



**LaShana
BOOSE**

for Monroe County Board of Elections Commissioner

Statement from Acting Democratic Board of Elections

Commissioner LaShana Boose

For Immediate Release

July 14, 2020

"Now more than ever, I feel that it is imperative that Black and Brown people work together to lift each other up. That's why after learning that another woman of color was seeking to be our Elections Commissioner, I have decided that I want to support Ms. Ortiz and use my experience in service of her and the Board's success.

This year's General Election demands that we put our own agendas aside for the good of the community. That is why I'm withdrawing my candidacy to serve as the permanent Democratic BOE Commissioner.

Also, for far too many years in this community, Black and Brown people have been pitted against each other and, today, it stops with me. I will not tear down another woman of color when there is room for both of us at the table.

I stepped forward to serve as Commissioner when others left to serve their own needs and agendas. I did this knowing that the task in front of me and our Board of Elections this year was overwhelming. And, unfortunately everyone would focus on and magnify any errors that occurred while overlooking and marginalizing on the successes despite unprecedented challenges during a pandemic.

I am proud that we expanded early voting sites in our city and county, processed and counted tens of thousands of absentee ballots and conducted a fair -- and safe -- election in the midst of a pandemic with limited and lessened staff.

However, this experience has provided me with knowledge and skills that will continue to serve Monroe County well, and help us ensure that our rights are protected and that every vote is counted in November.

I look forward to the opportunity to work with our next Commissioner, and for our community to see what a new generation of leadership -- importantly, one that is Black, Brown and Female -- will do to represent our Democratic values."

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