

Candidates' Responses to the 2015 Democracy For Monroe County Endorsement Questionnaire

About DFMC

Democracy for Monroe County (DFMC) is a political action committee dedicated to building and training the progressive grassroots in Monroe County. As part of that mission we recruit, train, and support fiscally responsible and socially progressive candidates at the local and state levels. DFMC is part of a nationwide coalition of grassroots groups allied with Democracy for America, the political action committee inspired by the presidential campaign of Howard Dean. We meet every first Thursday of the month. For more information about our organization, visit our website <http://www.democracyformonroecounty.org>.

Candidates for Mayor

[John Hamilton](#)

[John Linnemeier](#)

[Darryl Neher](#)

Candidates for City Council

District One

[Kevin Easton](#)

[Chris Sturbaum](#)

District Two

[Dorothy Granger](#)

District Three

[Allison Chopra](#)

[Mike Satterfield](#)

[Martin \(Marty\) Spechler](#)

District Four

[Philippa Guthrie](#)

[David Rollo](#)

District Five

[Kurt Babcock](#)

[Gabriel Colman](#)

[Isabel Piedmont-Smith](#)

District Six

Steve Volan (not seeking an endorsement)

At-Large

Tim Mayer (not seeking an endorsement)

Andy Ruff (not seeking an endorsement)

[Susan Sandberg \(not seeking an endorsement\)](#)

Candidate for City Clerk

[Nicole Bolden](#)

MAYOR

John Hamilton

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Question 1: Why are you running for office?

I'm running for mayor because Bloomington at this critical time needs a proven leader with unquestioned progressive values and a progressive vision for the future. I'm running for mayor so a generation from now, Bloomingtonians will look back and thank us for the decisions we're going to make and the actions we're going to take over the next 4 years, to deliver to all of them an even better Bloomington.

Question 2: What are the top three issues that concerned you enough to run for Mayor? What policies based on these issues do you intend to implement while in office?

As mayor, I will focus on creating more good-paying sustainable jobs for the people of Bloomington, increasing affordable housing in Bloomington to allow a full, diverse, mix of people to continue to live in Bloomington and championing our public education system against assaults from the state level and by collaborating with local school officials to continue to improve public education. And all of this will be done with a more open, accountable government.

In addition to providing city financing to support local businesses and developing co-work space at the tech park, I have committed to creating a community-controlled, city-wide, affordable fiber optic broadband network here in Bloomington. Over 40 cities around the country have created their own municipally controlled network and the economic benefits have been enormous - millions of dollars of new economic activity and investment. The creation of this network would build on the existing Bloomington Digital Underground, attract new businesses to the city, and give city residents more choice for better, more affordable service without raising taxes.

I will take a multi-pronged approach to make Bloomington a more affordable place to live. Using my experience creating affordable housing with City First, I will push for the implementation of inclusionary zoning to ensure new developments include affordable units, permanent affordability mandates to guarantee those units stay affordable, and city backed financing for citizens and nonprofits to help folks buying for affordability compete with investor-buyers. I've been a leader in helping Bloomington's homeless by bringing in new federal funds for the creation of Crawford Homes, and I would continue to support a housing first approach, working to bring in more new federal funding to build a second Crawford homes project.

I will be a proud and loud voice in support of our public schools. I was heavily involved with the 2010 MCCSC Referendum and would be involved again in 2017. As mayor, I will build strong relationships with local school leaders to identify areas for the city to integrate services and support MCCSC.

Throughout my administration I will run an accountable and transparent administration by ensuring public documents are maximally accessible online and in person.

Question 3: List your political experience (here and elsewhere), including any grassroots activity in which you participated or led. What particular skills - political, civic, employment - do you bring to the office that you feel makes you a good candidate?

I've spent over 40 years volunteering for Democratic campaigns, from 1972 McGovern to 2012 Obama at the national level, going door to door fighting for our progressive values. I've volunteered onsite for presidential races in Wisconsin ('00), Ohio ('04), Indiana ('08). I've been a precinct officer, a delegate to several state and one national ('08) Democratic conventions. I helped work on issues to take back the governor's seat in 1988, helped numerous statewide and legislative candidates in canvassing and issues, and organized a statewide bus tour for Bayh/O'Bannon reelection in 1992. I've been a long-time member of DWC and DFMC in Bloomington and I've made numerous and substantial fundraising contributions for candidates and the party over many years. I've fought for our progressive values as a candidate for public office (US Congress, School Board, Mayor) and as a local volunteer on issue campaigns, recently the 2010 School Referendum campaign and Freedom Indiana.

As mayor, I'll bring a wealth of executive experience from my time leading two large state agencies (Family Social Services Administration and Indiana Department of Environmental Management) and my leadership of the award winning nonprofit I founded. I received a Sagamore of the Wabash award from two Democratic governors. I've received awards for national innovation in community development finance and program development from national council of state legislatures for my work with City First and for my performance at IDEM and FSSA. As a leader I've helped others succeed as well: some of my former employees went on to be the head of air division at EPA, a national executive at Medicare/Medicaid and the head of the White House Office of Social Innovation.

Question 4: In what way(s) do you consider yourself socially progressive? How do these principles apply to the Mayor's Office, and how do you plan to apply these principles in implementing your agenda while in office?

I have been socially progressive for my entire life, and I have lived those values. I founded a nonprofit to fight for economic justice and against the legacies of racial discrimination. I ran the state's agencies focused on social services and protecting the environment. I am a member of both the NAACP and the ICLU. I met my wife Dawn working on women's rights cases in Indiana. While she was working at amazing opportunities in Washington, D.C. I left Indiana and my job behind to be with her. Dawn and I have been on the front lines fighting for progressive causes and I couldn't have been prouder to stand by her side when President Obama nominated her to head the Office of Legal Counsel at the US Department of Justice. We've raised our family here to reflect our progressive values of equality for all, social justice, environmental stewardship and a commitment to make the world a better place.

I have outlined a few of my priorities as mayor: creating community-controlled broadband internet access for all income levels, affordable housing (with inclusionary zoning and permanent affordability), and new funding sources such as a real estate transfer fee to help support the Housing Trust Fund. We also need to reboot the Housing Trust Fund which has \$900,000 in two separate accounts that is sitting unused. We need to protect and expand our green space. We will protect our historic character by limiting developers to clear and tight adherence to the GPP, UDO, and ISP. On top of all of this, I will support adding Incomes Status as a protected class in our Human Rights Ordinance, and I will push for the creation of a homeless bill of rights.

As mayor I will also enthusiastically learn from other progressive cities around the country and globe. We will participate in the Mayor's Innovation Project, a collection of 'high road' communities committed to progressive values that meet and share ideas. I have attended their conferences myself and know the value of the exchanges.

Question 5: In what way(s) do you consider yourself fiscally responsible? How would you manage and prioritize the scarce resource of public finances to achieve the goals you want to achieve? Be specific where possible.

While I was managing IDEM and FSSA, we had to trim budgets (approximately 10%) and still deliver quality social services to as many people as possible. We worked for creative solutions to this. I strongly believe in training of employees to build skills, in strategic budget reviews, rather than across the board approaches, and results-oriented government. As mayor, I will take an investment approach: investing in things that produce better results and savings down the line. I did this at FSSA when we spent \$250k on employee training which results in an immediate \$1.5M in overall savings within the first year.

At both FSSA and IDEM, I worked to improve efficiency and steward the funds entrusted to us. At FSSA, I increased audits by 50 percent, cut the Medicaid error and fraud rate from 13% to 2%, and cut the number of late work contracts from 50 percent to 1 percent. When our tight control systems caught fraudulent activity we not only caught the person committing the violation, but held the folks who let it happen accountable.

At my nonprofit I've spent the last 15 years as a board member of City First Bank, a community development bank that is regulated by and audited/examined by the Office of the Controller of the Currency and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. As president of City First Enterprises I regularly interact with regulators from the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. Through this, I am very familiar with strong fiscal controls, risk management, financial analysis and planning. At City First, I was responsible for a loan fund that has successfully lent approximately \$10 million to community projects, after underwriting and analysis of payback and risks.

In both government and my nonprofit I have been entrusted with large budgets to improve the lives of others. I take that responsibility very seriously and have a proven record of success.

Question 6: How will you balance the interests of all members of the community to improve the quality of life in Bloomington - your discussion might include (but is not limited to) issues of justice, health, affordable housing, homelessness, community safety and transportation.

Bloomington is an amazing place, but if we don't act it will get harder for folks to find affordable housing. If folks have to make a lot of money to live in Bloomington, we will be a poorer community for it. As a city we must commit to making Bloomington an even safer, more affordable city that welcomes people of all kinds.

As chair of the Shalom Center Board, I helped attract \$1 million of new federal funding to create Crawford Homes - a housing project to help Bloomington's homeless. As mayor, I'll work to bring in more federal funding to build a second Crawford Homes. I'll continue to support a housing first approach to homelessness, with an emphasis on ending family homelessness in Bloomington. Forty percent of the homeless in Bloomington are children and as mayor I will continue to be a passionate voice in the fight to end homelessness. I firmly believe that we have the power to end homelessness for families with children and chronically homeless in Bloomington and I will work diligently for that goal.

In addition to affordability and economic justice, I will be a strong supporter of our public safety officials. I'm proud to have been endorsed by Bloomington's firefighters Local 586 and I will support them and all of our public servants the support and resources they need to make Bloomington a just and safe city. The police department has begun an effective community policing approach with the "resource officers" deployed downtown. I will support strong community engagement and transparency to assure we remain a safe community.

But, I will also work to ensure that our city is a tolerant and inclusive one. As mayor, I will work to build bridges between the city and our diverse communities to ensure open and honest dialogue. I would expand the police departments downtown patrol program to further strengthen ties between the police, our social service providers and the community.

I have dedicated my life to the progressive values of justice for all regardless of race, class, gender, creed or political belief and as mayor I will work to ensure that the city and its policies are shining examples of them.

Question 7: Describe how you would engage all citizens to be more active participants in our community and in our government.

I will hold weekly town hall meetings or sessions, with either the mayor or cabinet officials. I will frequently conduct neighborhood and online forums, with the goal that citizens can share their experiences and their concerns. I've set a strong example in my campaign, my online actions are open and debate is encouraged and our online petition to keep the hospital downtown gave hundreds of residents a voice in the decision about Bloomington Hospital.

I am committed to running a transparent and accountable City Hall. That means we'll make information to the public and be accountable to it. As mayor I'd support the implementation of Participatory Budgeting, a system that gives citizens and neighborhoods the ability to directly affect how some of their tax dollars are spend. Further, I would never make a major fiscal decision without public input. As we've seen with the city's interaction with Bloomington Hospital - decisions made in the dark are bad for the public. By leveraging technology, new policies, and an open door policy my administration will invite the public to be a partner in government. I will implement a 24/7 whistleblower phone and online system, to allow anonymous reporting of any questionable activity, going directly to the mayor's office and the city council.

[Back to the Top](#)

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Question 1: Why are you running for office?

I decided to run for office, not for the sake of being Mayor, but because I felt that if I didn't run, there would be things that would not be said and things that would not be done...things like severely restricting campaign financing, the decriminalization of marijuana, a \$12.50/hr. minimum wage, a ground-up relationship with city employees, and rooting out corruption wherever it may exist.

My style would be to improve morale by emphasizing that civil servants in a democratically elected country are true heroes, demonstrating that a democratic society can deal with challenges effectively and decisively. I like to observe what's happening, "where the rubber meets the road", where theoretical policies turn into action. I know what it's like to get my hands dirty. If a civil servant tells me that a storm sewer needs to be totally replaced, I want to put on hip boots and get down there with a couple of people who can show me what's wrong, what options we have, and how much each option might cost.

I'm tired of politicians who just kick the can down the road. For example, I believe I have a solution to our deer problem that should satisfy most people. Please refer to my website for details.

I think it sets a bad example for Bloomington and the employees of the city to see that candidates feel that it takes big money to win an election. I see no reason why it would take upwards of \$100,000 when there are plenty of opportunities for all of us to meet on a level playing field and present our ideas. I feel strongly that there should be no loopholes in campaign contribution policies. I am the only candidate who has forgone not just money from corporations, but also contributions from anyone associated with businesses that do business with the city. This would include those business owners and their spouses and those business's employees and their spouses.

I'm strongly in favor of the decriminalization of marijuana and I want to get the ball rolling in Bloomington.

Question 2: What are the top three issues that concerned you enough to run for Mayor? What policies based on these issues do you intend to implement while in office?

Restore trust in local government.

Install a municipally owned high-speed fiber optics system.

Decriminalize marijuana.

All of these issues are discussed below. If I could add two more issues, they would be revitalizing the IU Health Bloomington Hospital neighborhood and implementing a \$12.50/hour minimum wage.

Question 3: List your political experience (here and elsewhere), including any grassroots activity in which you participated or led. What particular skills - political, civic, employment - do you bring to the office that you feel makes you a good candidate?

Back in the sixties when careful politicians were nowhere to be seen, I registered voters with the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party in Canton, Mississippi. A lot of people were beat up that summer and three were killed, but in the end, it changed Mississippi, the South and the whole country.

Instead of staying in Indiana for the Kerry campaign, I went straight to Columbus, Ohio, where I could see the election would be won or lost. I worked over there for a month, entirely on my own dime. I did the same thing in Cincinnati during the second Obama campaign. I stayed behind in Bloomington during the first Obama campaign since it looked as if we had a shot at winning Indiana. I worked in Shelli Yoder's campaign even though it should have been obvious to me that the gerrymandering of the district made that race practically unwinnable. During Baron Hill's successful run against Sodrel I was given the precinct Bloomington 2 and challenged to get 100 votes for Hill...I got 464.

I have never sought a political appointment within any administration, asked for a position within the Democratic Party, or run for political office. The only reason I am running for mayor is because important things won't be said and important things won't be done unless I do. I wouldn't run unless I thought I had a reasonable chance to win.

I have worked for 7 years in government service. Half as a Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist for VA and half as the Chief Educational Officer at Vogelweh Air Force Base in Germany. I served in the army as a combat engineer in Vietnam where I was shot twice.

