

Bloomington Mayor

John Hamilton (D)

John Turnbull (R)

1. What are your qualifications for the office you are seeking? (100 words)

HAMILTON: I have the deep hands-on experience and progressive vision to help lead Bloomington forward. I'm a Bloomington native who, with my spouse Dawn Johnsen, raised our children here. I successfully led two award-winning state agencies for Governor Frank O'Bannon, responsibly overseeing environmental protection and family and social services, with thousands of employees and billions of public dollars. I founded an award-winning nonprofit organization and community development bank to promote economic justice and opportunity. I served on the school board, chaired the Sustainability Commission, chaired the Shalom Community Center, and have energetically supported political and progressive causes for decades.

TURNBULL: Senior level manager for City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation as Division Director of Sports. Directly manage 11-14 full-time employees and hundreds of part-time. Responsible for 3 million plus in revenue collection and expense management. Extensive experience with "New World" the city's financial software. Worked with most all department heads. B.A. Economics, DePauw University. Masters, Indiana University. Former banker with Merchants National Bank. Sales with NCR Corporation, Dayton, Ohio. Born and raised in the extremely diverse community of Albion, Michigan (40% African American, 10% Hispanic, 50% White) that was heavily manufacturing but has steadily declined.

2. What role should the city play in addressing homelessness and the need for affordable housing? (125 words)

HAMILTON: I believe we should focus on solutions, better coordinate services, and refine our approaches. The recent demise of Martha's House is a reminder that we need to come together and rethink our strategies; my service as President of the Shalom Community Center board has helped identify some of that collective effort. Many people suffering from homelessness are working and earning wages, but not sufficient to afford adequate housing. Many suffer from addictions or mental health issues. The city can help coordinate our responses. One first step is attracting federal funding to pay for a second Crawford Homes which focuses on helping people who are chronically homeless and disabled get help with 'housing first.' We've seen that saves lives and local money too.

TURNBULL: Since the states have retracted from mental health and addiction services, it has left a huge void for a population that has little family support and service support.

I believe our most effective role is to keep directing homeless to mental health, addiction, and services that can improve their overall health condition. Without health, they cannot provide basic needs.

Affordable housing in this case really means free housing and shelter for a population that is unemployable until they can get, or if they can get healthy. I am only in favor of this if it a broadly supported facility by multiple agencies (private, state, federal, etc.).

3. What approaches will you take to foster economic growth? (125 words)

HAMILTON: We need economic health and sustainable prosperity to grow and spread among all the people of our community, locally, and in the region. For many businesses, lack of available capital is a major obstacle. I will seek to lower that barrier by leveraging city assets to attract private loans and investments to help the local economy flourish.

We must nourish the culture of creativity and our highly educated workforce, to help grow new businesses. I am committed to a 21st century infrastructure for our community, including a city-wide high-speed broadband fiber network for homes and small businesses. We also should assure that the downtown Certified Tech Park is focused on sustainable jobs, and continue strongly supporting the vibrant arts and culture that enliven Bloomington.

TURNBULL: “Fostering” economic growth is the best terminology for the municipal city role in the economy. Making sure the core services are done well and efficiently “fosters”. 80% of the budget is police and fire protection. You cannot have economic growth without stable and safe environments.

The Mayor can foster growth by establishing a culture of business friendly. Being responsive, clear, concise, and simple. This Mayor will also remind the city council to be more practical, more real, more responsive to more than the ‘squeaky wheel’ which does not always represent the majority. Aesthetics fosters growth as well and I am in favor of no panhandling, no street vending papers, and a clean downtown.

4. What would you propose to better serve the social needs of senior citizens? (125 words)

HAMILTON: Affordable housing, accessible transportation, diverse activities, and a welcoming community are cornerstones. And beneath it all we need the social safety net that protects seniors and their families from health, financial, or other crises. We have a great array of organizations and institutions that serve seniors and are supported by seniors. My administration will work to coordinate such services better, and improve efficiencies. We must consider more downtown resources for seniors. We must expand and coordinate public transit systems in the county. I also will create a Senior Fellows program, recruiting seniors to serve our community through year-long city government fellowships. In addition, I will open up City Hall with regular listening sessions, to hear what else can be done.

TURNBULL: The office of Community and Family Services, in city hall, would be vital to my administration. They can greater promote senior service providers and connections. The Twin Lakes Recreation Center is an excellent senior social site with healthy activities (shameless promotion).

