

PRESS RELEASE

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PIEDMONT-SMITH TO RUN FOR RE-ELECTION

Bloomington City Council member Isabel Piedmont-Smith is seeking re-election in 2023. Due to redistricting, her home neighborhood, McDoel Gardens, is no longer located in the district she currently represents, District 5. Therefore she will run to represent the newly configured District 1, which currently has no incumbent.

Piedmont-Smith's platform includes both issue-oriented goals and process-oriented goals. "Bloomington is a vibrant community," she says of her hometown, "But we must make improvements in transportation, housing, and supportive programs for people who are struggling with poverty and/or health issues." At the same time, Piedmont-Smith wants to focus on making city council processes more transparent and apparent, as well as more inclusive of people from all walks of life. As in 2019, a top issue for Piedmont-Smith is implementing the city's Climate Action Plan. She first became involved in city government through the Environmental Commission, and she weighs the climate emergency heavily in all her Council decisions.

Regarding her process-oriented goals, Piedmont-Smith says the following: "We have public meetings where a lot of the nuts and bolts of legislation are discussed, but these meetings are not accessible to many members of the public due to their timing and length. In addition, the process of how local issues are decided is not clear to most members of the community. I want to bring more people into the decision-making process, especially those from underserved communities."

A proactive Council member, Piedmont-Smith has co-authored several pieces of legislation and dozens of amendments to the drafts of the Bloomington Comprehensive Plan (adopted in 2018) and Unified Development Ordinance (adopted in early 2020). She has served on the Monroe County Solid Waste Management District Board (member of the Executive Committee for four years), the Monroe County Public Safety Local Income Tax Committee (one year as chair), the city's Plan Commission, and the Jack Hopkins Social Service Funding Committee.

Running in a newly configured district, Piedmont-Smith is eager to walk through the neighborhoods of the new District 1 and talk to residents about their concerns. She is also excited about implementing what she has learned through the city's 10-month diversity, equity, and inclusion training. She notes, "Learning new perspectives and being able to implement changes to increase equity via local government are two factors motivating me to continue service on the City Council."

Piedmont-Smith is a native of Bloomington, a graduate of Bloomington High School South, Oberlin College (BA, History) and Boston University (MAT, social studies education). She worked as a fiscal officer and department administrator at Indiana University for 26 years. First elected in 2007, she served one term on the City Council (including one year as president) before taking time off to care for her aging parents. She ran again in 2015 and is now in her third non-consecutive term on the Council, representing District 5.