My time in the civil service convinced me that being a "successful" government supervisor (more positions under you, bigger facilities and a larger budget) often doesn't translate into greater good for the taxpayer. I owned a small business called Flying Fish Painting for 14 years. Cost efficiency and cost benefit analysis are not dirty words to me.

A good mayor should not just manage people he/she should inspire them. To be given the privilege to serve the public of a democracy is an honor and a challenge. A life spent in public service is a life spent heroically.

Question 4: In what way(s) do you consider yourself socially progressive? How do these principles apply to the Mayor's Office, and how do you plan to apply these principles in implementing your agenda while in office?

I don't like labels, but if I chose to call myself anything, I'd prefer to be called a pragmatist. I want to institute a \$12.50/hr. minimum wage, decriminalize marijuana, and spend generously, some might even say lavishly, on parks and the arts. If that makes me a progressive, then so be it.

Needless to say, I support equal opportunity for everyone regardless of race, gender, age, or sexual orientation.

Question 5: In what way(s) do you consider yourself fiscally responsible? How would you manage and prioritize the scarce resource of public finances to achieve the goals you want to achieve? Be specific where possible.

I'm fundamentally at odds with the idea that just because an objective is good doesn't mean that we shouldn't look unblinkingly at costs. It disturbed me that we paid more for parking garages than we could afford to pay back with parking revenue, just as an example.

I've worn many hats, held many jobs, and visited many countries, but speaking especially as a former small businessperson, I've learned not to overpay for anything or waste material resources. My philosophy is that if you have 24 hours of time or a million dollars-worth of resources, you need to ask yourself, how you can get the maximum good from that time and that money. It's how I live my life, and it's how I'll run the city.

Question 6: How will you balance the interests of all members of the community to improve the quality of life in Bloomington - your discussion might include (but is not limited to) issues of justice, health, affordable housing, homelessness, community safety and transportation.

I see the Switchyard Park as a rare opportunity to do something truly visionary. I would aim to use a combination of private philanthropy and the maximum amount of public funding to produce a world-class park that future Bloomingtonians will bless us for.

I believe I hold considerable different attitudes toward homelessness and public transportation so I'll spend some time exploring those two issues.

Homelessness:

I'm guessing I'm the only candidate who has ever experienced homelessness. I've hopped freights, slept out in fields and under bridges, and been flat broke and thousands of miles from home more than once. If life had taken a few different turns, I might easily have become a hobo. Incidentally, a true hobo takes pride in never begging or stealing.

Bloomington is an exciting and beautiful town with a big heart. We don't want to change any of that, but it goes a long way to explain why we have a homeless problem and Kokomo doesn't.

This past year I let a young man who used to work for me stay for 12 months on house arrest in my basement. Many a hobo traveling through town has slept on my couch. When there's a party in my house, you won't find just carpenters, professors and physicians...there will be homeless folks as well.

No one in America should ever go hungry or be stuck out in the weather. We owe each other that much. I would encourage private organizations like the Shalom Center and Mother Hubbard's Cupboard and especially concerned individuals to help out where they can.

As far as the city government is concerned, though, I wouldn't reverse anything, but I think we've done enough. Crawford House may have given comfortable shelter to people who wouldn't have had a nice place to stay, but I wouldn't build another one. As I mentioned above, it cost \$5 million for a facility with 25 one-bedroom units...that's \$200,000 a unit.

I'm troubled by homelessness, but I'm also troubled that people who work fifty, sixty, or even seventy hours/week at two or three jobs still often can't make ends meet. If they sprain their arm, they don't dare go to the ER room for help because they know they'd never be able to dig themselves out of debt from the \$500 it would cost. They can't afford a house. They can't afford to take their children out for ice cream on the weekend. That's not right! I support a \$12.50/hr. minimum wage for anyone working within the city limits. Seattle requires employers to pay a living wage, so do Santa Fe and San Diego. Just because the rest of the country is heartless about this issue, doesn't mean that we have to be. We're Bloomington, and we can do better than that.

I understand that many people in Bloomington no longer feel comfortable taking the air at People's Park or walking along the B-line trail or down 5th street. They feel threatened by aggressive panhandlers and early morning college drunks. I don't think that's crazy or unreasonable. I support the old-fashioned idea of friendly cops walking their beat while keeping an eye on things.

Public Transportation:

Bloomington has a world-class bus system. Our buses are clean and comfortable. Our new bus station is spacious, modern and efficient, and our drivers and mechanics are top notch.

Few people would argue with the objectives of urban mass transit to move people more conveniently, more cost effectively, and with the minimum pollution and waste of natural resources. By encouraging people to take the bus instead of drive, it helps reduce traffic and makes parking easier to find.

It's essential to remember that if we hope to attain those objectives our first goal must be to increase the ridership of every run. The more butts in those seats the greener things become.

It should be obvious to anyone watching the buses go by that the buses on the routes servicing students run full practically always while most other routes run practically empty. There's a reason for that. All students are required to pay a transportation fee at the beginning of every semester. After that, every ride is free. When I asked a room full of student friends once, how often they'd ride if they had to pay a dollar every time they got on a bus, the reply was unanimous...NEVER.

If paying nothing every time you get on a bus to go anywhere in the city works for students, it will work for the rest of us as well. I believe it would radically increase ridership. Surprisingly this wouldn't even cost much, nor would it be impossible to find the necessary funding. The total revenue from fares comes to \$600,000, which may sound like a lot but is actually only 7% of the Bloomington Transit's annual operating budget. There is a bill going through the state legislature to allow for a \$1,500,000 assessment to expand our transit system and provide for Sunday service. I propose that 40% of this (\$600K) be used to make the entire system free for every man, woman, and child in Bloomington. If that doesn't radically increase ridership, I'll eat my hat...and remember, the more butts in those seats the greener the system.

Question 7: Describe how you would engage all citizens to be more active participants in our community and in our government.

At the risk of sounding simplistic, my answer is, I'll listen better. If someone's idea has merit and the numbers add up, I'll adopt it. Some people have told me that I have an inordinate number of creative and innovative ideas. The simple truth of the matter is that most of those ideas came from other people. When John Hamilton put forth the idea of a municipally owned broadband fiber optic system, I immediately realized that if the numbers worked, this was definitely what we should be doing. I polled a few of my brightest academic friends and asked them who I should be talking to. Within a week I was being briefed by a small group of wizard-smart IT people...all were Bloomington patriots and shared my vision of where we needed to go. All told me the same story. The technical end of things, as well as how the project could be financed, though certainly not trivial, were at least doable. Everyone seemed to agree that the biggest problems would be the political ones. Speaking frankly, telecom lobbyists own the statehouse. They'll fight a municipally owned system tooth and nail. There have been some new policies handed down only recently by the FCC that can help us. Chattanooga already has a system in place that we can and should learn from. The important thing is to move quickly and decisively while we have this window of opportunity. With a new president in office things might become much more difficult for us. If I win the primary, I'll immediately put together a small team of technically and politically savvy IT geniuses tasked with coming up with a fully actionable roadmap for the project. The new mayor needs to hit the ground running on this one.

[Back to the Top](#)

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Question 1: Why are you running for office?

I am running for office because I love Bloomington and want to have a hand in helping it realize its potential. I never had any intentions of running for office – I was approached in both 2011 and now in 2015 by friends and colleagues. Their encouragement and my own desire to continue our city's strong, progressive governance led me to enter the race. As a City Councilman and as City Council President, I worked closely with Mayor Kruzan and I appreciate his support. I am eager to continue our push to combat homelessness, create high-paying, sustainable jobs, and rein in development to maintain our City's unique characteristics.

Question 2: What are the top three issues that concerned you enough to run for Mayor? What policies based on these issues do you intend to implement while in office?

Based on my own experience and the discussions I have had with people of every walk of life out on the campaign trail, I have found the three most important issues in our city to be: homelessness and how to address it, job creation, and reining in the pace of development in our downtown corridor.

Homelessness is a unique problem that cannot be solved by the City alone. What the City can do, and what as Mayor I will do, is address the situation head on and begin to tackle it in my first day in office by establishing a working group of the important public, private, religious and community stakeholders to begin to find a Bloomington solution to a Bloomington problem. Nothing else will suffice.

Job creation is another problem too complex to solve with short buzzwords or quips. It takes a collaborative effort of many different aspects of local government, as well as the private sector itself, to truly accomplish. As Mayor, I will do my part in this process by making sure we focus on the arts and parks to ensure that Bloomington is a place people want to establish and keep their businesses. Additionally, I will be a tireless advocate for new businesses looking to relocate. Bloomington is on the verge of becoming a regional hub for new tech companies and I want to help foster an environment – often dubbed “work, stay, play” – where new tech companies can prosper and offer high-paying jobs to our city. Making Bloomington a place people want to work starts by making Bloomington a place people want to live.

Development has spiraled out of control in our city. One change I am already making is introducing legislation on the City Council to make sure future height waivers from the Plan Commission are returned to the Council for final approval. We need to take back control of what we want our city to look like.

Question 3: List your political experience (here and elsewhere), including any grassroots activity in which you participated or led. What particular skills - political, civic, employment - do you bring to the office that you feel makes you a good candidate?

Bloomington has been my home for over 30 years. In addition to raising a family here, I've been a student, I've stocked shelves at Bloomingfoods, and I even started my own small business.

I am proud to have been elected to City Council in 2011 and served as its President in 2013 and 2014. Before that, I served as a public affairs radio host on WFHB and WGCL. I interviewed local and national politicians about the important issues driving the day. Additionally, I have taught at Indiana University for over 20 years.

In the community, I have been involved with a wide number of civic organizations, such as Martha's House, Monroe County Youth Football, the Bloomington Animal Shelter, and as Vice-Chair of Bloomington's first Commission on Sustainability.

Question 4: In what way(s) do you consider yourself socially progressive? How do these principles apply to the Mayor's Office, and how do you plan to apply these principles in implementing your agenda while in office?

I think it would be safe to say all of the candidates for Mayor are socially progressive. We are lucky to live in a town as accepting and progressive as Bloomington is. As far as particular progressive bona fides, I am a strong supporter of LGBT rights (and rushed to get ordained as a minister to marry two of my good friends in 2013 at the Buskirk-Chumley Theater). My graduate studies centered around racial justice and important black leaders in our nation's history. I have taken strong stances on issues like homelessness in this campaign that define my strong social justice background and what I view the role of the Mayor as in addressing those issues.

Question 5: In what way(s) do you consider yourself fiscally responsible? How would you manage and prioritize the scarce resource of public finances to achieve the goals you want to achieve? Be specific where possible.

Immediately after the recent financial scandals, I worked with my Council colleagues and Mayor Krusan to enact tighter and stricter oversight rules. In my administration, you will see more rolling audits, oversight from and for the Controller's office, and responsible budgeting to make sure we get the basics right.

Bloomington has 600 tremendous City employees who work hard every day. My goal will be to, at the beginning, find any who do not fit that definition and show them the door. After, I will empower the hard-working, diligent City employees to identify best practices and key performance metrics to ensure that we spend the money that is allotted to us wisely and prudently. Every resident wants their potholes fixed and their trash picked up; I am no different. My goal as Mayor will be to manage this important concern with the other considerations of our local government, such as helping to entice new, high-paying jobs to make their headquarters in our city. Local government is a balancing act of important considerations and I think my direct experience in dealing with these considerations is one of my biggest advantages.

Question 6: How will you balance the interests of all members of the community to improve the quality of life in Bloomington - your discussion might include (but is not limited to) issues of justice, health, affordable housing, homelessness, community safety and transportation.

Every member of our community deserves to have their opinions heard and as Mayor, I will make sure that this remains true. Our city has important considerations and going forward, I will focus on three:

1) Reining in development and maintaining our unique City core. We must not allow the pendulum to swing too far in either direction. Development is essential to the growth of a city. It provides jobs and affordable housing if done correctly. Recently, the development in our city has been geared towards large skyscrapers for students to live in and landlords to reap excessive profits. I will do everything in my power to see the balance necessary restored when I am in office.

2) Homelessness and affordable housing must be a priority. For better or worse, Bloomington has become a regional hub for the homeless. It is a crime for families to be homeless. We must make sure that, more than anyone else, our children have somewhere to sleep at night. Homelessness and affordable housing are linked: you cannot talk about one without the other. Additionally, homelessness is a much larger issue than city government. On Day 1 in office, when I begin working to convene the important stakeholders in our homelessness discussion, we will begin to make progress towards a problem that has plagued us for far too long.

3) We must create more jobs, high-paying and otherwise. New tech companies bring along with them blue-collar industrial jobs that powered the American economy for a century in addition to the high-paying salaried jobs that will keep new IU graduates in our community rather than leaving it. I would love nothing more than for my kids to be able to stay in Bloomington after they graduate. At present, they have to look elsewhere for jobs and consider Bloomington at a point later in their life. As Mayor, I will work vigorously to make sure that we have enough jobs to support a modern, vibrant economy in a modern, vibrant city.

Question 7: Describe how you would engage all citizens to be more active participants in our community and in our government.

The theme of my campaign is OneBloomington – we are better when we work together. As Mayor I will increase the transparency of the office. I want to create a culture of open dialogue. To that end, I will ensure regular video and audio updates on what is happening at City Hall. I will hold frequent mayoral roundtables and town halls and, most importantly, I will hold those roundtables before important decisions are made. I want to ask for permission to act, not for forgiveness for acting.

City Council

District One

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Question 1: Why are you running for office?

Simply put, I am running for this city council office because I believe we need a change in representation in District 1 that better represents the interests of the district on the whole. My neighborhood of Rockport Hills and my neighboring neighborhood of Broadview are two examples of neighborhoods that have either been neglected or had undesirable changes forced upon us with minimal return (ex. Annexation of Broadview on the promise of sidewalks that never materialized). Meanwhile, other neighborhoods consume city resources for things such as traffic calming with money that would better serve other areas. I also believe that, in general, the city council itself needs a new voice that will bring new ideas. When I moved to Bloomington five years ago it was because it held certain qualities in culture; it was growing, its downtown was vibrant, and it was a good place to raise a family. While I still believe Bloomington is a great place to live, I believe in some ways it is moving in the opposite direction of what brought me my family and I here, and I have always been one to fight for changes and standing up for what I believe is right.

