human rights advocacy projects. I am also a professor. As a product of California's excellent public university system, I believe strongly in the mission of public education and have spent my entire academic career at state public universities. I've practiced law at law firms in Washington, DC, California, and North Carolina, and have held a range of leadership positions at local, regional and national progressive advocacy organizations.

Why I am running now: We enter 2022 with our country, state, and county facing a range of crises and democracy under threat. Over the last few years, we have seen the Voting Rights Act dismantled, the Violence Against Women Act expire, and reproductive justice under fire—all while climate change makes environmental advocacy more urgent. These and other pressing issues impact all of us most deeply at the local and state levels. The Democratic Party must translate to the public how these assaults on our rights and wellbeing will hurt our communities.

At the same time, we must also inspire action by showing our friends and neighbors that we have the tools right here to start charting a new future, beginning with policymakers at the local and state levels. Our party's support for Racial Justice, Gender Equality, Economic Justice, Labor Rights and Climate Advocacy, among others, must be carried forward into concrete goals and effective organizing.

At this critical moment, we can solidify our past accomplishments and build upon them by forging a local Democratic Party that truly stands for equality, inclusion, and the promise of liberty for all members of our community. Our Party can help form a bulwark against efforts to strip Hoosiers of their rights and safety, but we shouldn't stop there. We should be a beacon for our state, modeling best practices for other county parties, in order to build effective Democratic infrastructure and power throughout Indiana. Enduring progressive change must start locally across the 92 counties, and we can help with that!

What I will do:

(1) Cultivate a diverse coalition to build our party. Our future lies in effective

collaboration and solidarity. This approach will help us retain newly engaged voters from 2018 and 2020. I will leverage my community service, advocacy, voter engagement, and election monitoring experience to expand outreach to people of color and students as well as organize and turnout new voters. I will also support and mentor the next generation of leaders into our party.

(2) Continue to professionalize party operations and provide more resources to party organizers and local candidates. I bring management and leadership experience, which will help the party effectively deploy and use our resources – particularly digital - while continuing to professionalize our operations.

(3) Recruit strong progressive leaders from across our constituencies. I will support Party efforts to recruit and train progressive local candidates.

All of my professional and organizing experiences have helped me gain the perspectives and tools to help us build the future we deserve in Monroe County. I would be honored to earn your vote and help lead the Monroe County Democratic Party into the midterms and beyond. Please feel free to contact me at shrutirana@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Shruti Rana