I recognize transportation is often an issue with seniors, and I am a big fan of the bus system. I would be open to discussions and modifications if access or bus routes need to be modified.

5. What other concern do you find important and how would you address it? (125 words)

HAMILTON: A major challenge ahead is building a 21st century sustainable, local economy while protecting Bloomington's unique character and our way of life. Our state and community have seen good-paying manufacturing jobs depart. Our share of national income has declined. We must work together to reverse the trend.

Several components are critical to address this challenge: 1) strong public education – as mayor I will work energetically to support our local public schools, including with the upcoming referendum; 2) affordable housing – my campaign website outlines several steps we can take; and 3) 21st century infrastructure including city-wide broadband and modern green infrastructure for energy and water.

Finally, collaborating requires an efficient, open government, and I will bring strong management experience and throw City Hall's doors wide open.

TURNBULL: I got involved in this race because the point of the Mayor's job is often lost. It is not about Republican or Democrat, it is about delivering core services. Democratic dominance will remain in the city council.

We are in an explosive growth period. IU, our greatest influencer, will be 50,000 students soon with upward demographics and international mix. I-69 is coming soon. We can put growth where we want it, we can make it look how we want it to look, we can influence it.

This town will look better if I am mayor. Greater set backs and plazas, smarter architecture, clear building codes, no panhandling, no crows taking over downtown.

6. What possibilities do you see for the use of the hospital site on Second Street? (125 words)

HAMILTON: We need to think hard, listen carefully to each other, research best practices from around the country, dream big, and identify realistic options. We have time, and we should be deliberate. Our core north-south axis has the Certified Tech Park, the Hospital site, the Convention Center, and the planned Switchyard Park all in motion. It is an exciting time to think about what kind of built community we want to leave future generations, and what activities will enhance quality of life for current and future residents. The city-established advisory committee

is one important process. IU Health's commitment to the community is essential and demonstrated in their major new local investment. All options for re-use should be on the table.

TURNBULL: I see real possibilities with that site; the B-line trail, and the Convention Center property all flowing very nicely with real synergy. We must remember the hospital owns the property and can decide the matter.

My prediction is that this site will have some satellite IU Health services on a small scale. There is a real opportunity to upgrade the housing so there is a nice mix of upper, mid-level, and lower level housing.

I would pull in the large "players" in Bloomington to gauge interest as the infrastructure there is great. MCCSC, Cook, IU, IU Health, County Government, Ivy Tech, senior living providers. Those type of agencies and the current focus group is a great group to keep engaged.

7. What policies would you promote to protect the environment and conserve energy? (125 words)

HAMILTON: Public leadership is key for a more sustainable community and economy. I am committed to putting solar panels on top of city hall. We need more investment in green infrastructure that treats surface and rainwater as a resource, not a cost. I support conservation/volume pricing in our water system. I support publishing much more information: reporting on carbon emissions, solid waste management, pesticide use, and more. I support disclosing energy use of major buildings to encourage conservation. We should research establishing financial tools to help individuals and enterprises invest in sustainable improvements, including solar, composting, local food and more. And we also need more trails, more sidewalks, more public space, and more connectivity to encourage walking and biking, including with more county and regional coordination.

TURNBULL: The office of Economic and Sustainable Development does a fantastic job of studying and implementing energy and environment wise moves by the city. I intend to continue that effort headed by Jacqui Bauer.

One of the most significant savings we can do is manage our "peak load" usage of energy. It can be a complicated matrix, but there are automated systems and unautomated systems that can balance and alternate your building draw on energy. This can result in large savings particularly when you consider we run some very large operations like ice rinks, office buildings, water treatment, etc.

Bloomington City Council, District 1

Dave Nakarado (L)

Chris Sturbaum (D)

1. What are your qualifications for the office you are seeking? (100 words)

NAKARADO: I meet all required qualifications to run for City Council, Education: Bachelor's in Science in Education. My management experience includes: 12 years sales management, 8 years as a small business owner meeting a payroll, 9 years as a real estate broker. I have common sense experience, ability to work with the city's zoning and planning department, parking enforcement, HAND, Bloomington Historic Preservation Commission staff. My unique job experiences include - 2 years as a maximum security prison guard.