Question 2: What are the top three issues that concerned you enough to run for City Council? What legislative initiative(s) do you intend to pursue in the first or second year of your term?

The top three issues that concerned me enough to run for city council:

1. I believe that the city council needs a council person willing to stand up for every neighborhood throughout the district and to be a voice for the district. I am deeply disturbed at seeing the city make promises to neighborhoods such as Broadview that, in exchange for annexation, they would be offered sidewalks to improve their neighborhood. Later that promise was never kept for “financial reasons”, yet our own councilman who sits on the sidewalk committee saw no problem with using city funds for traffic calming in his own neighborhood that went against recommendations of the city engineering department. In my own neighborhood of Rockport Hills, the city recently had promised to repair the drainage ditch bordering my neighborhood with neighboring Evergreen Village. It spent a considerable amount of time and money to dig out the drainage ditch, but left the area nearly treeless and removed a cherished trail that connected our neighborhood with Rockport Road. Our neighborhood was given no chance at input, yet myself and a number of neighbors lost several established trees and forever changed the view from our own yards. This would be one of the initiatives I would pursue: reviewing the city’s promises and developing plans to make them happen with the input of affected residents.
2. The landscape of downtown is changing, and in my opinion is moving in a negative direction. The parking meters have had a negative overall effect on visitors, downtown businesses, and city residents, and the current councilman not only voted in favor of them but said the residents needed to “grin and bear it”, which is not what a councilman should say to his constituents who are suddenly facing a potentially expensive new financial burden. The current councilman also has been in favor of what I see as the brick canyons of buildings being developed around downtown. I do not believe this is a positive change for Bloomington. I believe Bloomington should be moving towards more potential office space and permanent resident housing downtown, and I believe the city council can affect such development through its voting.
3. The city council needs someone willing to look at the city’s budget and fight for better financial accountability. It is my belief that the city has spent money unnecessarily on things such as traffic calming and unneeded consultants while ignoring priorities. City contracts need better control as evidenced not only by recent illegal activities making the news, but also in the excess spending for garage management and city sanitation. The city needs a plan for procurement with no exceptions, and assurance given that contracts that come before the city council have been appropriately competitively bid and follow protocol. Added internal controls need to be put in place.

Legislative initiatives I intend to pursue:

1. Insistence on development of internal controls in the controller’s office and completion of a procurement plan that follows generally accepted principles.
2. Examination of the effectiveness of meters downtown and development of a plan to pay the amortization of the garages to eliminate or phase out the parking meters

3. Development of a plan to complete promised sidewalks in Broadview and develop sidewalks in other residential neighborhoods where they are most useful and needed
4. Ensuring the parks and trail systems have adequate funding to be properly maintained, including replacement of broken benches and regularly cutting grass in areas it is needed such as the disc golf course at Crestmont Park
5. Promotion of city resources. My job has led me to see that there is often a resource (usually free) to assist people with their problems, but many people are not aware they exist or who to contact. I want the city to have a centralized resource, similar to a federal small business specialist that citizens can reach to direct them to available resources in the city or local non-profits

Question 3: List your political experience (here and elsewhere), including any grassroots activity in which you participated or led. What particular skills - political, civic, employment - do you bring to the office that you feel makes you a good candidate?

While in college I was a member of the College Democrats at Xavier University in Cincinnati. I helped in the 2000 election campaign of Mr. John Cranley to the US House (he did not win, unfortunately, but is now the mayor of Cincinnati). I knocked on doors, worked polls, ran signs to houses, and other duties as needed.

Upon graduation, I began working for the federal government as a contracts auditor for the Department of Defense. I also worked as a contracts specialist for a major contractor. The combined skills gave me the knowledge of how to read and interpret complex documents, as well as negotiating favorable results and reporting findings. These positions also taught me how to work with people who may not agree with my position or approaches to topics, yet still be successful and get a favorable result.

My current position as a PTAC counselor for the state involves me assisting small businesses looking to do business with the federal, state, or local government. This position has given me personal insight into all the resources available to companies in the Bloomington area. It also influences my thoughts that Bloomington can be a destination for tech businesses doing business at or with Crane NSWC. In this position, I see myself as somewhat of a teacher. This role has given me the skills to take extremely complex data such as federal contracting laws, process them, and package them into an understandable and useful output. Many issues that come before city council have extremely complicated backgrounds based on complex laws, and I have the ability to digest that and put it to use.

I also attended and graduated from the Bloomington Citizens' Academy in 2012. This experience taught me the inner workings of city government and had a strong influence on my running for this office.

Question 4: In what way(s) do you consider yourself progressive? How do these principles apply to the City Council, and how do you plan to apply them to implementing your agenda while in office?

I think "progressive" is a difficult term to define that means something different to everyone. That said, to me, I think the biggest way to move in a progressive direction is to create fairness and equality in society. I want every citizen to have equal potential access to resources. I believe in fairness. I think the city's policies and actions in many ways contribute to haves and have-nots. As a simple example, road maintenance in the richer east side neighborhoods happens much faster and more often than that on major roads on the south side such as Rockport or in areas such as Maple Heights. In this case, I would like to view (if one exists) a maintenance plan for city roads to ensure we are budgeting properly to maintain them city wide is implemented. I'd like to see such plans in other areas to ensure that the city's resources are fairly and equally accessed and divided. People get ignored and resources become outdated and in disrepair because there is no plan in place.

Another way I will demonstrate what I consider progressive ideals is to push for resources to eliminate homelessness. Like the roads above, we must establish a plan for how to deal with this issue that incorporates the ideas of all the local stakeholders. Last year there was a meeting that developed a framework for such a plan and I think it can be extended. My goal is this: the only way to eliminate homelessness is to make people not homeless. The plan is that simple. It is the details and execution that are difficult. You make people "not homeless" by providing homes, not shelters. I want to see the city's resources devoted to this issue to focus on permanent housing for those willing to follow the rules, similar to the Crawford House already built. I want to see resources put towards treatment of the physical and mental health issues causing people to not be able to hold jobs or housing. I want to offer help to those struggling to stay in their homes now so they don't become homeless. Many of these resources are already being provided by third party non-profits and I'd like to see them find ways to get funding to expand. The city can at a minimum help by assisting those needing such services with referrals and counseling to ensure people are led to the correct resources.

Question 5: In what way(s) do you consider yourself fiscally responsible? How would you manage and prioritize the scarce resource of public finances to achieve the goals you want to achieve? Be specific where possible.

In full disclosure, I personally went through some difficult financial times almost ten years ago. While the root cause was out of my control, it did lead me to take a look at my own life and learn to be fiscally responsible with myself. I have learned as a result how to manage my own budget in a way that I now own my own home and vehicles, have savings, and have disposable income to do things I want to do in life. This is how a city should manage its own finances as well.

First, I intend on the first instance of the budget process coming before the council to review it to the ground. I intend to find out the basis for as much of the budget and reason for the expenditures to ensure they are proper. I know that managers pad their budgets (I've been there myself), and I have an eye for such things. I intend to work to cut fat from the budget as much as possible

to give the city more financial leverage by moving us towards the black again. I do not necessarily have examples, although I do believe there have been things such as the traffic calming on west third and the hiring of unneeded consultants that has cost the city needlessly.

Second, I intend to look at the necessary expenditures and see if there is a way to better leverage them. For example, while I am against the meters, I believe that if they are in place that the biggest priority for their revenue is payment of the amortization of the garages. Another example is the parks. There is a system in place for park management, but I think minimal spending on items such as more trash cans can prevent the need for expensive personnel to clean trash from park grounds. We need to ensure that we are paying our debts and have a dedicated source to do so, and be smart with the money we spend.

Third, I would review things that have been labeled as a "priority". Some road projects have been so labeled, for example. I would review these to see if there is anything we are pushing that need not be, and things being neglected that will ultimately cost us more via their neglect. As an example in my own neighborhood, the city is presently working on a sidewalk project along Rockport Road that has evolved into a considerably larger project. This may not have been a priority compared to, say, a stoplight or roundabout up the street at Rockport and Tapp Roads.

Lastly, financial responsibility in government is achieved by proper oversight. As a city council member, I want to ensure that all contracts that come before the council for a vote have gone through proper approval channels with proper cost benefit analysis having been performed in order to make an informed decision. I also want to see better internal controls implemented both on the procurement and post contract award side.

Question 6: How will you balance the interests of all members of the community to improve the quality of life in Bloomington - your discussion might include (but is not limited to) issues of justice, health, affordable housing, homelessness, community safety and transportation.

Quality of life is the heart of my campaign. Every decision I intend to make on the council will be with the idea of answering the question "Does this help the quality of life of the residents of Bloomington, especially in my district?" Using that as my personal mission statement will be my guide to how to vote on specific issues. Taking in feedback from citizens would help guide that thought process. I understand that there will be times that issues come up that affect one part of town without much effect on others. In those cases I intend to consider how it would affect the residents of my district specifically. It may have no effect, or it may be a major project in another district that consumes significant resources that may be better spread around. That would be a case by case decision.

I have addressed many of the quality of life issues on my website and it is difficult to summarize them. Ultimately the number one issue that ties quality of life together is access to quality, well-paying jobs. Having a well-paid workforce opens access to housing, keeps some people out of the criminal justice system, and other issues. Employers will tell you that the number one draw to a location is access to a quality workforce. Those jobs are attracted to Bloomington by having people living here who have the talent, ability, and drive to do the jobs those employers offer. In my opinion, the city can best leverage bringing jobs to the city by making Bloomington a desirable place for quality employees to live. We do that by developing and marketing the existence of resources: quality schools, outdoor spaces such as city parks and nearby state parks, trails, a vibrant downtown, etc. We have a great resource in the university that we should be working with more closely and leveraging both for policy issues and for talent of its graduates.

There is also a segment of our population that needs help to become part of society and enjoy the quality of life. Those that are struggling to make ends meet or are already homeless need help. I want to ensure we offer the resources to those who want help to keep them out of jail and shelters and get them back into jobs and homes.

Question 7: Describe how you would engage all citizens to be more active participants in our community and in our government.

I have learned from my own current job that people will always look for the easiest path and will not spend time or effort on things they do not believe in or understand. We can take that knowledge and apply it to community involvement. If people will not do something that they don't believe in or understand, then simply put we must help them find things they believe in and understand.

I want to make it easy for people to gain access to the system. For example, engage people by making them feel as though they are being heard. My own conversations I have had with people have led me to believe they think the current Bloomington government doesn't listen. We need to open up channels for them to feel they are being heard. For example, the city could use social media to accept feedback better than it does. I would do that personally as well. I as a council member would also hold regular listening sessions throughout my district to provide people a chance to give feedback in a convenient, seemingly accessible way.

I would also like to see the city provide an easier way for citizens to find opportunities to get involved. The city itself has many volunteer opportunities including participation in boards and commissions. I'd like to see these boards and commissions meet at times that are convenient for people to attend and provide feedback. The city can also be a resource for non-profits to advertise need for volunteers. Many more people would get involved if they knew who to talk to and how, and the city can facilitate that.

Ultimately, the easiest way to involve people in government is to make government more transparent. If people know what is happening with their local government, they are more likely to comment and participate. People need to feel they are a part of it, and the city has in my opinion done a poor job of this in the past.

Chris Sturbaum

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Question 1: Why are you running for office?

I first ran twelve years ago to be a strong voice for the west side's needs and interests. I continue to run because I know I can be of service to my district, my city and my home. Sometimes in the middle of the night there is a close vote that is going to matter for a long time. I am always glad to be there and sometimes even be the deciding vote when it counts. I'm willing and wanting to stay on the job if you choose to send me back to work for you another four years.

Question 2: What are the top three issues that concerned you enough to run for City Council? What legislative initiative(s) do you intend to pursue in the first or second year of your term?

- A) I am on a working group with the goal of creating more affordable housing in Bloomington. Susan Sandberg and I are looking forward to taking effective action to impact the affordable issue in the coming years.
- B) Some west side neighborhoods and businesses are negatively affected by the growing homeless population. I will continue to struggle to find a balance between compassion for those in need, and care for those citizens who are directly impacted by this issue. There needs to be a local rehab program and there need to be both wet and dry shelters to serve those who cannot overcome their addictions, those who are striving to do just that as well as the homeless who do not have those problems.
- C) There are three areas of Bloomington in need of new life. The Showers Tech Park, the Switchyard Park and the Hospital Site* (which really extends east to the B-Line). The past fifteen years have seen the transformation of the former abandoned Showers Factory and the likewise abandoned rail line into a vital part of the city. The three large sites are similar in that they have in the past been vital parts of the city which are now or soon will be, negative and decaying spaces. To transform these negatives to positives is absolutely a challenge but also the key to the next twenty years of good growth and development in Bloomington. * I think my opposition to the hospital move is well known: "It is not good for the city of Bloomington", but we will have to overcome that and "make lemonade" as they say. I am a member of the newly appointed committee to plan for the future use of the hospital site.

Question 3: List your political experience (here and elsewhere), including any grassroots activity in which you participated or led. What particular skills - political, civic, employment - do you bring to the office that you feel makes you a good candidate?

My experience started in neighborhood politics as Prospect Hill became the first local historic district in the city. This was before there were a lot of neighborhood groups and we used historic preservation law to keep West Third from going through our neighborhood in four-lane fashion, which would have taken out forty houses in Prospect Hill. That taught me that citizen action is essential for good government decisions.

I have served on the Bloomington Historic Commission since the Tomi Allison first appointed me. I have served on the Plan Commission for many years and the Sidewalk Committee and have been a past president or chair of all these groups including City Council. I started and have run my own business since 1979.

Question 4: In what way(s) do you consider yourself progressive? How do these principles apply to the City Council, and how do you plan to apply them to implementing your agenda while in office?

