



Isabel Piedmont-Smith <pedmontsmith4council@gmail.com>

## IU Democrats Municipal Meet the Candidates

1 message

Google Forms <forms-receipts-noreply@google.com>  
To: pedmontsmith4council@gmail.com

Fri, Feb 17, 2023 at 1:45 PM

### Google Forms

Thanks for filling out [IU Democrats Municipal Meet the Candidates](#)

Here's what was received.

## IU Democrats Municipal Meet the Candidates

Congrats on running for office here in Bloomington!! We are excited to work with you and get college democrats connected with your campaigns.

Please fill out the form below even if you are not available to attend our meet the candidates night on

**Tuesday, February 21st**  
**Ballantine Hall 008 | 7:00pm**

Thank you!  
~College Democrats Exec Board

Email \*

[pedmontsmith4council@gmail.com](mailto:pedmontsmith4council@gmail.com)

### General Info

We are putting together a contact list and voter guide for our members to get to know you all and also get in contact with you if they have further questions or want to help out!

name

Isabel Piedmont-Smith

position running for (include district)

Bloomington City Council, District 1

phone number

812-219-2788

are you able to attend this event on Wednesday, February 21st at 7pm Ballantine Hall 008

- Yes
- No
- Maybe - will email back with for sure answer

Will you be bringing anyone with you to the meeting?

.....

### Candidate Questionnaire

These are the couple questions we believe are most important for IU students to have your answers to when thinking about who they should vote for or get behind this election season. Please write a paragraph for each response (~200 words) and please do so even if you cannot attend our meet the candidates event.

We look forward to reading your responses!

What policies do you support to make Bloomington housing more affordable and accessible to students?

We need to pursue many approaches at the same time to achieve more affordable housing in Bloomington. (1) Direct support for developers who build affordable housing, such as using the City's tax exempt status to support loans. (2) Zoning incentives such as allowing greater density or height in exchange for greater affordability. (3) Zoning changes to allow duplexes, triplexes, and fourplexes in parts of the city that are traditionally single-family neighborhoods. (4) When making exceptions to our Unified Development Ordinance or approving Planned Unit Developments, we must require some affordable housing units as well as bus service.

How would you make it easier to get around Bloomington?

I have long prioritized funding for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, and I think those investments must be increased. The City should continue to build out the greenways network to provide more safe areas to walk and ride bikes (and scooters). I am also a big supporter of Bloomington Transit, which I used regularly when I worked for IU. The increase in the local income tax which the City Council adopted in 2022 allowed us to invest \$3.8 million per year for 5 years in an expansion of BT services. These funds will go toward increased frequency of service on current bus routes, Sunday service, and the development of an east-west rapid service corridor.

How would you make Bloomington a more inclusive, equitable city?

We must view all our decisions as local leaders through an equity lens, considering such questions as who is being served, who is being disadvantaged, who is at the table to make decisions, and even who built that table (structure for decision-making). We must recognize that our nation was founded upon inequities and that this history has an impact on the systems and communities that make up Bloomington today. I believe in Affirmative Action and a critical reexamination of our local methods of decision-making.

I was co-author of legislation that was adopted in 2020 to create the Community Advisory on Public Safety (CAPS) committee, which explores the state of public safety broadly and develops recommendations on how to help the most vulnerable in Bloomington with non-police interventions.

How will you contribute to helping Bloomington become a greener, more climate-friendly city?

My career in city politics started with service on the Environmental Commission, where I helped review development petitions and recommended best practices to preserve greenspace and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Later, I co-authored legislation to require all city-owned

buildings to adhere to LEED Silver building standards within certain budget parameters. Climate change is an international emergency, and the Bloomington Climate Action plan is an excellent document that we must implement diligently both to mitigate climate change impacts and reduce our community's emissions. I lobbied for Mayor Kruzan to create a Director of Sustainability position back in 2010, and then insisted in 2021 that Mayor Hamilton add a second full-time staff member to implement the Climate Action Plan.

How would you engage students to become better community members while utilizing their skill sets?

I've interviewed many students who have applied for positions on the city's volunteer boards and commissions, and I'm always impressed by their knowledge and enthusiasm. Students have made great contributions as members of the Commission on Sustainability, the Housing Quality Appeals Board, the Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs, and many others. I am also working with some students on my re-election campaign and would love to have more student volunteers! The students I have worked with in various capacities bring an important perspective to city government, and I'm excited that two IU students are running for city council this year. Each individual brings their own skill set, and whether that includes people skills or data analysis, I am happy to help interested students plug into local government or non-profits to give back to the Bloomington community.

Thank you so much!

We hope to see you at our meet the candidates night

**Tuesday, February 21st**

**Ballantine Hall 008 | 7:00pm**

But if you can't make it, know we have an open door policy for our meetings, feel free to stop by and introduce yourself to our club and chat with any of our members. Meetings are usually Tuesday nights, reach out to us at [iudems@indiana.edu](mailto:iudems@indiana.edu) with any questions or events you want our members to know about.

Hope to talk soon!

~CDIU

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