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New elected officials take office

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The successful candidates of the 2018 General Election took office Wednesday, including six new officials elected to county office positions and several new faces on local school boards.

Perhaps the most talked about change of the 2018 Election was the retirement of now former Sheriff Bob Land after eight years of service and over 40 years in law enforcement. His successor, Ryan Baker, ran unopposed for the Wabash County Sheriff position. Baker started as a jail officer for the Wabash County Jail in 2001, and moved his way up to earn the title of detective sergeant

before running for sheriff in 2018.

As sheriff, he said he'd like to continue fighting the drug problem in Wabash County and serve the local community to the best of his ability.

"I know it sounds cliché, but we want to protect and serve the citizens as best we can," he said. "It's our job and truly is our purpose here."

In retirement, Land said he's looking forward to fishing and spending time with his family.

Leaving the Wabash County Clerk's Office is Elaine Martin, who's been the clerk for the last eight years and in the clerk's office for over 23 years. She said on her last day in office that she was

ready to retire.

"I've enjoyed my time here," she said. "It's certainly never dull."

She added that the clerk's office is underrated for the variety of services it offers. The county clerk and deputy clerks file all court documents, control voter registration and elections, marriage licenses, passports and any and all county government documents. She said the biggest challenge in her tenure with the clerk's office was moving to electronic filing. In retirement, she said she's eager to spend more time with her husband of 42 years and her grandchildren.

Replacing Martin is former county recorder Lori Draper,

and replacing Draper in the recorder's office is former deputy recorder Eric Rish. Both ran unopposed in the 2018 Election.

Wabash County Commissioner Scott Givens is leaving office and making room for Jeff Dawes, a county councilman for several years. Givens did not run for re-election and Dawes ran unopposed.

Among the new faces in office are several board members throughout the county. Manchester Community Schools is welcoming three new members to their board, including Dave Terflinger, Rick Espeset and Ben Vanderpool. The three board members were elected to represent the school dis-

trict at large. Meanwhile, a candidate did not file for the Pleasant Township portion of the district. The school board could opt to appoint a member, conduct interviews to hire one, or leave the position vacant.

Metropolitan School District of Wabash County's northeastern district will be represented by re-elected member Matt Driscoll, who beat opponents Sandy Davis and Tiffany Hauptert with 2,300 votes. Representing the northwestern district is Todd Dazey, who was re-elected against Doug Bogert, Teresa Galley and Ryan Rosen with 2,021 votes. A candidate did not file for MSD of Wabash County's southern district.