I was ten years old when JFK was killed in office. I had grown up in the era of idealism he represented. Dinnertime talk was about politics and we had just come from Anderson, IN, where my dad, Bill Sturbaum, had led a teacher's strike a few years before and been called a communist and worse. He had been going to school in Bloomington over the summers and the town suddenly looked like a good place to move his wife, Helen and their five children. Maybe this is called "dyed in the wool" but my values were set early on. I believe that government should primarily be about justice and equal representation for all. I believe that government should also be about vision and the greater good. These principals direct, inform and inspire my every action as a citizen representative.

Question 5: In what way(s) do you consider yourself fiscally responsible? How would you manage and prioritize the scarce resource of public finances to achieve the goals you want to achieve? Be specific where possible.

I have supported Mark Kruzan's budgets along with the majority of council members. These have been good budgets that have kept a safe margin so the services the city provides have not been cut, as some cities have had to do.

Since I run my own business, I understand cost and benefit. Using tax abatements to encourage business or encourage development in challenged areas is a good way for the city to prosper and create jobs. When we first supported Cook Pharmica, when they first decided to invest in the old RCA site, their other realistic option was a city in Ireland where they already made investments. They recently expanded here and are adding jobs and we heard that Cook Pharmica is employing a significant number of graduates from IVY Tech.

Question 6: How will you balance the interests of all members of the community to improve the quality of life in Bloomington - your discussion might include (but is not limited to) issues of justice, health, affordable housing, homelessness, community safety and transportation.

I have worked with Bloomington Restorations' Affordable Housing Program over the years with the goal of providing affordable home ownership. This helps our neighborhood-saving activities to not be confused with Gentrification, but seen rather as the neighborhood revitalization it has been over the years. The city's work with Habitat is another way to leverage public and private capital to work on homeownership again. New homeowners build capital and can achieve home security. There are other needs in the community and I am on a committee to seek other ways of adding affordable housing to the community. Phil Stafford's idea of livable and affordable senior friendly neighborhoods is another part of the puzzle. Building a bicycle friendly city is a way to help with transportation costs, along with increasing our bus services. The option to leave a car at home can make the community cleaner and save gas, car and insurance money for young citizens just starting out here.

The homeless issue is a difficult one that requires balance and awareness of the complexity of this problem. Many compassionate people are doing their best but we have a long way to go before we can say there is an answer. How do we establish a rehab center? How do we house more homeless? How do we do this without attracting as many more as we find shelter, help and good outcomes for? How do we do this without damaging business interests and public safety? What is the role of the government and which government? The city? The state? The county? The surrounding counties who send their citizens in need to us? These remain difficult questions and I am still wrestling to find answers. A realistic progressive finds difficult choices in office....

Question 7: Describe how you would engage all citizens to be more active participants in our community and in our government.

I have been working to allow many new citizens to join our city commissions. My proposal is to add new advisory positions to the commissions. This allows new and interested members to be part of the citizen decision making process. The commission program was developed in the McCloskey era in an effort to be a more open government. The beauty of adding new members is that they become informed and are able to help in the decision process while becoming prepared for full membership as it becomes available. Citizen participation is also available at the neighborhood association level. These bodies are a great way to bring neighborhood issues to city council through district representatives and also through CONA (Council of Neighborhood Associations). I started my political experience in my neighborhood association and then on the Historic Commission and finally I ran for City Council but it was an organic progression. Citizens have opportunities to get involved. There is public comment before each regular session of the council and I, and my fellow council members, am always open to emails and calls from the people we are proud to represent. The city council is also a platform for resolutions on issues of a national or international level. A recent one I sponsored was in support of the Fair Trade movement.

[Back to the Top](#)

District Two

Dorothy Granger

Question 1: Why are you running for office?

I am Dorothy Granger and I am running for reelection for Bloomington City Council, District 2. Since my election in 2011, I have enjoyed serving the residents of Bloomington City as a member of City Council and am proud of my contribution to the decision-making process. Because there are many issues in our community that still need attention and action (see some below) and I believe I provide a thoughtful perspective when attending to these issues. I have served as vice President of the Council, I serve on the Sidewalk Committee and the Jack Hopkins Social Services Fund Committee. Many important issues have come before council and no decision is easy. There will be even more issues that require attention and I look forward to serving another four years.

Question 2: What are the top three issues that concerned you enough to run for City Council? What legislative initiative(s) do you intend to pursue in the first or second year of your term?

The issues I consider to make up the backbone of my platform include issues of Environmental Stewardship and Green Energy, increasing the affordable housing stock, and the humane treatment of animals. In addition to these three points of my campaign, I look forward to working on additional issues that are already before Council such as the Food Truck legislation, and others that will likely come before Council in the near future including Food Security Charter, the plastic bag debate, revised growth policies plan, urban deer, and many more.

As I consider each piece of legislation, I seek out public input, I attend internal work sessions and talk with City staff, I read the weekly packets, I listen to people who speak before council at our weekly meetings, and I rely upon my core values to ensure the decisions I make are in the best interest of the City of Bloomington and its residents. If reelected, in my next term I will continue to rely on my experience and collaborative style in the decision-making process.

Question 3: List your political experience (here and elsewhere), including any grassroots activity in which you participated or led. What particular skills - political, civic, employment - do you bring to the office that you feel makes you a good candidate?

I have been on City Council for three years and three months attending to issues of importance to this city. My work on various political campaigns as well as with local PACs has taught me a great deal about the local political process. In addition, my knowledge of local issues has expanded greatly as a result. A number of political campaigns I have worked on include:

- Treasurer, Sophia Travis for County Council
- Minion, Julie Thomas for County Council
- Minion, Julie Thomas for Commissioner
- Fundraiser/Special Events Coordinator, Shelli Yoder for Congress
- Treasurer, Cheryl Munson for County Council
- Emotional Supporter, Michelle BRIGHT for Benton Township Trustee
- Other campaigns as needed

I have worked with a number of social service organizations both as a paid staff member and volunteer, particularly around fundraising. I started my political engagement thirty plus years ago as I worked toward the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Question 4: In what way(s) do you consider yourself progressive? How do these principles apply to the City Council, and how do you plan to apply them to implementing your agenda while in office?

I consider myself a "Liberal," which may be the same as being Progressive but, to me this means: "Possessing or manifesting a free and generous heart; bountiful. Appropriate and/or fitting for a broad and enlightened mind. Free from narrowness, bigotry or bondage to authority or creed. Any person who advocates liberty of thought, speech, or action." I strive to be all these things and more!

I apply these principles when considering legislation before Council as well as other initiatives, such as Jack Hopkins social services funding allocations and supporting creative initiatives such as the new program of the Bloomington Police that focus on better ways to work with people who are experiencing homelessness or mental illness.

I am an advocate for community members who may believe they have no voice.

Question 5: In what way(s) do you consider yourself fiscally responsible? How would you manage and prioritize the scarce resource of public finances to achieve the goals you want to achieve? Be specific where possible.

I strive to utilize resources wisely. The City of Bloomington is an incredibly special place. We provide all of the required services, but we also offer a number of benefits and opportunities for residents that go above and beyond those “basic services.” If we can be frugal with taxpayer dollars, we can continue to provide the basic services as well as those amenities that make Bloomington a great place to live and work.

For example, we know City Hall is fairly energy efficient, but I will pursue the implementation of equipment for energy production such as solar panels, to help us not only reduce our energy bills and give

In addition, I am an advocate for reviewing the financial standing of the City at least quarterly – rather than once a year at budget time. I believe this will help us better understand where our money goes in a more timely manner, allowing us to question planning and expenses in a bit more detail.

Question 6: How will you balance the interests of all members of the community to improve the quality of life in Bloomington - your discussion might include (but is not limited to) issues of justice, health, affordable housing, homelessness, community safety and transportation.

The quality of life in Bloomington makes this a great place to live and work. Intrinsic to maintaining this quality of life is an effort to hear those residents who feel they do not have a voice and encourage all to speak up. In addition, we can find better ways to collaborate with our social service agencies.

An example of my commitment to issues of social justice is my plan to require an affordable housing element on future requests for tax abatements on new developments that have residential components.

Question 7: Describe how you would engage all citizens to be more active participants in our community and in our government.

Civic engagement is very important to me especially in these days of low voter turnout and overwhelming feelings of disenfranchisement. I am an active member of Democracy for Monroe County and the Democratic Women’s Caucus and both organizations work hard to engage citizens at all level of community government. I have participated in the Leadership Bloomington/Monroe County governmental fora for the past three years, wherein I encourage participants to become more engaged. I have been an active participant in the City of Bloomington Commission on the Status of Women—Women’s Leadership Development annual event that inspires and encourages participants to become more engaged with their community. As an individual, I do all of the above and serve as a role model for community involvement through my active engagement as a member of City Council.

During my first term, I co-sponsored City-County monthly meetings with Julie Thomas to learn more about issues of concern to residents and to share information about issues that were coming before these two bodies.

[Back to the Top](#)

District Three
Allison Chopra

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Question 1: Why are you running for office?

I am running for this office because I have the skills, energy and values to represent District 3 and take Bloomington forward. I am a problem solver who believes that, with enough creativity, effort and human care, there is a solution to every problem.

Question 2: What are the top three issues that concerned you enough to run for City Council? What legislative initiative(s) do you intend to pursue in the first or second year of your term?

1. Safety and accessibility of District 3. I am dissatisfied with the work and sincere concern for our district. As an ambassador for District 3, I will address residents' concerns with respect and work hard to improve the safety and accessibility of District 3 in particular. I have already met with Tom Micuda and Vince Caristo from the City Planning department about areas in District 3 that need attention.
2. Smart economic development, especially for the downtown. I think Bloomington is at a crucial point in the development of our downtown and we need to get serious about making sure that we grow, but do so with while holding the values that we, as a community value, such as environmental sustainability, the arts and living wages.

Legislative Initiatives

1. First, I would like to introduce safety measures for cyclists and bicyclists on 3rd and 10th streets. There are areas that are unsafe to cross for able-bodied persons, let alone children and our less mobile neighbors. Second, I would like to improve the area of 10th and Smith Roads which is unsafe hard to access and use for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists. It also affects the ability of children in surrounding neighborhoods to walk to school only a ½ mile away at University Schools. Third, I would like to improve bicycling options into the downtown core. I would like to initiate bike lanes, bike boxes and other safety measures for bikers who are traveling east and west.
2. I am also interested in a policy that keeps pesticides out of our city parks.

Question 3: List your political experience (here and elsewhere), including any grassroots activity in which you participated or led. What particular skills - political, civic, employment - do you bring to the office that you feel makes you a good candidate?

I served on the Bloomington Urban Enterprise Association for 2 years. I was Treasurer for the Cranor for Clerk campaign in 2014 and Campaign Manager for Ryan Cobine for Council in 2014. I have knocked doors for Lillian Hengar for Trustee and Shelli Yoder for Council. I am also part of the State Democratic Party's Democratic Emerging Leader Program, a selected group of 40 Democrats aged 40 and under, that works to strengthen the state party and get young Democrats in office.

In 2014, I became increasingly angered by the culture of Domestic Violence being displayed on a national level. I decided to do something. In about ten minutes I made a decision to raise \$500 in 24 hours for Middle Way House. By calling, e-mailing and using social media, I raised \$525 in 20 hours for Middle Way House. This was my version of grassroots social justice. In fact, it may become a fundraising tactic for the organization in the future, to create "flash fundraising" efforts.

Finally, as a business owner I have experience in employment, tax, marketing and finances. As a business owner, I bring a unique blend of cautious decision-making and a creative mindset.

Question 4: In what way(s) do you consider yourself progressive? How do these principles apply to the City Council, and how do you plan to apply them to implementing your agenda while in office?

When considering the term progressive, I like to define progress. To me, progress is forward movement toward goals and ideals. I consider myself progressive because I am constantly brainstorming. I enjoy talking to others and using their ideas to spur creative solutions to problems. As a City Councilwoman, I will seek to find innovative solutions to our need for affordable housing and care for our homeless neighbors. I am not afraid to explore new ideas and options.

Question 5: In what way(s) do you consider yourself fiscally responsible? How would you manage and prioritize the scarce resource of public finances to achieve the goals you want to achieve? Be specific where possible.

During my time on the BUEA, I was one of the few members who not just looked at the financial reports, but scrutinized them and asked questions when I didn't know what an expense was for. I think that one of the best ways to keep close eyes

on public finances is to have a frequently revolving set of people on Boards and Commissions and the Council. When someone has been reviewing budgets and the same financial reports for years and years, they will eventually become careless because of the routine and monotony.

In terms of budgeting, I will make decisions based on two factors: return on investment and public good. We should be getting either a good return on investment, as in the case of tax abatements or a large amount of public good, such as parks that service a wide variety of people and safety measure that affect many people.

Question 6: How will you balance the interests of all members of the community to improve the quality of life in Bloomington - your discussion might include (but is not limited to) issues of justice, health, affordable housing, homelessness, community safety and transportation.

One of the things that I would like to explore is ways to increase the amount and array of employment options in our city. I would like to see more full-time, permanent living-wage jobs as well as professional positions. I think this can be done through smart economic development, which includes incentives for business that bring these jobs to our city as well as fostering better strategic alliances with Ivy Tech and IU to keep good ideas and innovation in Bloomington.

Question 7: Describe how you would engage all citizens to be more active participants in our community and in our government.

Because of my business background and experiences through the city's Citizens Academy and Leadership Bloomington Monroe County, I have a wide network of contacts. So, first, I will be able to reach out to many people who may have the expertise that could help me on council. I am not an expert, but I can take advise from experts, and public opinion, and come up with a solution or decision based on all the information I gathered.

I will also hold monthly constituent meetings, reaching out via e-mail, social media, phone and direct mail to ALL voters – not just those who are intimately aware of government happenings – to share their concerns and hopes for Bloomington's future.

[Back to the Top](#)

Mike Satterfield

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Question 1: Why are you running for office?

I believe it's important to be involved in your community. I believe in our community. A caring community doesn't leave the job to someone else. They share the load. This is the place we live and work. Some raise families here while others see it as a place to retire. It's a great place to be. I believe I'm the best qualified candidate to represent the voices of District 3.

