

Monroe County clerk Nicole Browne's Aug. 23, 2023 response to LWV letter:

I am very proud to oversee elections in Monroe County and, in fact, we do have a new Election Supervisor in place. Together with our election vendors, seasoned Early/Absentee workers and the amazing poll workers who honor Monroe County by returning to work elections year after year, as we prepare for 2024, I am confident that Monroe County will continue to have the great elections that our voters have come to know and expect.

Following the desk audit, I have received no additional updates from the Council regarding the reclassification of the Election Supervisor position. As I have made clear in any public forum where I have the chance to praise and thank the staff with whom I am privileged to work each day, it is most unfortunate that salaries have not been commensurate in keeping up with the increased responsibilities and ever-changing parameters of not just the Election Supervisor position but all Clerk roles in county government. This is a problem not only in Monroe County but throughout the entire state. In addition to the regular and ongoing poaching of Clerk employees that occurs from other County offices, Deputy Clerks throughout the state are leaving county government roles to take positions at Wal-Mart or fast-food chain restaurants because those establishments currently pay more than county government positions pay. This was not only problematic for me, as I struggled to fill the Election Supervisor's role, but it is problematic for every Clerk in each of our 92 counties. In the same way that "No Child Left Behind" failed miserably because the money was left behind, sadly, County Clerks' desire to recruit and retain quality employees in county government roles is significantly jeopardized because the money to pay them for the education, training and experience they bring to the table has been woefully left behind.