

## **Republican-led County Row Offices in Disarray: Vote for Democrats to Restore Law and Order**

County row offices fell into disarray when taken over by Republicans elected in 2019. When these offices aren't well-run, it affects the lives of residents in Washington County who depend on the services provided by these offices. It has taken taxpayer money and court orders to conduct audits or hold inept Republican office holders to account.

For example:

- The prothonotary (Republican Laura Hough) inappropriately used a LexisNexis background check database to search political figures in Washington County. Her access to the database had to be cut off.
- The Register of Wills (Republican James Roman) was threatened with contempt of court for delayed adoption filings. He was also charged with bringing firearms into the courthouse.
- The Clerk of Courts (Republican Brenda Davis) was held in contempt of court for not following court orders. She was sentenced 15 days in the Washington County jail and ordered to pay a \$5,000 fine.
- These three office holders were not showing up every day for work. The Court had to issue an order to make them do their jobs.
- Audits have found issues with various row offices run by Republicans, who have sometimes refused to cooperate with those audits.
- Some county Republican office holders have a history of being disrespectful in meetings and when conducting business.
- Some county Republican office holders have stated their support for limiting voting access and advocate for going back to paper ballots and hand counting of ballots.

*Source: multiple articles in the Washington Observer-Reporter.*

In contrast, here's what the Democrats who are running for county office pledge to do as elected officials:

- Ensure the office is running smoothly and serving the public as intended
- Protect your privacy
- Follow the rule of law
- Comply with all audit requests
- Go to work every day and do the job they are elected to do
- Follow the laws meant to keep the courthouse safe
- Keep voting secure and accessible for all
- Treat everyone with respect

*Source: the candidates' website and in-person statements.*