Question 2: What are the top three issues that concerned you enough to run for City Council? What legislative initiative(s) do you intend to pursue in the first or second year of your term?

Managing growth within budgetary constraints is a primary issue. But even these are co-equal to healthy neighborhoods. If crime were to increase in one of our neighborhoods, the resources to address the problem would be steered away from other areas including the downtown and parks. We are growing and our revenue is unlikely to increase because leadership at our state level is in the mood to cut the revenue it collects. New growth will begin on the on Bloomington's westside. Change marches on while we continue to support a vibrant downtown and healthy outlying neighborhoods. I can't say there were three issues that caused me to run. I know experience, flexibility and approachability are essential to a healthy council. I'll bring those traits to our district's seat.

The hot-button issues today may not be as important by the time I reach office. Looking into the future though I believe most of my first year energy will be directed towards public safety as well as sustainable transparency in our city's business. Some costs will accompany transparency measures. Time spent on a given project or process will be one of those costs.

Another area awaiting action is IU Health's planned relocation to an area outside of our city limits. Their plans for the current location as well as the surrounding medical practices are not clear. I will be ready to support or introduce legislation to minimize the losses from this move.

Question 3: List your political experience (here and elsewhere), including any grassroots activity in which you participated or led. What particular skills - political, civic, employment - do you bring to the office that you feel makes you a good candidate?

My service during my term as the District 3 Common Council representative is probably the best example to offer. I served multiple years on the Jack Hopkins Social Services Committee, The Sidewalk Committee and the Economic Development Commission. Each of these areas touch health, safety and welfare concerns of our community. During this period, I along with citizens, city staff and other elected officials on these commissions reviewed and approved plans and incentives to support a long sidewalk down East 3rd St, a new and eco-friendly taxi service and many social agency programs. These is by no means the limit of the work done by these committies including myself. Rather they are a fair sample. Personally, I was most relieved at the sidewalk installation beginning at the northeast corner of Smith Rd and Morningside heading east for most of that block. It was a campaign promise made to myself. I feared someone would get hurt before I could garner the support to make it happen.

Question 4: In what way(s) do you consider yourself progressive? How do these principles apply to the City Council, and how do you plan to apply them to implementing your agenda while in office?

Progressive in the context of politics is a challenging thing to nail down. Even a minimum of research offers evidence that it has a wide interpretation. I can safely say though that I'm aligned with idea that society can advance through the support of education, science and economic development. Also, I'm firm on the position that preventing corruption in government is the only way to manage our civic business. Transparency supports this goal. Privatizing some governmental services can be healthy. But without oversight and adequate funding for oversight, privitytization just becomes an invitation to corruption. In this, I'm steadfastly opposed to what I see in other political camps.

Question 5: In what way(s) do you consider yourself fiscally responsible? How would you manage and prioritize the scarce resource of public finances to achieve the goals you want to achieve? Be specific where possible.

I believe you must spend within your means. Therein lay the problem. The basics such as fire, police and streets come first. Half of the budget is spoken for at that point. In the spirit of transparency, the mayor's office should demonstrate that our operations are comperable with similar cities. If our planning, code enforcement, and operations are able to keep pace with the workload then we should have an efficient organization. In addition, I expect to see budgets that are comfortably less than projected revenue but realistic none the less. This is one of the last steps in conservative budgeting.

Question 6: How will you balance the interests of all members of the community to improve the quality of life in Bloomington - your discussion might include (but is not limited to) issues of justice, health, affordable housing, homelessness, community safety and transportation.

It's important to hear the community's voice but you must also absorb their message. I believe this is the starting point for any issue. Health and justice are subjective and difficult to address. Council members have limited tools to manage these types of issues. Through the Council's engagement with local social service agencies and the City's own Housing and Neighborhood Development department as well as incentives from Community Development Block Grants and the Jack Hopkins Social Service Fund, Council

members can help focus efforts to address homelessness and affordable housing. Many organizations in Bloomington are working to help homeless individuals and families. My experience as a council member showed me that helping organizations help those in need produced the most effective results. Helping adults and children stay off the streets or getting them off the streets once there provides them with their best chance bringing stability back into their lives. This is in everyone's interest. Encouraging modest development in low-income areas and keeping transportation options available and affordable support the efforts to manage difficult transitions in our vulnerable populations. Our business community needs a reliable workforce. Our community needs dependable jobs. This is just part of the balance I try to foster.

Question 7: Describe how you would engage all citizens to be more active participants in our community and in our government.

Being approachable is one of the fundamental steps to engage people. Many citizens I've talked with express a fear of being challenged. I believe too many mainstream media outlets make citizenship look like something to shy away from. Average people don't get enough attention. That's unfortunate. Calling constituents just to ask their opinion helps stir engagement. Introducing people who share common concerns also stirs participation in the people's issues. In a nutshell, being responsive to citizens and their ideas help foster ownership and interest in common problems.

[Back to the Top](#)

Martin C. (Marty) Spechler

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Question 1: Why are you running for office?

To serve the people of District 3 whom I have been serving as Democratic Committee member and state delegate for nearly 20 years and as City Councilor for over 3 years. Serving means dealing with minor street and other repairs by communicating with City officials, successfully lobbying for renewal and expansion of our two parks, persuading fellow Sidewalk Committee members to build a critical sidewalk on the west side of Sheffield Drive.

I oppose wasteful spending on EZID and tax abatements for projects that do not expand employment at a living wage or promise sustainably affordable housing. (My colleagues have approved these twice, to my regret.)

Question 2: What are the top three issues that concerned you enough to run for City Council? What legislative initiative(s) do you intend to pursue in the first or second year of your term?

(1) Expanding job opportunities for the unemployed, disabled adults, and ex-offenders. (2) Providing affordable housing throughout the city, mainly by renovating existing houses and apartments, (3) Building new bicycle and walking paths throughout the city.

Exploring a revised zoning ordinance that would allow relatives of residents to accommodate relatives in auxiliary apartments. Non-lethal control of neighborhood deer over-population if approved by DNR and proved both effective and economical. Expansion of the Materials Recovery Facility to include “wet” discards, to the extent possible and economical.

Question 3: List your political experience (here and elsewhere), including any grassroots activity in which you participated or led. What particular skills - political, civic, employment - do you bring to the office that you feel makes you a good candidate?

Past-president, Bloomington Jewish Community

Seven term elected representative, University Faculty Council.

I walk the District every afternoon to listen to constituents

Many appearances on WFIU and letters to the HT.

Past member, Journalists AFL union

Question 4: In what way(s) do you consider yourself progressive? How do these principles apply to the City Council, and how do you plan to apply them to implementing your agenda while in office?

I am a moderate Democrat in the tradition of Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, Bill Clinton, and Barack Obama. I support progressive improvements of our arts venues and subsidies for children and low-income attendance at cultural programs. I support capital projects within the limits of our tax capacity. I support our fire and police forces, including enhanced pensions. I have voted for freedom to marry and stand for vigorous enforcement of human rights for all citizens. I voted for campaign financing limitations. I have worked repeatedly for local Democrats.

[Back to the Top](#)

District Four

Philippa Guthrie

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Question 1: Why are you running for office?

I am running for several reasons. Although I generally support the direction the city has taken over the last decade or so, there have been issues that were not priorities that I think need to be addressed. Homelessness and the city's approach to economic growth are examples, and I elaborate on these issues in my response to question 2. I believe I would bring broad based skills and experience in law, governance, non-profit management, social services and business, and a balanced, collaborative approach to addressing these issues that would be beneficial for the council and the city.

Second, I think voters should have choices when they go to the voting booth. We have had the same mayor and many of the same elected officials in Bloomington for twelve years, including in District 4. Too often in Bloomington people are afraid to challenge an incumbent, so the same people remain in place year after year. I think it's time for fresh ideas and perspectives on the council.

Question 2: What are the top three issues that concerned you enough to run for City Council? What legislative initiative(s) do you intend to pursue in the first or second year of your term?

The top three issues that convinced me to run are social services delivery, economic development, and environmental sustainability. I am focused on the following aspects:

- Enhancing social services delivery so it focuses on the underlying issues, such as mental illness, that prevent people from becoming self-sufficient. Many people who utilize our social services have several different needs. For example, I have seen from my years of service on the Volunteers in Medicine Board that clients may be brought in by a physical health need, but it turns out they also have a mental illness and are in need of additional services provided by other agencies. We need to lift people out of poverty and homelessness and we can do this by better coordination of the multiple kinds of services we must provide them.
- Encouraging economic opportunity and responsible growth that strengthen the city and region, using partnerships with our stellar education institutions. Through my work as General Counsel for the Indiana University Foundation, I have developed contacts that I would use to help develop these partnerships.
- Enhancing Bloomington's environmental sustainability in new ways, for example, exploring solar energy use and banning of plastic bags, assuring adequate bike paths, sidewalks and bus service.

I plan to pursue the following legislative initiatives:

- Increasing fiscal accountability. Given the multiple instances of embezzlement of public funds, it is clear there are insufficient checks and balances in place to prevent fraud. In addition, it would seem that insufficient time has been spent on overseeing the city's finances. We simply have to be better stewards of our public funds. The city council is responsible for approving the city budget so it must take a significant role in resolving these issues.
- Use of alternative energy such as solar in our city buildings, and finding ways to encourage private citizens to convert to solar as well.
- Whether it is strictly legislative action or not, analyzing the city's role in supporting social services both financially and otherwise, and establishing public/private/non-profit partnerships to better coordinate how we fund and deliver such services.
- Addressing the urban deer problem in our neighborhoods through legislative action that focuses on options identified by the Deer Task Force, e.g. bans on feeding the deer and fence height restrictions.

Question 3: List your political experience (here and elsewhere), including any grassroots activity in which you participated or led. What particular skills - political, civic, employment - do you bring to the office that you feel makes you a good candidate?

My first political experience was as a volunteer for a senate campaign in California when I was a few years out of college. I did research and other tasks for that campaign. During a law school summer I worked as a special assistant to the New York City Council President, Andrew Stein, who served as the ombudsman for the city. My job was to assist in fielding complaints from New Yorkers, and following up by investigating and developing responses to the issues raised. I have since knocked on doors and

made phone calls for local candidates, for the Obama campaigns, and for the MCCSC ballot initiative, and served as treasurer for a mayoral campaign. Currently I am the Perry 14 Precinct Chair, and I have worked the polls for a number of elections over the years. I have been a member for about seven years of the Democratic Women's Caucus, and currently serve on the Steering Committee, and I have also served on the Bloomington Environmental Commission and the Growth Policy Plan Steering Committee.

I believe my professional and volunteer experience and my skills in leading others and fostering collaborative relationships and trust make me a good candidate for City Council. The roles of the City Council are to draft and enact legislation, manage city property and finances, and ensure delivery of services. I studied law and public administration at IU and have been a practicing lawyer for 23 years. Much of my work involves interpreting and applying the law, so I understand how legislation should work. I deal with financial and property issues regularly, and have expertise in boards and governance through my past work for businesses, the IU Foundation and my service on the boards of Volunteers in Medicine, Centerstone, the Environmental Commission and the Growth Policy Plan Steering Committee. In my work for these varied organizations, I have held leadership roles, managed others, worked collaboratively in teams and groups to achieve goals, and developed relationship building skills that are essential for getting things done. All of these skills are just as essential in the political arena. Most of all, I focus on listening, learning, building consensus, and making tough decisions. I believe all of these things make me a good candidate.

Question 4: In what way(s) do you consider yourself progressive? How do these principles apply to the City Council, and how do you plan to apply them to implementing your agenda while in office?

I believe government should play a substantial role in promoting the public good and protecting our future. Bloomington will continue to grow over the next 20 years, and will face environmental, social and fiscal challenges brought on by factors such as population growth, I-69, and continued development. As we look to the future, we must make sure that we remain committed to a legislative process that facilitates citizen input, promotes equal rights for all, values diversity, reduces human impact on the environment and preserves it for future generations, and ensures that our neediest citizens are taken care of.

The City Council is responsible for the legislative agenda and fiscal oversight of Bloomington. I will strive to make sure that the values of citizen participation, diversity, environmental protection, and commitment to social services are reflected in the legislative and budgetary processes. For example, our building codes and property maintenance ordinances should encourage environmentally responsible development and affordable housing. Our budget should reflect our commitment to providing comprehensive social services to our neediest and most disadvantaged residents. The people we appoint to task forces and commissions should reflect our commitment to diversity. The meetings of the Council themselves should be structured in ways that broadly facilitate citizen input.

Question 5: In what way(s) do you consider yourself fiscally responsible? How would you manage and prioritize the scarce resource of public finances to achieve the goals you want to achieve? Be specific where possible.

My personal approach to finances is fairly conservative. I believe that in dealing with public funds and the public trust that is inherent in that responsibility, I would approach the spending of public money much as I would approach the spending of my own money.

I have experience in both the private and non-profit sectors with fiscal management. In my current role at the IU Foundation, I manage my own departmental budget, and as a member of senior management, have a shared responsibility for overseeing the financial health of the organization and for ensuring that our 990 is properly completed and filed. I also work very closely with our internal auditor on numerous issues regarding financial compliance. So I am comfortable with thinking about budgets, finances and fiscal responsibility.

How I would manage and prioritize scarce public resources necessarily depends on what the funding needs and specific priorities are. I believe that these could change from year to year, and that funding might need to shift accordingly. I would certainly want to explore additional sources of funding, and I support the use of TIFs and the recent combining of several Bloomington TIFs to provide additional funding for city priorities in those areas.

Question 6: How will you balance the interests of all members of the community to improve the quality of life in Bloomington - your discussion might include (but is not limited to) issues of justice, health, affordable housing, homelessness, community safety and transportation.

Our form of government is largely based on trust. It only works well if the citizens are part of the process. I think trust starts with clear and frequent communication, so I will establish ways to communicate with my constituents, and ensure that those groups and individuals who would be affected by city action are sought out for their opinions and concerns. Ultimately, public service is a group effort, with broad constituent participation, and improving our city will happen most effectively with their consent, or at least acknowledgment, of the fact that there are competing interests at play. Not everyone will be pleased with a particular end result, but if it is done right, they won't be surprised and they will understand why a decision was made.