STURBAUM: I have many years of experience in neighborhood and business issues as well as the workings of city government. I have a commitment to neighborhood and constituent problems, traffic calming and a deep concern for the city's well being. I have a balanced approach of listening to all sides of issues. On the infrastructure side, I worked to achieve the intersections at Country Club and Rogers, 17th and Arlington, and sidewalks along Rogers. I will continue to work to complete the Tapp and Rockport intersection and connect the sidewalks on Rockport and east and west of the 17th Street roundabout.

2. What role should the city play in addressing homelessness and the need for affordable housing? (125 words)

NAKARADO: The city should continue to provide information and refer individuals who are in need to the current agencies available. Another low cost idea would be to create an affordable housing list online where landlords could list affordable housing. However, it should be noted, that at the present time, the Westside has the lowest home costs, highest number of Section 8 housing, and highest number of manufactured homes.

STURBAUM: The growing homeless population negatively affects our Westside neighborhoods and businesses. I will continue to struggle to find a balance between compassion for those in need, and care for those citizens and businesses directly impacted by this issue. Bloomington needs a local, easily accessible treatment program. We need both wet and dry shelters to serve the following citizens: those who cannot overcome their addictions, those who are striving to do just that, and those homeless who do not have those problems. Regarding affordable housing, I am on a task force looking at options for helping to create affordable living in our community. This could include the city encouraging workforce housing, senior housing and looking at ideas to encourage market affordable development and improve transit access.

3. What approaches will you take to foster economic growth? (125 words)

NAKARADO: The Westside City Council District has the most potential for economic growth, I-69 cuts right through the District and there are many opportunities for NEW businesses to

locate and for existing businesses to grow and expand in District 1. Bloomington's reputation, whether true or not, "as being HARD to do business in" needs to be addressed! I have talked to key owners of undeveloped land on the Westside and they have stated it is a REAL issue when marketing property.

STURBAUM: That quality of life leads to economic growth is something I talked about in my first campaign twelve years ago. People like to live here, start their businesses here and some like to retire here. Many of us want to stay here for the rest of our lives. Looking ahead, the new opportunities of the Trades District tech park may help more people earn a good living here by strengthening the growing local tech economy. Improving the city's bike-ability along with our mass transit and adding moderately priced apartments downtown would further improve quality of life and signal the next generation of Bloomington's leaders and entrepreneurs that this is a place they actually will be able to stay and grow their businesses and families.

4. What would you propose to better serve the social needs of senior citizens? (125 words)

NAKARADO: I am in favor of supporting Area 10 Agency on Aging. Currently they use their resources in a very effective manner. Their mission statement is:
"The mission of Area 10 Agency on Aging is to serve as a leader in providing resources, solutions and connections for seniors, persons with disabilities and family caregivers living in Monroe County".

STURBAUM: Affordable senior housing close to downtown would increase options for elders. The city has so much to offer in our walk-able neighborhoods for seniors. New and old upgraded housing along the B-line trail would also be a welcome opportunity for active seniors. Discussions of accessory apartments could help seniors age in place by allowing them to share their homes with younger tenants or caretakers. Improved mass transit for neighborhoods and suburbs would be a good start to extend senior access to stores and shops downtown or in regional centers when autos are not available or not an option. The city could expand and continue to promote volunteer opportunities for our skilled and valuable seniors to welcome the rewarding and significant community contributions they bring.

5. What other concern do you find important and how would you address it? (125 words)

NAKARADO: WESTSIDE Traffic Congestion- Traffic planning arrogance!

Strike 1- What was done to the members of American Legion Post 18, 1800 W 3rd St was pure arrogance and disrespect, the city eliminating their left turn lane and forcing members and guests to make U-turns in order to attend legion functions.

Strike 2- Prospect Hill- 3rd Street calming devices and speed bumps. Fire trucks are unable to travel safely during emergency responses without extreme caution and increased equipment damage.

Strike 3- Tapp Road/ 2nd Street/3rd Street corridor. Planning has continued to ignore the needs of those who live, work and shop on the WESTSIDE of Bloomington. The WESTSIDE has continued to deal without a practical east/west corridor. Now is the time to have NEW vision.

STURBAUM: Achieving Platinum Bike Status may unexpectedly be a key issue for Bloomington's future. A recent Congress for New Urbanism conference featured cities favored by today's younger generation. The common thread was great transportation and safe bike travel. Cities like this are experiencing baby booms. Good transportation makes the city an affordable place and a healthy, sustainable one.

