

## **Bloomington City Council, District 4**

Philippa Guthrie (D)  
David Rollo (D)

1) What are your qualifications for the office you are seeking?

**GUTHRIE:** The City Council drafts and enacts legislation, manages city property and finances, and ensures delivery of services. I studied law and public administration at IU and have been a practicing lawyer for 23 years. Much of my work involves interpreting and applying the law, so I understand how legislation should work. I deal with financial and property issues regularly, and have expertise in boards and governance through my past work for businesses, the IU Foundation and my service on the boards of Volunteers in Medicine, Centerstone, the Environmental Commission and the Growth Policy Plan Steering Committee.

**ROLLO:** I am currently the incumbent city council representative for District 4, and have served for twelve years, twice as president of the Council. I meet regularly with residents, and have sponsored many projects and code changes that were constituent driven. My service includes:

- The Planning Commission (2003-2004)
- The Utilities Service Board
- The Commission on Sustainability (created, and served for 10 years).
- The Environmental Commission (chaired)
- The Bloomington Economic Development Corporation
- The Board of Parks Environmental Resources Advisory Committee
- Jack Hopkins Social Services Committee
- Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee

2) What approaches will you take to manage economic growth downtown?

**GUTHRIE:** I believe compact urban development is the most sustainable approach to growth, and jobs are crucial for the future of the city. The Growth Policies Plan (GPP) and the zoning ordinance reflect these values. However, I am concerned about how often we are granting waivers from things like height restrictions. Our community spent years developing the GPP to assure that future development would reflect Bloomington's character, and we should not be allowing a small number of officials and developers to create a new de facto policy through piecemeal decisions. This is about transparency and fairness. It is unfair to all who provided input on the GPP to fail to enforce its vision. It is also unfair to require some developers to adhere to zoning restrictions while granting variances to others. Unless decisions are predictable,

fair and consistent with the GPP and the zoning ordinance, we will end up with a different Bloomington than the one we want.

I hope the updated GPP in progress will have stricter requirements for more affordable housing and better aesthetics. Monolithic boxes lining our thoroughfares do not reflect our city's history and character.

**ROLLO:** We have a vibrant and diverse downtown, and the City Council has done much to nurture this over the past decade. We have challenges, however.

We must have a balanced demographic mix of residents: young professionals, retired people, as well as students. We also must balance a range of housing for income earners. We must encourage owner occupied units, relative to rental units.

We must keep the size of the buildings in accord with a human-scale streetscape, implement better architectural standards, have inviting oases of greenspaces, tree plots, gardens and art work.

The best means to achieve these aims is to have our new Growth Policies Plan – Imagine Bloomington – completed, and our Unified Development Code updated to reflect our community's vision in accord with the GPP. This process is overdue, and will take a minimum of 1.5 years to complete. Until these plans are completed we need to put the brakes on large-scale developments.

I supported the purchase of the 12 acre area within our Certified Technology Park by the City. It's development will be a model of diverse businesses, focused on a sustainable economy and job opportunities, and as a model of living and workspace for our downtown.

3) What will you do to ensure transparency and accountability in city government?

**GUTHRIE:** Our form of government is largely based on trust. It only works well if the citizens are part of the process and we know what our representatives are doing and how they are doing it. Trust is fundamental to my work and my personal life, and I would carry that ethic with me to city government. I think trust starts with clear and frequent communication, so I will establish ways to communicate with my constituents, through neighborhood associations, social and other media, open houses and group meetings, and individual meetings. I will attend public events that offer opportunities for dialogue. I will welcome questions and challenges to established and proposed ways of operating. I have very little ego in that regard. If it's not working, regroup.

The best outcomes are achieved when good communication is established at the outset of a process and continues throughout. We need pulse checks, and sometimes individual meetings. Ultimately, public service is a group effort, with broad constituent participation. Not everyone will be pleased with the end result, but if it is done right, they won't be surprised and they will understand why a decision was made.

**ROLLO:** I have been committed to government transparency and accountability throughout my tenure on the Council. Accountability begins with accessibility to constituents, and I am responsive to individual contacts as well as citizen groups and neighborhoods. I attempt to attend most neighborhood meetings to determine their needs. I hold constituent meetings (5 - 7pm) on the second Thursday of each month at the Elm Heights Bloomingfoods.

The City Council meets almost every week of the year, and we offer two opportunities for public comment during our regular session meetings. While I've been on the Council, we have instituted internal work sessions on most Fridays that are open to the public to discuss upcoming legislation. All meetings are noticed to the public and the media and are in accord with open door law. I offer to answer any and all questions brought by media.

I seek out all points of view on legislation, especially on controversial matters. I seek balance on boards, commissions and task forces. I consult our Council Attorney to make certain that any potential conflicts of interests are disclosed, and I recuse myself from any vote when a conflict arises impacting City policy or legislation.

