

- 1) What role, if any, should the city have in improving mental health and reducing drug dependence, and why? (750 characters)

The City of Bloomington can and should support mental health care and a reduction in drug dependence through the following actions:

- We must continue awarding Jack Hopkins Social Service grant funds for local non-profit agencies.
- We must use opioid settlement funds to support local prevention, treatment, and harm reduction programs. Collaboration with the County, which will also receive substantial sums, is already underway and must continue.
- We must bring together key regional and local stakeholders and expertise to work on solutions to the drug misuse crisis. In this process, we must listen to those with lived experience and incorporate their ideas into community plans.

- 2) What, if anything, should the city do to increase local affordable housing? (750 characters)

- We must implement current incentives for affordable housing in our Unified Development Ordinance and devise new incentives as well.
- We must encourage the development of ADUs (Accessory Dwelling Units).
- We must collaborate with regional, county, and state players in the housing market. For example, the relatively new Summit Hill Development Corporation is creating a land trust for permanent affordable housing, and the City is giving them land.
- We must smooth the way for cooperative housing through financing assistance and the elimination of bureaucratic barriers.
- We must remove barriers to housing density through our zoning regulations, as called for in the Biden administration's *All In* plan.

- 3) Given the recent attack here on a woman of Asian descent, what should be done to ensure that all Bloomington residents, particularly those who have been made vulnerable or marginalized, feel safe in public spaces? (750 characters)

This attack was a terrible hate crime. Public safety is a systemic issue. When everyone in the community has access to sufficient food, housing, mental and physical health care, and when everyone in the community feels included in society, that's when our city is the safest. Government must work toward uplift and inclusion, with housing coming first.

In 2021, I co-sponsored legislation with Matt Flaherty and Kate Rosenbarger to create the Community Advisory on Public Safety (CAPS) Commission. The intent of the commission is to give voice to underserved communities in Bloomington and to gain advice from them on

how to improve public safety. I look forward to hearing more from this commission and acting upon their recommendations.

- 4) Bloomington's 2021 Climate Action Plan has numerous goals for mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation to climate change. What would you do to achieve these multiple goals? (750 characters)

I would ensure that our annual budgets support timely implementation of the Plan, with funding for personnel, policy development, and program implementation. My support of the mayor's 2022 budget was contingent on hiring a second full-time staff member to implement the plan, which he did.

The City Council must also enact legislation to fully implement the CAP. For example, I voted for the Traffic Calming and Greenways Program for the development of safe, interconnected biking routes, and I voted in favor of increased housing density via our Unified Development Ordinance. Along with my colleagues on the City Council's Climate Action and Resilience Committee, I'm working on a plan to phase out gasoline-powered lawn equipment.

- 5) How should the city handle the varying traffic needs of bikes, buses, cars, delivery vehicles, pedestrians, and scooters? (750 characters)

We need to expand upon our existing safe bicycle routes through separated bike lanes and neighborhood greenways. We also must keep our sidewalks in good repair and free from obstacles such as parked scooters, trash/recycling bins, and overgrown vegetation. The mayor's administration must enforce our existing rules. We should investigate funding for additional sidewalks through bonds, TIF funds, and federal grants. Streets should be engineered with safety as the top priority, with a "complete streets" value system that ensures more vulnerable road users such as pedestrians, bicyclists, and scooter riders are safe while larger vehicles also have sufficient space, including for deliveries and emergency services.

- 6) Is the level of apparent conflict among local government officials a concern for you? If so, what would you do to decrease conflict and increase collaborative problem solving? (750 characters)

Greater collaboration between city, county, and township leaders is vital as we seek to address large community problems such as homelessness, substance misuse treatment, and climate action/preparedness. Communication is key, and egos must be put aside. We must admit that no one entity can solve these problems, and that no one entity or person has all the right answers. Only by putting our minds and resources together can we hope to achieve progress. As for the City Council, I do not think that our policy disagreements have been harmful. On the contrary, I think hearing and discussing opposing viewpoints have improved our decision-making. We must always communicate with respect and debate issues without engaging in personal attacks.