Of course we also need more and better jobs in the future. Building out the Tech Park and hospital site will provide opportunities to get new businesses close to the B-Line and Bloomington's downtown. Combining housing with work environments will be an attractive lifestyle. Decisions with the Trades District tech park and the hospital site will shape our city for the next hundred years. We must choose wisely.

6. What possibilities do you see for the use of the hospital site on Second Street? (125 words)

NAKARADO: I see a mixture of uses for the hospital site area. Currently there are many different owners of the area that's being discussed. It will be developed in many different ways once the current zoning is changed. From the B-Line to Rogers, it will be very easy to add retail and housing to complement the existing neighborhoods of Prospect Hill and McDoel Gardens. There are other property owners such as Monroe County Community Schools, Centerstone and the Monroe County Commissioners who will also have to make decisions on what they believe is best for their property interest.

The hospital area properties will continue to be in high demand for offices and retail space. Buildings will be converted to meet future needs.

STURBAUM: With the Trades District tech park, the new Switchyard Park area, the B-Line and South Walnut area all getting development attention, it will be critical not to allow the hospital site to reenact the old RCA site's pattern which has taken so many years to redevelop. However, the job creation that has occurred there is certainly worth copying if possible. Housing of all kinds would put citizens close to the trail, a grocery and the downtown. Traffic volume on Second and Rogers makes commercial use viable as well. I propose hiring a consultant and engaging the community in a charrette to try to get the best possible use out of a valuable piece of real estate which is positive for the neighborhoods and the community.

7. What policies would you promote to protect the environment and conserve energy? (125 words)

NAKARADO: I am a supporter of The District, Monroe County Solid Waste Management District. I would like to see city government work with The District and implement many of their daily practices within the city limits. It would be best for the city and the county to tackle recycling together and solve many recycling issues as a team. In my opinion the Material Recycling Facility should be closer to Bloomington and located on a railroad spur. We need to look to the future and be prepared to recycle glass economically. Because of the weight, shipping/hauling by rail is the only practical long term solution.

STURBAUM: Requiring upgraded energy efficiency for our planned unit development and tax abatement requirements would be a good start. We should set an example by continuing our plans to upgrade our city buildings and use solar panels where possible. We should continue our programs through the Economic and Sustainable Development department to help citizens with energy audits. Recycling in the apartment buildings is something that has been a long time coming and we are more than ready for it. And finally, we should support the local recycling project that has already created a small center in the city's parking lot so it can grow and thrive in the new Trades Tech Park and continue to serve the downtown, the west side and the coming tech industries.

Bloomington City Council, District 3

Allison Chopra (D)

Nelson Shaffer (R)

1. What are your qualifications for the office you are seeking? (100 words)

CHOPRA: As a former downtown business owner, I have had first-hand experience with the local economy, parking issues and employment. I have served on the board of the Bloomington Urban Enterprise Association where I gained an appreciation for the responsibility of being a good steward of taxpayer dollars. I have completed the City of Bloomington's Citizen's Academy and Leadership Bloomington Monroe County, which has widened my awareness of local government and non-profit agencies. Currently, I am a J.D. candidate at the IU Maurer School of Law. The analytic thinking that I engage in daily will transfer nicely to Council work.

SHAFFER: A resident of Bloomington for 40+ years, I was a research scientist at IU where I led a research group and represented professional staff--now retired but active and own a small business. Married 35+ years with six children and five grandchildren. I've had leadership roles in many scientific, religious, civic, service, political, and hobby groups and directed the Indiana Academy of Science for 13 years. Cofounded Celebrate Science and Midwest Chapter Friends of Mineralogy, and helped start several businesses. I own a small farm in Ohio. I am trained in local citizen's academies. I assist science outreach efforts.

2. What role should the city play in addressing homelessness and the need for affordable housing? (125 words)

CHOPRA: The city should be aggressively addressing both of these issues. We should consider utilizing tools such as zoning management, incentives for developers, land banking, and partnering with area businesses and non-profit organizations. A diverse representation of community members should be included in these discussions. Any good solution will come from a combination of input from community members.

SHAFFER: The city can promote mental, moral, and physical health through life skills training such as Kemp College, Updraft, and religious shelters and programs. Bloomington should enforce current laws and seek federal, state, and philanthropic programs to assist in its efforts.