I think with this kind of broad public participation, we can better pursue improving the quality of life for our neediest citizens. The city has a responsibility to ensure that its residents have an adequate safety net for health care, housing and other basic needs. Most importantly, each single issue faced by our most vulnerable citizens, for example homelessness, lack of health care, and mental illness, must be viewed in the overall context of the poverty in our community. We need our delivery of social services to focus on outcomes--bringing people out of poverty and helping them become functional and self-sufficient. Many individuals who present with a need actually have several, or many, and they are therefore not adequately served by just one agency or program, unless that program includes wraparound services that address all the needs. We are starting to explore this with the homeless, and

Centerstone did it with a grant to provide employment services for individuals with past convictions. Addressing all the needs, including housing, works best.

Finally, many of these issues, for example, affordable housing, are issues throughout the county. So the city and the county need to work together, and to enlist IU, Ivy Tech and the business community, to craft approaches and find sufficient funding. Similarly although education of our children is technically a county function, I feel strongly that the city can and should play a role in education. Many MCCSC students live in Bloomington, and so many end up at Ivy Tech and IU. I believe collaboration between the city, county, our institutions of higher education, and the private sector, is the best and possibly only way to enhance our schools, particularly those that deal with vulnerable populations and may be struggling. The futures of our children and the health of our region and our country depend on how we address this.

Question 7: Describe how you would engage all citizens to be more active participants in our community and in our government.

I will establish ways to communicate with my constituents, through neighborhood associations, social and other media, open houses and group meetings, and individual meetings. I will attend public events that offer opportunities for dialogue. I will welcome questions and challenges to established and proposed ways of operating. The key is to create opportunities for discussion of issues that matter to people, civic discussion at the City Council meetings, at library forums, and in informal settings.

I would like to have “office hours” for District 4 constituents and any other members of the public to meet with me. I am also a big fan of mentoring youth—they are our future public servants. For several years after 9-11, the Indiana Bar Association asked attorneys to visit schools and other groups and educate them about the Bill of Rights. Participating in this program was a joy for me, and I was thrilled to be able to speak with students about what makes our country unique and vibrant. I can imagine engaging in similar activities if I am elected, for example having a “shadow your councilor” program for local schools, and/or making personal visits to schools to discuss my role as a public servant.

[Back to the Top](#)

David Rollo

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Question 1: Why are you running for office?

As an incumbent, to complete work that I began in the past several years. I hope to serve the citizens of Bloomington in creating the most livable, dynamic and sustainable community in the Midwest.

Question 2: What are the top three issues that concerned you enough to run for City Council? What legislative initiative(s) do you intend to pursue in the first or second year of your term?

1. Build on my continuing work for a sustainable city: improving our environment, social equity and our local economy in unison to foster community quality of life.
2. Downtown development: promoting appropriate scale and height, quality of buildings and architectural design standards, and demographic diversity.
3. The Comprehensive Plan (Imagine Bloomington) and the ordinance changes that will provide our community vision for development for the next 25 years.

What legislative initiative(s) do you intend to pursue in the first or second year of your term?

1. Putting the brakes on large-scale downtown development until we complete our comprehensive plan (Imagine Bloomington) that is not likely to be completed until early 2017. This cessation of large-scale development may be accomplished by an ordinance by the City Council.
2. Creation of a City of Bloomington Labor Commission. This would be an advisory body composed of representatives of unions, academics in labor studies, and rank and file members. It would advise City government on policies to insure fair labor practices, create quality jobs through tax abatements and other methods of government assistance, review our living wage ordinance to improve its effectiveness, and educate the public on labor issues, whether local, state or national.
3. An updated and thorough greenhouse gas emission assessment is needed (the previous assessment was completed in 2009). I hope to work with the Commission on Sustainability and the Environmental Commission to assist in a current assessment. Legislative initiatives should evolve from this process. The legislation should have a specific carbon reduction goal by reducing energy use, producing energy, or sequestering carbon.
4. Creation of a Deer Management Team (DMT) for the city. Currently, there is no appointed office, or group within the urban environment that is tracking deer impacts, social tolerance, and current findings concerning their biology and behavior. The creation of a DMT was advised by the City of Bloomington/Monroe County Joint Deer Taskforce (DTF).

It should be noted that work by the DTF attracted a multi-year study valued at nearly \$1million by researchers at Ball State University. Professor Tim Carter (Ball State University) is leading the study using GPS tracking collars to study mortality/morbidity, range, migration and other behaviors in adult urban deer compared to their rural counterparts.

The duties of the DMT would entail:

- A summation, communication and assessment of current research by Dr. Tim Carter and his colleagues to the public, and to policy makers.
 - Tracking of deer-vehicle collisions within the city.
 - Keeping current on the latest deer management methods and research.
 - Staying apprised of the current DNR regulations and programs.
 - Receiving and cataloging information from residents on their experiences with deer.
 - Determining if non-lethal methods may be employed on the basis of Dr. Carter's research.
5. Bringing forward an inclusionary zoning ordinance that generates more affordable housing units. I have already sponsored changes in the Unified Development Ordinance that provides incentives. Greater incentives, or mandated percentage of affordable units is the next step.

Question 3: List your political experience (here and elsewhere), including any grassroots activity in which you participated or led. What particular skills - political, civic, employment - do you bring to the office that you feel makes you a good candidate?

I was trained as a scientist, and earned a Master's Degree in Biology and was employed for many years in the IU Department of Biology as a Research Associate. My background in science spans ecology, to molecular and microbiology. My last project was work on a bacterial photosynthetic fuel cell for clean energy production.

I now run a small business, as a partnership, which is a local organic vegetable farm and small native plant nursery.

I began as an issue activist in the Bloomington Rainforest Action Group. The aim was not only to protect the forest, but the indigenous people that reside there.

I became politically active in the presidential candidacy of Jerry Brown in 1992. It is at this time that I joined the local Democratic Party. In 1993 I formed a coalition of labor, environmental organizations and people opposed to I-69 (CARR) to lobby against NAFTA. We helped convince two Congressional Representatives (IN-7, and IN-8) to oppose the agreement. I was given an award for this work by the White River Central Labor Council, for bring environmentalists and organized labor together. We went on to oppose the GATT (the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade).

In 1994 I worked on two Congressional campaigns, those of Frank McCloskey (IN-8) and Jim Jontz (IN-5). Both of these resulted in friendships with these progressive leaders. In 1995 I became active in both the Sierra Club and the Izaak Walton League, and organized press conferences for both organizations to expose the anti-environmental voting record of the then newly-elected Congressional Representative John Hostettler.

In 1996 I served as an environmental advisor to candidate Jonathan Weinzapfel, who challenged Hostettler. In 1997, I worked briefly in California for Jerry Brown's campaign for Mayor of Oakland.

In 1998 I worked with Common Cause and the Citizen Action Coalition on educational efforts concerning campaign finance reform (the then McCain-Feingold Bill).

I worked on a number of local Democratic campaigns in the late 1990's such as Mark Stoops, Brian O'neill's and Charlotte Zietlow's, Sophia Travis and Andy Ruff's.

From 1995-2003 I served on the Bloomington Environmental Commission, and was Chair at the time of a historic report examining the loss of greenspace in our community to sprawl. I worked actively on the 2002 City Comprehensive Plan (also known as the GPP – Growth Policies Plan) particularly on the Environmental Policy Essence section, including inserting the first reference to “sustainability” in a city policy document.

In 2003 I ran for City Council on a platform of curbing sprawl, and promoting sustainability. I have served twice as Council President (currently), and have served on the following City boards, commissions and committees:

- The Planning Commission
- The Utilities Service Board
- The Commission on Sustainability (created, and served as first Chair), 10 year member.
- The Environmental Commission (chair)
- The Bloomington Economic Development Corporation
- The Board of Parks Environmental Resources Advisory Committee
- Jack Hopkins Social Services Committee
- The City Council Sidewalk Committee (chair) 12 year member
- Sustainability Commission/Environmental Commission Greenhouse Gas Emissions subcommittee.
- City of Bloomington PCB Cleanup Advisory Committee
- Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee
- City Council Rail Exploratory Committee

Additionally, I sponsored legislation for the creation of special purpose Task Forces:

- Joint City of Bloomington/Monroe County Deer Task Force (sponsor/chair) to evaluate deer impact on our community.
- City of Bloomington Peak Oil Task Force (sponsor/chair) to reduce community dependency on oil due to depletion and climate impacts.
- City of Bloomington Platinum Biking Task Force (sponsor/chair) To achieve the highest status of community recognition by the American League of Bicyclists.

Each of these produced a report, and each was accepted as advisory documents by the City Council to advise on policy. The reports may be found here:

2009. *Redefining Prosperity: Energy Descent and Community Resilience*. Advisory document for the City of Bloomington, Indiana. <http://bloomington.in.gov/media/media/application/pdf/6239.pdf>

2011. *Breaking Away: The Journey to Platinum*. Report of the City of Bloomington Platinum Biking Task Force. <http://bloomington.in.gov/media/media/application/pdf/10653.pdf>

2012 . *Common Ground: Toward Balance and Stewardship*. Report of the Joint City of Bloomington/Monroe County Deer Task Force.

<http://bloomington.in.gov/media/media/application/pdf/12811.pdf>

As I have served on the City Council, I have also volunteered for other Democratic campaigns, including work for Baron Hill's campaigns for Congress. Additionally, I served as an energy advisor to Representative Hill.

My civic engagement includes over 100 talks and guest lectures on energy related matters over the past 10 years. A selected list of presentations and participation includes:

Kelley School of Business, Civic Leadership Development Series, October 24,

2006. "World Citizenship: The Crisis in Darfur." (invited speaker)

O'Bannon Institute Center for Civic Engagement, April 23, 2008. "National

Issues, Local Impact" conference. Environmental Policy Panel. (panelist)

American Planning Association, Indiana Chapter, Fall 2011 (keynote speaker)

Topic: Energy Depletion and Community Resilience Planning.

American Planning Association, Indiana Chapter, Spring 2010 (invited speaker)

Topic: Community Planning for Energy Scarcity.

Congressman Baron Hill's Southern Indiana Economic Forum, 2008,

2009, 2010. (presenter and panelist)

Topic: Energy and the Economy.

Illinois Renewable Energy Conference, August 7, 2010 (invited speaker)

Topic: Energy and Community Adaptation.

Indiana University Themester Series "Sustainability: Thriving on Small

Planet" (guest panelist)

Center for Research in Environmental Science, Indiana University, February 14,

2012. (guest speaker)

Topic: Energy Resiliency.

Clean Energy Economy Forum, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, October 21,

2009, by invitation of the White House. (participant)

Question 4: In what way(s) do you consider yourself progressive? How do these principles apply to the City Council, and how do you plan to apply them to implementing your agenda while in office?

Our greatest challenge as a society is living within our planet's ecological limits. Depletion of non-renewable resources, climate change, ocean acidification, species extinction are all symptomatic of not observing and adapting to ecological limits. This is an ethical matter of intergenerational equity, as we are critically short-changing future generations of their right to a livable planet.

A sustainable society recognizes that to meet these challenges, we must address social equity and the gross inequality forces people to suffer in poverty. We must promote an economy that rewards re-investment in our communities, instead of an extractive process that hollows them out. We must preserve and heal our environment, and regard it as our life support system.

I am a progressive because to maximize equity we must end discrimination based on race, gender and sexual orientation. We must address the grotesque wealth divide, and create work that promotes the health and welfare of our society. Our healthcare should be a right of every citizen, and not a by-product of a profit driven system. I defend the right of collective bargaining, and the right of workers to unionize.

I am a progressive because I recognize that our political system is controlled by a campaign finance system that is a form of bribery. It binds our representatives in obligation to wealth, and corrupts the democratic process of representation from citizens to artificial persons in the form of corporations.

Furthermore, corporate power controls our food systems, our media, our trade, our healthcare, and increasingly our educational system. To remedy this, I support the legal challenge to corporate personhood.

Here is a partial record of my service on the City Council:

- Created the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability (Preceding both Indiana University and Monroe County).
- served on the Planning Commission in 2003-04, and played a key role in the approval of the South Dunn St. Neighborhood, a leading new urbanist development design in Bloomington.
- Succeeded in amending city code to protect greater amounts of greenspace (green infrastructure) in development review.
- Supported the acquisition of the City's purchase of 12 acres to control key development in the downtown's Certified Tech Park, so that city government can control a key area for economic development and housing downtown.
- Supported the acquisition of the Switchyard Park – the City's largest, along the B-line Trail, and when completed, will be the largest urban park in our community.
- Sponsored (with Isabel Piedmont-Smith) a green building ordinance to bring all City buildings up to LEED Silver status.
- Assisted two co-housing developments to increase affordable housing in our community.
- Supported, and worked to pass the largest Habitat for Humanity project, just west of downtown.
- Amended city code to provide incentives for affordable housing development in the city.
- Supported land acquisition and appropriations for the B-line trail – a key community pedestrian and biking asset.
- Sponsored legislation (requested by the Board of Parks Commissioners) to save the City's largest nature preserve Griffy Lake from deer damage, preserving habitat for hundreds of other species.
- Sponsored a "Switch a Light/Save the Earth" program to swap out incandescent bulbs throughout the city.
- Requested the creation of a Sustainability Coordinator in the Economic and Sustainable Development Office of the City.

