



Isabel Piedmont-Smith <pedmontsmith4council@gmail.com>

# Monroe County Young Dems Endorsement Application 2023

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To: pedmontsmith4council@gmail.com

Sat, Feb 25, 2023 at 12:13 PM

## Google Forms

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# Monroe County Young Dems Endorsement Application 2023

If you would like the MCYDs to consider you for endorsement, please complete this form by Friday, March 3, 2023. Direct questions to [monroecountyd@gmail.com](mailto:monroecountyd@gmail.com)

Email \*

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

### Contact and Personal Information

Name \*

Isabel Piedmont-Smith

Pronouns \*

she/her/hers

Date of Birth \*

MM DD YYYY

11 / 21 / 1969

Email Address \*

[piedmontsmith4council@gmail.com](mailto:piedmontsmith4council@gmail.com)

Phone Number \*

812-219-2788

Office and District You're Seeking to Represent

Bloomington City Council, District 1

Website URL

[www.piedmontsmith.us](http://www.piedmontsmith.us)

Social Media Handles and Platforms

<https://www.facebook.com/piedmontsmith>

Twitter: @PiedmontSmith

Instagram: IsabelPiedmontSmith

## Community Engagement

How have you already been contributing to Indiana and Monroe County?

How have you engaged with Young Democrats in Indiana or Monroe County in the past? (Member of IYD, attended events, donated, other?)

I have not been engaged with the Indiana Young Democrats

Please share the ways in which you have served our community. This can include your employment, volunteer work, previous political experience, or other involvement.

I am currently in my third term on the City Council. My first term was Jan. 1, 2008 to Dec. 31, 2011, and I have served again since Jan. 1, 2016.

HOMELESSNESS: I have raised funds via Beacon, Inc.'s Solidarity Sleepout for several years, and before that I participated in the annual homelessness walk. I have served on the board of the South Central Community Action Program, which provides assistance and self-sufficiency counseling to low-income members of our community.

ENVIRONMENT: I served on the Bloomington Environmental Commission (one year as chair), and since 2018 I've been a member of the Monroe County Solid Waste Management District board. As a District board member, I've worked to reduce waste in the community through source reduction, recycling, and composting.

LABOR: As a staff member at IU, I served on the Bloomington Professional Staff Council (one year as president) and on the Anti-Sweatshop Advisory Committee. I've been a member of Jobs With Justice and worked to support the Bloomington living wage ordinance and fight against the so-called "right to work" legislation at the state level. I've supported the striking graduate student workers at IU, both through a City Council resolution and through active picketing.

CIVIL RIGHTS: I advocated against HJR 6 and in support of gay marriage. I co-authored a City Council resolution in support of refugees settling in Indiana, and co-sponsored a resolution upholding abortion as a healthcare right.

## Platform

Tell us why you're running!

What are your main priorities if you are elected? \*

\*\*To implement Bloomington's Climate Action Plan which includes specific strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate expected climate change impacts. This includes more funding for sidewalks, bike infrastructure, and public transit, as well as initiatives to reduce urban heat and flooding.

\*\*To make city government more transparent and inclusive of all the residents we serve. This includes a continuation of the monthly constituent meetings I have held since 2008 as well as active diversity, equity, and inclusion outreach.

\*\*To strengthen our local social safety net in collaboration with other local governments, social service agencies, advocates, and residents with lived experience. This includes continued support for implementing the Heading Home plan, building affordable housing in Hopewell and elsewhere, and providing more healthcare and substance misuse treatment options.

How will you measure your success in office? \*

\*\*Reduced greenhouse gas emissions and related improvements in bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure

\*\*Incorporation of more diverse voices in city decision-making

\*\*More affordable, accessible housing

\*\*Greater collaboration with county and township governments, nonprofits, and residents on healthcare and substance misuse treatment and prevention

Of all of the problems facing our world, country, state, and local community, the MCYDs have identified three that we are particularly passionate about. Please share how you will use your role in office to address these issues:

Environmental sustainability & stewardship \*

This is a key element of my platform. The 162-page Climate Action Plan adopted by the city in March 2021 must be implemented expeditiously. We also must allow more dense housing in Bloomington close to where people work, study, shop, and play to reduce automobile use. The City Council can appropriate funds for Climate Action Plan implementation and approve (and even initiate) changes to the Unified Development Ordinance to encourage compact urban form.

Healthcare and public health, especially in the midst of the pandemic \*

Over the next 15 years, the City of Bloomington will receive about \$2M in opioid settlement funds, and Monroe County will receive about \$2.7M. We should work together with healthcare providers, social service agencies, and people with lived experience to create a plan for use of these funds to prevent substance misuse, treat it, and also provide harm reduction for those

community members who are still addicted.

In the meantime, we need to maintain robust communications with county and state government offices and support ongoing funding for the county health department, as COVID could flare up again at any time, and new diseases may be on the horizon.

More generally, we have an insufficient number of healthcare providers in Bloomington, of all types and for all income levels. While higher income members of our community may be able to overcome this gap by traveling to Indianapolis or other health hubs, lower income neighbors often don't have this luxury, and of course urgent care is urgent for everyone. As a City Council member, I would try to engage the medical community and other levels of government in conversations to determine how we can attract and retain medical professionals. Meanwhile, the City should continue to provide grant funding to HealthNet, our local low/no-cost clinic.

Diversity and equity for all persons, regardless of their race, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, ability, socioeconomic status, housing status, etc. \*

The City of Bloomington held 11 months of valuable Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training from November 2021 through September 2022 for elected officials, mayor's office staff, and department heads. I participated in the monthly meetings and some optional small-group sessions, and I now have a clearer framework for evaluating my choices as a Council Member to ensure I act upon my values with regard to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. With each decision I make, from initial explorations of a topic through the vote on final legislation, I must consider whose voices have NOT been heard and seek out those voices. Similarly, I strive to consider WHO ELSE is impacted by legislation, aside from the obvious stakeholders or the ones pushing for the policy.

I co-sponsored Ordinance 20-20, creating the Community Advisory on Public Safety (CAPS) Commission, and the legislation specifically called for representation from underserved communities. I learned through that process that those same underserved communities should have been brought into the development of the legislation earlier. I'm always open to learning how to be more inclusive and striving to do better!

**Anything else you would like us to know as we consider your application for endorsement?**

Although I'm in my third term on the City Council, I welcome new perspectives on how we do things in city government and new ideas for policies to make Bloomington more welcoming, make our growth more sustainable, and serve ALL residents more equitably.

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