The city needs a full time grant writer. We should seek programs to assist vets. I do not favor additional local taxes unless a proven, effective, and economically responsible effort can be made. I would encourage surrounding areas to minister to their homeless, keeping them closer to their own homes and families.

3. What approaches will you take to foster economic growth? (125 words)

CHOPRA: I will continue the city's work of encouraging urban infill. I will also support development that creates diverse, sustainable job opportunities. I am looking forward to the Certified Technology Park development and the opportunities it will create.

SHAFFER: Bloomington needs a less restrictive environment for expansion of existing businesses and recruiting of new companies. We need more action with fewer restrictions. The newly announced technology effort is good but it has taken many years. The city should show more openness to unconventional operations and have more cooperation with IU, other innovators, and state development efforts. The city should leverage areas around I-69 for business development. We should advertise our city better and promote Bloomington as business friendly. Bloomington has low wages and we need better jobs! We should support Blooming Labs, Maker efforts, robotics, and other active inventors groups.

4. What would you propose to better serve the social needs of senior citizens? (125 words)

CHOPRA: The wellbeing of our senior citizen neighbors is something that I will urge the council to focus on. I think it is important to keep senior citizens thriving in neighborhoods and homes among the rest of the community. I have spoken to many seniors in District 3 who have expressed a desire for a safe, accessible, and welcoming senior citizen center. The city should evaluate whether we are spending Parks and Recreation and Housing and Neighborhood Developments proportionately in relation to the number of senior citizens in our city. If not, a community center, whether fully or partially city-run, may be able to address this discrepancy.

SHAFFER: Bloomington needs better transportation for seniors. Perhaps a Uber-like system would be good. We also need smooth sidewalks and trails to make walking easier. Senior games is a good program that could well be expanded. Senior safety programs would be useful, perhaps even with a local shooting range. The city could support more nutrition programs to teach better eating and age-appropriate activity. Seniors want to feel useful. I would like to have a seniors helping toddlers and children program. The experienced have much to teach. Parks and Recreation could mount a senior memories program to save experiences from long ago. The city should seek to place seniors on boards especially planning.

5. What other concern do you find important and how would you address it? (125 words)

CHOPRA: Accessibility and community connectivity are two objectives that I would like to focus on. I want to promote better sidewalks for our neighbors with disabilities. I want to make

sure that every child who lives and goes to school within the city can safely walk or bike to school. I want to see parks, trails and safe streets connecting the entire city. If we continue to build community connections through common meeting spaces, our city will be better equipped to handle all the other issues mentioned above. A strong community is one that knows and cares for one another.

SHAFFER: There should be very careful consideration of urbanizing areas (the two mile fringe of old). I would like to inventory and repurpose empty buildings where possible. Blooming Labs and other innovators could put now vacant space to good purpose. I want to honor our stone heritage and attract tourists with a Limestone Heritage Park. Development near or because of I-69 is inevitable. We need to be prepared. An east-west route is needed for possible increased traffic. Using new GIS and sensing techniques should be applied to development. Technical experts should be hired to assess plans by city amateurs.

6. What possibilities do you see for the use of the hospital site on Second Street? (125 words)

CHOPRA: I am pleased that Mayor Kruzan and the current administration have been proactive with this challenge. The task force they have developed is diverse, encompassing all the major stakeholders, including community members, and is well led by the Steering Committee Chair, Vi Simpson. I look forward to the progress reports and findings that they share with the council.

As a City Councilmember, my job will be to share and discuss their progress with the residents of District 3 and bring their reflections back to the Council and task force to consider.

SHAFFER: The old hospital is a special building. It has features that could be attractive to technology firms who need gases, vacuum facilities, isolation areas, and other features already in the hospital. It should not be torn down until careful and visionary studies are done. Perhaps it could house inventors. It might be useful for a senior-toddler facility as mentioned above.

7. What policies would you promote to protect the environment and conserve energy? (125 words)

CHOPRA: I would promote policies, such as a plastic bag ban, incentives for new developers to use solar power, and reducing pesticide use in our city parks. I believe that Bloomington can be better in this area and I also believe that the community expects us to take big leaps in the direction of being more environmentally conscious. It is not enough to just keep up in this area; we need to strive to be progressive.