- Supported naturalization projects (such as in Bryan Park) that create an urban wildlife habitat.
- Opposed the downtown parking meters (due to the rate, the hours of enforcement, size of the downtown overlay and the regressive nature of the ordinance for low income residents).
- Supported lower building height restrictions along Kirkwood Ave. and the downtown to protect our pedestrian and human-scaled urban environment.
- Advocated for solar-voltaic panels to be placed on the roof of City Hall.
- Sponsored a Resolution adopting a Food Charter for the city, drafted by the Food Policy Council, to expand our local food economy, food security and access to food for residents.
- Co-sponsored (with Andy Ruff) the City's Living Wage Ordinance.
- Advocated for protection of key "Safe Routes to School" for children.
- Served as Chair of the Environmental Commission during our analysis of the community's first Greenspace Inventory.
- Sponsored a resolution to support the Kyoto Protocol, and worked with the Environmental Commission and the Commission on Sustainability for the community's first greenhouse gas assessment.
- Sponsored a Resolution in 2004 to call for a rejection of all electronic voting machines without a paper trail validation of the vote.
- Promoted new development code changes to protect larger tracts of Greenspace, and other environmentally sensitive features.
- Supported the inclusion of GLBT residents as a protected class in Bloomington City Code.
- Sponsored a Resolution calling for an immediate end to the genocide in Darfur.
- Sponsored a letter from Councilmembers to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management calling on them to reject Duke Energy's proposed Edwardsville IGCC power plant.
- Supported the smoking ban ordinance for local restaurants and bars.

Question 5: In what way(s) do you consider yourself fiscally responsible? How would you manage and prioritize the scarce resource of public finances to achieve the goals you want to achieve? Be specific where possible.

Scrutiny of the City Budget:

One of our primary roles as the City Council is the review and pass our yearly budget. It begins with requests by Councilmembers to the Administration in early spring, to communicate our priorities. The budget review begins typically in mid-summer, many weeks before the hearings and the budget is approved in September. I scrutinize every line item in each department's budget with previous year budgets to note changes, and query department heads after their presentations. The time from the July to September provides the departments the opportunity to provide more information to the Council in response to our questions, when again the departments give their overview of their individual budgets.

A time horizon several years into the future:

Projected account balances, tax revenues, expenditures and reserves are now anticipated due to the state mandated cap on property taxes. This requires us to be very careful in any expenditures as our revenue stream has been greatly limited.

Investments in the basics:

Investments in operations and capital occur yearly, and meet the test of needs and priorities of the City Departments, the Mayor and the Council's. Citizens have an expectation of high quality service and infrastructure, and that is reflected in our budgets.

For instance, our goal of increasing public safety, with additions of police officers, and facilities has been an ongoing priority of both the Administration and the City Council. Meeting basic needs for the health, safety and welfare of our constituents is the first priority of fiscal responsibility.

Investments that reap benefits in the future:

Investments, such as our goal to Platinum Biking Infrastructure, and the new Transit Center pay dividends in costs savings that might have required expansion of roads. Our goal of water conservation likewise will reduce the need for future plant expansion. Investments in energy efficiency, high mileage vehicles (such as hybrid buses), and our Green Building Ordinance LEED certification will save taxpayers money in the future.

Using volunteer labor, relying on our community's expertise:

Lastly, within the Council's budget, I have initiated several important investigations on topics of urban deer, energy depletion and cost, and biking infrastructure.

These Task Forces rely largely on citizen volunteers to save money, and have been conducted at a fraction of the cost of hiring consultants.

Question 6: How will you balance the interests of all members of the community to improve the quality of life in Bloomington - your discussion might include (but is not limited to) issues of justice, health, affordable housing, homelessness, community safety and transportation.

First, I balance the interests by having no obligation of one priority over another as a consequence of campaign contributions. I purposely focus my attention on policy that promotes the public interest. Limiting campaign contributions to a very modest amount prevents conflicted interests later.

I see local government's role as providing basic services in the form of public safety, multi-modal infrastructure for transportation, public transportation, water and sewer and other goods and services that the private sector would not provide in an equitable manner.

I sponsored incentives for low income housing within the Unified Development Ordinance. I have also supported and assisted petitioners in Bloomington's first co-housing proposals. The next step in affordable housing is for the City to provide units in our own developments, and for us to use inclusionary zoning to insure that a portion of the housing stock is for low-income residents.

Question 7: Describe how you would engage all citizens to be more active participants in our community and in our government.

I am accessible by personal phone, e-mail, and Council office contact.

I hold monthly constituent meetings for people to meet with me individually or in groups. These are held the third Thursday of each month from 5:30pm – 7pm at the Elm Heights Bloomingfoods.

I am a strong proponent of neighborhood associations and the Council of Neighborhood Associations (CONA), and regularly meet with neighborhoods to determine their needs, and to communicate recent City policy to them. I stay in contact with neighborhood association presidents, and the CONA leadership to stay aware of neighborhood concerns.

I feel that Councilmembers can serve as catalysts for ideas at the neighborhood level, and have sponsored many neighborhood derived initiatives, including sidewalks, side-paths, safe routes to schools, neighborhood improvement grants, neighborhood gardens and naturalization projects, storm water improvements, traffic calming and neighborhood safety measures. I have worked with citizens in applying for variances through the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) and the Board of Public Works. I have worked on projects with citizen petitioners

I encourage citizens to join us at Council meetings, Plan Commission meetings, to participate in Citizens Academy, and to apply to various Boards and Commissions.

On the Council, I make sure that meetings are accessible and open to the public. I have generally favored more time for public comment, rather than less time.

[Back to the Top](#)

District Five

Kurt Babcock

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Question 1: Why are you running for office?

I've always been interested in government and now my kids are old enough that I will have the time required to devote to the Council and apply my unique experience from working in both local and state government along with my personal desire to see Bloomington succeed.

Question 2: What are the top three issues that concerned you enough to run for City Council? What legislative initiative(s) do you intend to pursue in the first or second year of your term?

Economic development- I think the potential of the Certified Technology Park is amazing and we need more creative opportunities like it

Transportation Development- I fully support biking and public transportation and would like to see a more coordinated effort with the County so that it can be fully developed to cover the entire county

Potential IU Health Hospital relocation- I know the city cannot force IU Health to stay, but the city needs to be involved and maintain a positive presence and also begin working on a contingency plan in case it does move

More solar power initiatives, I look at Burlington, Vermont as a potential model city

I will promote legislation for alternative transportation plans developed in coordination with the County

Question 3: List your political experience (here and elsewhere), including any grassroots activity in which you participated or led. What particular skills - political, civic, employment - do you bring to the office that you feel makes you a good candidate?

As a current County Government employee, I think I can help foster cooperation and encourage teamwork between the City and County.

Skills- Honesty, Active Listener, Patience, Determination, Consensus Making, Good Communicator

GIS Coordinator for the Department of Natural Resources at the State Government Center for 5 years

GIS Coordinator for Monroe County Government (7 years this April)

Senior Environmental Planner for RW Armstrong & Associates, an international consulting company that developed transportation plans, airports, and municipal wastewater treatment systems

I also worked in social services as a house manager for Stone Belt and actually had a young autistic gentleman live with me and my family. This experience has helped me better understand social services and working with the developmentally disabled population.

On the Board of Directors for Indiana Geographic Information Council ([IGIC](#))

Member of the MPO's Technical Advisory Committee and 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Task Force

Monroe County Emergency Management Coordination Board and Monroe County Siren Study Committee

Question 4: In what way(s) do you consider yourself progressive? How do these principles apply to the City Council, and how do you plan to apply them to implementing your agenda while in office?

I consider myself a progressive because I believe liberty not only includes personal freedom, but also a set of obligations, duties, sacrifices and responsibilities that come along with being a member of a social community. This directly applies to City Council as it is the governing body that helps create the legislation that define those obligations and sacrifices. I also believe in holding large economic entities accountable and to maintain fair practices. My progressive views are a part of my plan and therefore will be crucial to making progress while I'm in office.

Question 5: In what way(s) do you consider yourself fiscally responsible?

I consider myself fiscally responsible because I live within my means by prioritizing my needs along with my wants and try to maximize my resources to meet those needs and as many desires as possible

How would you manage and prioritize the scarce resource of public finances to achieve the goals you want to achieve? Be specific where possible.

By aligning my goals based on public input and common sense, while expressing a willingness to compromise is critical in managing public finances.

Question 6: How will you balance the interests of all members of the community to improve the quality of life in Bloomington - your discussion might include (but is not limited to) issues of justice, health, affordable housing, homelessness, community safety and transportation.

Respectful communication and compromise are keys to finding balance in any situation. We also need to promote more collaboration, not only between the City and County, but IU and Ivy Tech as well. We just have to look at the Small Business Development Center as a prime example of the benefits of true collaboration.

Question 7: Describe how you would engage all citizens to be more active participants in our community and in our government.

I will hold regularly scheduled constituency meetings to encourage and gain as much public input as possible, use social media as a way for simple mass communication, and when I'm out in the community I will be approachable and look to engage folks in discussions about government and urge participation.

[Back to the Top](#)

Gabriel Colman

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Question 1: Why are you running for office?

As a native of Bloomington and a small business owner, content to raise my family in the Bloomington Community, I am excited to take responsibility for my community. I believe the city council can benefit from having the perspective of a small business owner and progressive Democrat involved in its decision making process.

Question 2: What are the top three issues that concerned you enough to run for City Council?

Community safety as it relates to development and expansion of our community.

The Development of Switchyard Park and the opportunity to create neighborhoods and homes around the park.

The allocation of resources within our community, particularly with an eye towards addressing community safety and social service in our expanding and developing city.

What legislative initiative(s) do you intend to pursue in the first or second year of your term?

It would be presumptive to talk about legislative initiative at this time. I look forward to being a voice of reason and a vote of fairness, but I hesitate to discuss making or changing laws until I more fully grasp what resources I have to work with.

I look forward to having input on how we distribute the revenue from parking meters in a way that encourages more locals and visitors to invest in our community. I look forward to creating new sources of revenue for our city, in an effort to solidify Bloomington as an independent entity. I look forward to shaping the development soon coming to my district in an effort to address the needs and concerns of my constituents, which are:

- Keeping the B-line trail safe and civil
- The potential negative effects of concentrating affordable housing in one area
- Helping emergency services grow in conjunction with our area
- Addressing litter in our green spaces

Finally, I do feel confident in saying that in light of recent circumstances, I believe the City Council should have the ability to have input on waivers granted by the Planning Commission, if legislation need be enacted to make this a reality, then I would work towards accomplishing that.

Question 3: List your political experience (here and elsewhere), including any grassroots activity in which you participated or led. What particular skills - political, civic, employment - do you bring to the office that you feel makes you a good candidate?

Experience-Although I am just now at the beginning of my political career, I do have years of experience serving the public. Through my business I have organized numerous community arts and education programs available, for free, to the public. I have budgeting and communication experience as a board member of both Bloomington North Rotary, where I have served as Club Secretary and will serve as President in 2016, as well as serving on the board of the Bloomington Gallery Walk Committee as Public Relations Officer, a board dedicated to organizing and encouraging both our community, and neighboring communities to visit and put money into our economy.

Skills- I have the fiscal responsibility of a successful small business owner who manages his own books, as well as the interpersonal communication skills of someone who works regularly with eccentric and sometimes difficult characters, i.e. Artists.

One skill that sets me apart, with my school training and my profession, is that I have years of experience giving and receiving constructive criticism. As a seller of fine art who communicates the needs of my patrons to the artists who create, I am practiced at critiquing with individuals in a way that brings about feedback in a positive message, designed to encourage growth and understanding. I believe this skill will be helpful in interacting with both the general public and the city employees whom I would be in contact with.

Question 4: In what way(s) do you consider yourself progressive? How do these principles apply to the City Council, and how do you plan to apply them to implementing your agenda while in office?

This question was difficult for me to address, because I was raised in a progressive household, and what some call progressive, I think is very simply the way things ought to be in a safe and civil world.

Concepts such as:

- A woman is just as capable to be a Doctor as a man.

-A felon has as much right to work as anyone.

-Any community in development should strive to maintain a balance with the natural environment surrounding it.

-Two people who love and care for each other should be afforded spousal rights, regardless of gender, race, religion or creed.

These are concepts that have been instilled in me by having Democratic parents, one who spent 40 years as a civil rights and criminal defense lawyer in this community, and one who ran her own successful small business, by women for women. I do not get to have much say in the way the world works, but I can have some say in how Bloomington works, and I want to bring what comes natural to me, to my community.

One way I can advocate my progressive ideals relates to development. The City has leverage against developers seeking tax abatements, so The City can ask for funding, support, and/or advocacy of programs that will promote the type of equality and education that can create a way of life that is beneficial for all. This will also act as a way to incentive me to be proactive in finding quality developers to bring to our area.

Question 5: In what way(s) do you consider yourself fiscally responsible? How would you manage and prioritize the scarce resource of public finances to achieve the goals you want to achieve? Be specific where possible.

I am a small business owner; I run a consignment art gallery and gift shop. My solid reputation is built on the understanding that artists will leave me with their creations, ranging from paintings to earrings. I will promote and sell, and I will pay them their portion of sales in a timely fashion. I am called upon to manage and track inventory and provide complete transparency. I am pleased to say that in 6 years of business I have worked with over 200 artists from all over the country and I have never bounced a check. I have gained their trust by being consistent, open, and honest by making myself available and by holding myself accountable when mistakes occur.

I intend to bring my sense of scrutiny, balance, and humility to the process of prioritizing resources that keep our city moving forward and expanding. I also look forward to bringing my sense of creativity to allocating the money generated from the economic development areas within our community and my district in particular.

Whenever I brainstorm with council members or city employees about making changes or creating something new, I commonly get the response, "ok, what then are you going to cut..." This point of view has motivated me to think about how we can create new sources of city revenue within our city. Although meant to be seen as regulatory, the inclusion of parking meters in our community has created a new and significant stream of revenue, which needs to be distributed for the betterment of Bloomington.

There is a mayoral candidate who is advocating the decriminalization of Marijuana. Although this is not a priority of mine, I will point out that if the city created new ordinances and handled enforcing those ordinances, then the money generated from the tickets used through enforcement would then come back to the city, not the county, thus creating a new stream of revenue.

Question 6: How will you balance the interests of all members of the community to improve the quality of life in Bloomington - your discussion might include (but is not limited to) issues of justice, health, affordable housing, homelessness, community safety and transportation.

I will apply the 4-way test of Rotary to my decision making process, which asks: Is it the Truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Does it build good will? Will it be beneficial to all concerned? This test is the foundation of fair and balanced decision making, and it encourages examining all sides of the matter and invites multiple points of view.