4) What should the role of the city be in supporting the development of more affordable housing?

**GUTHRIE:** The city has a responsibility to ensure that its residents have housing, using every tool available. We need to look at Section 8 vouchers, support Habitat for Humanity's efforts, perhaps build more city-operated low income housing, create stronger incentives in the Unified Development Ordinance for new developments to include affordable housing units, and find solutions for our homeless population. Affordable housing is an issue throughout the county. So the city and the county need to work together to craft a multi-pronged approach and find sufficient funding sources.

Most importantly, affordable housing must be viewed in its context--the poverty in our community. We need to create a model for social services that focuses on outcomes--bringing people out of poverty and helping them become functional and self-sufficient. Many individuals who present with a need actually have several, or many, and they are therefore not adequately served by just one agency or program, unless that program includes wraparound services that address all the needs. We are starting to explore this with the homeless, and Centerstone did it with a grant to provide employment services for individuals with past convictions. Addressing all the needs, including housing, works best.

**ROLLO:** The city can and should play a strong role in supporting affordable housing, considering housing cost as well as transportation options, proximity to goods and services, and energy efficiency. Mechanisms include our Unified Development Ordinance (UDO), co-housing, Habitat for Humanity projects, integrated housing and transportation planning, tax abatements, partnerships with area agencies, and inclusionary zoning. My experience with these mechanisms includes: sponsoring UDO incentives for developers to provide affordable housing; working with

petitioners of co-housing village-style projects that provide affordability through shared use of living spaces, greens, and vehicles; and working to promote a Habitat for Humanity project along the B-line trail, within walking and biking distance of downtown. I also helped develop a walk score and an activity nodes map to assist planners in siting affordable housing and identifying public transportation needs. I have communicated with our Economic and Sustainable Development Director to make affordable housing a very high priority of any future tax abatements.

In the future, the city should explore further partnerships with area agencies to develop housing options for low-income citizens and the homeless, particularly families with children. In planning and code, we should consider inclusionary zoning to require affordable housing stock.

5) How will you address downtown parking issues?

**GUTHRIE:** We need to have enough parking for downtown residents, workers, visitors, and the disabled, especially at peak times and where spaces are most needed. Future development must also be accounted for. The city conducted two parking studies in 2007 and 2012 and the recommendation was to install parking meters for street spaces. The meters appear to have addressed a major issue—insufficient street parking on weekdays. I am in favor, however, of reducing the operating hours to 8-5 or 8-6, Monday through Saturday, and eliminating the 30 cent convenience fee. I also believe the city should campaign to encourage garage use. Many people view parking more than a block or two away as inconvenient; we need to encourage it instead as an opportunity for exercise. I would also support reviewing studies that have been done on the effect of the meters on downtown businesses, or commissioning a study, if need be. Further adjustments may be needed. Finally, downtown development projects must include adequate parking for the anticipated need. If lack of parking is prohibitive for good projects, then the city needs to partner with developers to make it work.

**ROLLO:** Proper regulation of downtown parking ensures that parking spaces are open for visitors, workers and shoppers on a regular basis. The aim of placing parking meters downtown is to manage parking for high turnover – to prevent a car from occupying a space for the maximum time, then to be moved elsewhere downtown. I agree with this goal of management, but I voted against the meters as conceived for several reasons: the high price/hour, the length of time of enforcement, and the impact on volunteers working at downtown charities and non-profits.

I was also concerned by the likely impact on businesses, especially local businesses that had a slim margin of profitability. I personally surveyed many business owners to determine this.

To amend downtown metering I will seek to cut the rate of the meters, particularly those that are underutilized. I favor a 9am – 8pm duration of enforcement (from the current 8am – 10pm). I favor passes in the form of parking grants for non-profits that could be dispensed from a fund.

I support the creation of a Parking Commission that would have representatives of interest groups, including downtown businesses, to study data derived from meter use and advise on meter regulation.

6) What will be your approach to the urban deer problem?

**GUTHRIE:** The urban deer issue has focused on two locales--Griffy and the neighborhoods. So far, we only have a proposed solution for Griffy, and I think enough people are upset about either the decision-making process or the outcome that I am open to reviewing the options further. I appreciate the efforts of the Deer Task Force members and am grateful that they have already done much of the required work. The Task Force also explored solutions for neighborhood deer and I think we need to make some decisions. There are things we can do. This issue, however, is more complex than just deer. For example, it has a lot to do with responsible development. One of the reasons we have so many deer outside our doors is that we have removed their habitats and replaced them with buildings. There are ways to develop that minimize the negative effects and we need to partner with all the parties involved to investigate and embrace new ways of doing things. This is an opportunity for a civic conversation and we have the time to consider it further and ensure that enough people understand, and I hope agree on, the best approach.

