



The Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce

Election Initiative 2019 Questions for City Council Candidates

The allotted word per question is 125 – Any answers exceeding 125 words will be cut off.

Responses will be published exactly as they are received.

We will not edit in anyway, i.e. grammar, spelling, etc.

Please provide answers in a Microsoft Word document.

1. If elected, what are your top 3 priorities as a City Council member?
 - a) Redevelop the current hospital site with a good portion of affordable housing, some mixed use (commercial/retail), and a community center with programming for seniors.
 - b) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by incentivizing alternative transportation, through continued bulk purchasing programs for solar panels, and through energy conservation efforts.
 - c) Continue to support our social service agencies, especially those providing treatment for substance misuse disorders, and ensure our community embraces and values all residents.

2. What concerns do you have about the business community and economic development?

My main concern with any business transaction is whether the full environmental costs are considered. For example, in many cases over the last 20 years, residential development has worsened stormwater runoff problems for neighbors whose homes were built earlier. Also, given that 39% of greenhouse gas emissions come from electricity generation and commercial/residential buildings, it's essential that new construction be as energy-efficient as possible.

Since the changes that will come about due to global climate change will force communities to be more resilient and self-reliant, my other concern about economic development is reliance on employers from outside the community. I prioritize locally-owned businesses, especially those that produce food.

3. Please tell us about your schedule and availability to attend Council meetings, work sessions, and meet with constituents?

As I have demonstrated in my previous and current term in office, I have excellent attendance at council meetings, council work sessions, and committee meetings. I also hold regular monthly constituent meetings at City Hall where all city residents are invited to talk with me about issues that are of concern to them, and where I update attendees on what the city council is doing. In addition, I try to attend as many community events as I can to talk to various constituencies. That said, I do have a full-time job at IU to which I am deeply committed.

4. What do you think is our community's biggest opportunity? What's the biggest threat?

Currently we have several opportunities for redevelopment that could have a positive, long-term impact on Bloomington: The build-out of the Trades District, expansion of the convention center, redevelopment of the current hospital site, and revitalization of the area around Switchyard Park. We must be guided by the principles of sustainability in all these projects, looking at the full environmental costs of what we build and its long-term uses.

The biggest threat we face is lack of affordable housing, not just for low-income residents but also for middle-income residents. The mayor has made some good strides toward greater affordability, such as preparing Bloomington for CDFI investment, and I think the new Unified Development Ordinance will also offer clear, inviting incentives for construction of new affordable units.