By expanding economic development areas within our community, our current council is now relying on significant development to occur in order to fund projects that will stimulate growth. If we are going to attract developers to bring jobs to our community that pay a living wage and keep people in their homes, then we need to clean up our streets of obvious litter and blight and address the needs of the chronically homeless who are making our streets their recreation area.

Regarding homelessness in our community, we need to recognize this is an umbrella term, with many people standing under it. Among those people, there are a few that are making things difficult for the majority. Bloomington has wonderful resources available to people who are willing to put the effort into bettering themselves, and these resources need to be fostered and increased because they have a very positive impact. The city needs to show leadership in addressing those who choose not to help themselves, or do not qualify for help because of mental health issues, addiction issues, or criminal history. In addressing the needs of this group, we need to be aware of the very real impact they have on our neighborhoods and businesses as this demographic awaits the availability of limited resources. We direct this group of people to the streets, and it is contributing to safety issues that cannot be over looked, but can also not be addressed properly because of the current limitations of our county jail.

It is in the best interest of our city to be proactive about reckoning with not just the chronic homeless, but anyone who would use our streets and public areas in a way that they are not intended. This will require us to look at how mental health is playing a role in chronic homelessness, and how the city needs to work with The State to address this issue.

The fiscal nature of the recently expanded economic development areas will limit the ability of emergency services to grow in proportion to the population. The Council must be sensitive and proactive about allocating funds for specific needs of emergency services, which will require a constant dialogue and strong relationship in order to keep our areas up to date, safe, and civil.

Finally, in order to create an identity for Bloomington that is all its own, we need to do more to promote our iconic community as a destination for arts, culture and fine dining. We have a solid reputation within Indiana, but that needs to be shared with the rest of the Midwest. This will also increase our opportunity for families to consider moving here and increase the number of retirees

settling down in Bloomington. We need to reach out and promote ourselves to cities like Chicago, Louisville, Cincinnati and St. Louis and encourage them to visit and put money in our parking meters! This will boost our economy, benefit our small business community, and create the opportunity for new revenue streams for our city. This will grant us a level of autonomy that we currently miss out on, being as reliant as we are on parents' weekends and returning alumni.

Question 7: Describe how you would engage all citizens to be more active participants in our community and in our government.

I will do so on a personal level. I will make myself available to citizens and engage with them whenever and wherever I can. I will use technology to expand my constituents' opportunity to reach out to me and share their input.

I will also advocate for citizens of our community to make use of educational programs that the city offers such as Citizens Academy or Housing and Neighborhood Development classes like the First Time Home Buying class.

I have been in contact with Jason Carnes, Assistant Director of Economic and Sustainable Development, about the viability of creating a new educational program for the public that will focus on business development. Much like the Home Buyers class, this program would lay out the requirements and contacts that a potential developer should have in place when considering or moving forward with developing a business in our community. Jason believes this is a viable option and has spoken favorably to me about the opportunity to make such a class a reality. My desire to create this educational opportunity is in direct response to witnessing the struggles, obstacles and setbacks of my contemporaries in trying to open up their own businesses. Resources like this class would work to streamline and create efficiency with the city and avoid surprise setbacks.

[Back to the Top](#)

Isabel Piedmont-Smith

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Question 1: Why are you running for office?

I am running for City Council because I love Bloomington and want to help my community to thrive while facilitating inclusive government. I believe that grassroots democracy, collaboration, and informed decision-making can overcome our toughest obstacles. I have the qualifications and experience to help create a stronger Bloomington for all.

Question 2: What are the top three issues that concerned you enough to run for City Council?

Lack of affordable housing

Need to increase sustainability (fiscal, environmental, and economic)

Need to increase government transparency and grassroots participation

What legislative initiative(s) do you intend to pursue in the first or second year of your term?

While the details of the following proposals remain to be developed in collaboration with the public, businesses, the mayor, and other Council members, I intend to pursue:

- Mandatory recycling for apartment buildings.
- Inclusionary zoning (requiring a percentage of new housing unit to be affordable, or requiring the developer to pay into a revamped Bloomington housing trust fund as an alternative)
- A ban on the use of plastic shopping bags by businesses.

In addition, with the mayor's administration and the Plan Commission:

- A revised Growth Policies Plan that reflects the community's values, including area plans for downtown (encouraging a mix of residents, as far as age and income) and for the hospital site.

Years 3-4:

Regulation of private short-term rental housing (such as Airbnb) to allow the practice with registration and some restrictions.

Question 3: List your political experience (here and elsewhere), including any grassroots activity in which you participated or led. What particular skills - political, civic, employment - do you bring to the office that you feel makes you a good candidate?

I served on the City Council 2008-2012, was president in 2010, and worked on the Sidewalk Committee (one year as chair) and the Jack Hopkins Social Service Funding Committee (one year as chair). I also served 2.5 years as the City Council representative on the Plan Commission. In addition, I have served:

- Democratic Women's Caucus Steering Committee, 2012-Present
- Democracy for Monroe County Board of Directors, 2010
- Bloomington Environmental Commission, 2002-07 (President 2006)
- IU Bloomington Professional Staff Council, 2002-07 (President 2005-06)
- South Central Community Action Program board member, 2003-06
- Anti-Sweatshop Advisory Committee, Indiana University, 2003-06
- Citizens Advisory Committee of the Metropolitan Planning Organization, 2002-05

Through these various activities, I have learned how city government works, in particular the realm of planning and environmental protection, and I have developed insights into the nonprofit sector and built lasting relationships within the city and at IU. In addition, I have worked with many colleagues in the Monroe County Democratic Party on political campaigns, including issue campaigns such as defeating the state property tax cap proposal and individual races including those of Julie Thomas, Teresa Harper, Shelli Yoder, and Andy Ruff.

My "day job" since 1998 has been as fiscal officer and office manager in the Department of French and Italian at Indiana University, where I am responsible for over 40 accounts and supervise three staff members. I am also in charge of class scheduling, conference and guest speaker organization, producing an annual alumni newsletter, and departmental publicity. This employment has developed transferable skills in budgeting, managing staff, communications, and collaboration with a variety of individuals from the US and abroad.

Question 4: In what way(s) do you consider yourself progressive? How do these principles apply to the City Council, and how do you plan to apply them to implementing your agenda while in office?

As the exercise Lorraine Farrell led during DFMC's last endorsement process showed, 20 progressives in a room will each have a different definition of "progressive." When I use the term, I mean someone who:

- Is not afraid to try new ways to solve problems.
- Pursues social justice so that all members of society can participate fully without being held back by discrimination.
- Resists the domination of corporations over our economic, social, and political lives while recognizing the importance of labor unions as a balance to corporate power.
- Thinks government is more often the solution than the problem, if decisions are made democratically and wisely.
- Supports locally-controlled public education for each and every child, funded by our tax dollars.
- Fights for human rights, including the right of women to choose abortion, the right of homosexual couples to marry, the right of transgender individuals to live as they feel they are, etc.
- Believes in science, including the fact of global climate change caused by human activity, which we must curb as quickly as possible.
- Thinks that growth is not necessarily good, and that the earth cannot support unlimited growth.

These characteristics describe me, they have shaped my decisions while on the City Council, and they will shape my decisions if I am elected again. I co-sponsored the Green Building Ordinance to lower the city government's carbon footprint. I co-sponsored the Responsible Bidder Ordinance to ensure taxpayer dollars only go to employers who treat their workers right. And I co-sponsored the Urban Chicken Ordinance to allow more people to produce food locally, rather than getting it to Bloomington on gas-guzzling trucks.

Question 5: In what way(s) do you consider yourself fiscally responsible? How would you manage and prioritize the scarce resource of public finances to achieve the goals you want to achieve? Be specific where possible.

The City must have a solid plan to pay for any project before initiating that project. Tax breaks should only be given to achieve community goals when these goals would not be achieved any other way. Full-cost accounting should be used when assessing new real estate developments to take into account the public costs of roads, storm-water systems, schools, police, and fire protection. Long-term costs should be considered when the city itself builds new projects, to create buildings that are energy-efficient and infrastructure that will need fewer repairs. Sometimes a bigger up-front investment saves money down the road.

Given the recent, shocking financial malfeasance of two long-time city employees, the City Council must insist on a full report of improvements to internal financial controls, segregation of duties, and internal auditing practices now, and at regular intervals in the future.

Question 6: How will you balance the interests of all members of the community to improve the quality of life in Bloomington - your discussion might include (but is not limited to) issues of justice, health, affordable housing, homelessness, community safety and transportation.

Communication between city government and the constituencies it serves is key. Bloomington has advocacy groups for almost every segment of its population, and these groups must be brought into conversations regarding local government decisions that affect them. For example, when the City Council was considering a water rate increase, we discussed the effects it would have on low-income families with SCCAP and township trustees who provide utilities vouchers. In the future, when we discuss short-term temporary housing such as Airbnb's we need to talk to residents who need the extra income to make their mortgage payments as well as to the Monroe County Convention Center that's not getting innkeeper tax revenue from them.

Balancing competing interests in any community is difficult, but knowing who to call, and taking the trouble to make that call are the first steps. I can and will do that when deliberating difficult issues.

Question 7: Describe how you would engage all citizens to be more active participants in our community and in our government.

When I served on the City Council 2008-2012, I held regular monthly constituent meetings open to the public where I provided a written and conversational summary of the decisions the City Council made in the past month the issues coming to the Council in the month ahead. Then I asked for input on those issues from attendees. The remainder of the hour was open for any constituent questions or issues people wanted to raise. I learned so much from these meetings, and my constituents learned about city government processes and how the City Council worked. These meetings were a great experience for both sides, and I will hold them again if elected for another term.

I am also active on Facebook and Twitter, where I share information about city issues, happenings in District 5, and community events. I plan to continue to be active on social media if elected, and keep up my website as well. Through these venues I hope to bring more residents in to meetings of the City Council and related city bodies.

[Back to the Top](#)

At-Large

Susan Sandberg

I want to thank the membership of Democracy for Monroe County for your good efforts in supporting progressive candidates. Given my role in party leadership as the vice-chair of the MCDP, I have decided not to pursue any primary election endorsements with respect to the MCDP platform of remaining open and neutral in the vetting of primary candidates, both incumbents and challengers. As an incumbent in the at-large race myself, I find it more of a conflict of interest than I care to deal with, and will respectfully withdraw from any endorsement consideration at this time. Of course, as a member of the City Council since 2007 with a proven track record of progressive leadership, I will welcome the votes of the DFMC membership, both in the primary where we at-large candidates are not opposed and in the general election in November when we might be!

[Back to the Top](#)

City Clerk

Nicole Bolden

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Question 1: Why are you running for office?

I believe that it is a privilege and an honor to serve the public. I have enjoyed six years of service in the City Clerk's office, and would like to continue to serve.

Question 2: What are the top three issues that concerned you enough to run for City Clerk?

First, I was concerned about the loss of institutional memory. With the current city clerk stepping down after sixteen years in office, it is important to maintain a sense of continuity that will be served by my being elected Clerk. Second, I was concerned with the City's need to expand and improve on its customer service outreach, and ability to effectively engage the community in an easy and efficient manner. Last, I wanted to continue the process of digitizing records and improving the methods by which we produce them.

What is your vision for the Clerk's Office over the next four years in terms of staff management, record keeping, technology and other duties of the office?

One of the most important resources that the City has is its wonderful staff. The City Clerk currently employs two full-time staff members and one temporary part-time staff member. I would like to maintain that staff, while working to cross-train them all on all aspects of the office, and work with them to ensure the highest possible standard of customer service.

Our current technology is in the process of being updated. We are getting new software in the office for regular office work, as well as adding programs to help manage our boards and commissions. I would like to also look into adding computer systems to help with writing agendas and minutes for the Common Council meetings.

Question 3: List your political experience (here and elsewhere), including any grassroots activity in which you participated or led. What particular skills - political, civic, employment - do you bring to the office that you feel makes you a good candidate?

I served on the leadership committee of the Democratic Party, was a steering committee member of the DWC, and am a member of the Democratic Club and Democracy for Monroe County. Last year I also managed the successful campaign to re-elect Judge Valeri Haughton. I volunteer with Community Kitchen, Girl Scouts, and I spend time volunteering with the Human Rights Commission during the VITAL Quiz bowl every year, and hand out materials for them during their Fourth of July parade.

All of these experiences have taught me the importance of being organized, having a plan, having a budget, working with a wide variety of people, and the importance of having a strong team of people to work with.

Question 4: In what way(s) do you consider yourself socially progressive? How do these principles apply to the City Clerk's Office, and how do you plan to apply these principles in implementing your agenda while in office?

I believe that all people should get an equal chance to have a fulfilling and financially secure life by using the tools of education and hard work, with no special privileges based on wealth or immutable traits. In an office that frequently serves as the first contact for City Hall, I believe that the important thing to do is to treat everyone who comes into the office with courtesy, respect, and consideration.

Question 5: In what way(s) do you consider yourself fiscally responsible? How would you manage and prioritize the City's scarce financial resources to achieve the goals you want to achieve? Be specific where possible.

The Clerk's office has the smallest budget of any city department. As the person responsible for managing the office supplies for the Clerk for the last six years, I have always tried to avoid needless spending wherever possible. In the future, I will try to reorganize what resources we have to achieve optimal performance before straining the city budget.

Question 6: How will you improve the quality of service in the Clerk's Office in order to balance the interests of all members of our community?

I would like to see the city add a dedicated customer service department under the umbrella of the Clerk's office. The Clerk could also incorporate the 311 service that has been proposed by some councilmembers into the customer service department. These two things alone would decrease the confusion that so many citizens face when entering City Hall. It would also provide a valuable resource for city staff, and enable them to focus on other duties in order to serve the public more effectively.

Question 7: Describe how you would engage all citizens to be more active participants in our community and in our government.

The City Clerk is responsible for advertising and facilitating applications for the City Boards and Commissions. The Clerk is also an active participant in outreach programs at Indiana University and local community groups. I plan to continue to participate in those programs, and reach out to other groups to engage more citizens in our local government. Particularly in our local high schools, encouraging students to apply for internships with the city on a regular basis.

[Back to the Top](#)

2015 Endorsements Committee

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