**ROLLO:** Deer management in Bloomington requires management in Griffy Woods and in neighborhoods.

In a March 2014 letter, the Parks Board expressed that “Griffy was dying.” This conclusion is supported by published scientific research at the IU Research and Teaching Preserve, demonstrating severe impacts of deer on vegetation. In response to the Parks Board’s request, the City Council provided the tool of sharpshooting to humanely reduce deer to save the ecosystem (including rare and threatened birds). This is the only effective option, as non-lethal strategies have never worked in a system like Griffy Woods. A Griffy deer population in balance with the ecosystem will be determined by monitoring of vegetation recovery by the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Neighborhood deer are controlled to some extent by bow hunting. To determine if non-lethal approaches may work, data from an ongoing study by Ball State researchers will need to be analyzed. The work of the City’s Deer Task Force played an integral part in attracting this free research, valued at nearly \$1million, to Bloomington.

7) What will you do to improve and enhance cooperation with Monroe County, IU, and Ivy Tech?

**GUTHRIE:** Cooperation means relationships. Unfortunately, I see the county, the city, and our higher education institutions operating in silos. To build relationships, you need regular interaction. I know people in all of these entities, and I would use my contacts. We should create a team that meets regularly, including members from the county, city, IU and Ivy Tech, as

well as the private sector. Members need to have significant authority to make decisions. Why not the top officials! And the team should be permanently established so it's not dependent on the personalities and preferences of those in office at any given time. There are major issues facing our region that need the best leaders working on them together, and need their pooled resources—the hospital move, annexation issues, finding funding sources, I69 development, and creating a major technology park, to name a few.

Educating our children is an issue that begs for collaboration. We need a cross-entity education team, too. MCCSC is a county organization, but many students live in Bloomington, and so many end up at Ivy Tech and IU. The futures of our children and the health of our region and our country depend on how we address this.

**ROLLO:** During my tenure on the City Council, I have worked with members of County Government and Indiana University in various capacities. For instance, I have worked with the Sustainability Director of IU as we serve together on the City of Bloomington Commission on Sustainability. I created a Task Force that advised and was made up of representatives of Indiana University, Monroe County Government and the City of Bloomington.

The role of City Council President is particularly important in enhancing cooperation between Monroe County government, Indiana University and Ivy Tech. I have proposed a bimonthly meeting between the City Council President and the County Commissioners to share information and cooperate on priorities that are in the community interest. Likewise, I have reached out to the Chancellor of Ivy Tech to participate in regular meetings.

As City Council President, I have offered my availability to the IU Administration in matters discussing land use, public safety, shared green spaces and a potential merger of city and campus bus systems.

8) What other issues do you think will be the biggest concerns for the city in the coming years?

**GUTHRIE:** I've already mentioned some briefly, including the hospital site and making the new location work for Bloomington residents, particularly those with no access to transportation there. We need to build a model for social services that has the different agencies working together on issues such as homelessness, mental illness, employment training—the things that keep people from reaching self-sufficiency. We need to figure out how to grow our economy and bring jobs to Bloomington and Monroe County but do it responsibly with respect for the environment and community character, and by maximizing the joint resources we have in the city and county. The important thing is that these issues are intertwined and require a holistic approach.

Planning for the long-term future, should the efficiency and scope of our local government be examined? Some of our governmental structure was put in place in the 1820s. Governor Pence's Regional Cities Initiative and the Kernan-Shepard Report have interesting things to say on this question.

And finally, we need to plan for the unknown. We need leaders who are smart and have breadth and judgment, who are comfortable working together, and whose agendas are simply what is in the collective best interest of all.

**ROLLO:** Proposed relocation of Bloomington Hospital: It is important to continue efforts to keep the hospital in town. At minimum, we must expect the Hospital to re-invest in the existing site on 2<sup>nd</sup> St., and partner with the City of Bloomington in redevelopment.

Job creation: A diverse local economy, that focuses both on the technology sector as well as light manufacturing, the food economy, and green retrofitting and energy will serve to generate well-paying employment opportunities. As a cultural destination, Bloomington relies on a vibrant arts and music for our economic vitality. This sector should continue to receive support from city government.

Sanitation: We must control our own waste stream instead of relying on a single company for disposal in Terre Haute. We should explore re-opening our landfill, and creating a Materials Recovery Facility for sorting our trash, recyclables and removing compostable materials.

Development of the Switchyard Park: It is a challenging project, but when completed will be our largest urban park at 65 acres, and will be a hub of our trail system with a variety of recreation and naturalization projects. The City Council just approved a potential funding mechanism by the aggregation of Tax Increment Finance Districts.