SHAFFER: I would encourage completion of the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) that is partly constructed and would reuse materials. I would reuse buildings, even mines, for tourism or other job-generating operations. I would promote applying biotechnology to cleaning the environment and stretching resources. Energy harvesting and scavenging are new fields that hold great promise for recovering now wasted energy. Bloomington could be a leader in this work. Bloomington High School South has demonstrated one technique to great acclaim.

Bloomington City Council at-Large

Tim Mayer (D)

Jennifer Mickel (R)

Andy Ruff (D)

Susan Sandberg (D)

Scott Tibbs (I)

1. What are your qualifications for the office you are seeking? (100 words)

MAYER: I have served as a member of the Bloomington City Council from 1983-87 and 1996- to the present. During that time, I have served on the City Plan Commission, City Board of Zoning Appeals, Growth Policies Plan(s) I and II, City Council Sidewalk Committee, B-Line Trail Development Team, Switch Yard Park Master Plan Committee and the Buskirk-Chumley Theater Board of Directors. Currently I serve on the Community Development Block Grant Physical Improvement Committee, Utilities Service Board, Jack Hopkins Social Service Funding Committee, the Mayor's IU Health Bloomington Hospital Site Evaluation Committee, 50+ Men Who Care, and the Bloomington Shelter Project committee.

MICKEL: No response.

RUFF: Multi-term Bloomington City Council member, serving as Council president and vice-president multiple times. Brought forward many important pieces of legislation including Indiana's first Living Wage Ordinance. Served on Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Committee, Jack Hopkins Social Services Committee, and many other City boards and commissions. Master's Degree in Public Affairs from Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs. Employed for over ten years in Monroe County Planning Department as environmental compliance officer and planner. Citizen activist for many years on many community issues.

SANDBERG: An at-large councilmember since 2007, I have served twice as Council President and have been a long-term member of the Jack Hopkins Social Services Fund Committee and the Social Services Committee for Community Development Block Grants. I'm a career advisor with the Career Development Office of the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University. A resident of the Matlock Heights Conservation District on Bloomington's north side, I support the health, safety and preservation of core residential neighborhoods.

TIBBS: I have been following city government for twenty years and continually learning about the issues and structure of city government. I have been active in following and studying public policy, and I am also familiar with the operations of county government. I have thirteen years' experience working in accounting, so I will understand the city budget.

2. What role should the city play in addressing homelessness and the need for affordable housing? (125 words)

MAYER: City programs address homelessness by funding social service providers through the Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) process. And, grants from the City Council's Jack Hopkins Social Service Fund. Both of these programs fund physical improvements for social service agencies, to keep the doors open, and support their programs that directly address client needs. I serve on both committees

The Bloomington Police "White Shirt" initiative and street social worker programs are showing promise – they engage people on the street and offer help and support.

Affordable housing is a complex issue – especially for single individuals and people with special needs. We need a broader community conversation, including the public and private sectors, as to how we can address this issue in an effective way.

MICKEL: No response.

RUFF: Recently the City Council approved an appropriation ordinance to provide funding to help the former Martha's House Shelter remain open, and has also approved legislation adding housing status to our local Human Rights Ordinance to help prevent discrimination based on housing status. We should continue to support and expand the downtown resources specialist program headed by the Bloomington Police Department, which has proven to be effective in reducing nuisance problems related to homelessness and helped connect many people to important resources and needed services. We should use policies to incent affordable units in development proposals. We should support efforts for a detoxification center, and provide support and resources wherever we can across the continuum of services needed to address these problems.

SANDBERG: Last year Councilmember Chris Sturbaum and I began facilitation of the Affordable Living Study Group to research local housing costs, hear from local stakeholders, and study need gaps that prevent Bloomington residents from finding suitable housing within their means. This information will provide a solid foundation for our understanding of the direction city policy might go in addressing affordable housing and related costs of living. Finding incentives and resources for public, private and nonprofit partnerships will be the next step. I fully support public funding for the Community Sheltering Project and encourage ongoing public support for additional years as it becomes a self-sufficient shelter option for those needing temporary and sober-living assistance.

TIBBS: It is important that the city address safety. Many people do not feel safe in our downtown, especially around People's Park, Seminary Square Park and the B-Line Trail. More patrols as well as public safety education should be considered.

As to helping the homeless, the first thing we should do with local businesses (including landlords) is ask what barriers the city puts in the way of providing affordable housing and what can be done to reduce, mitigate or eliminate those barriers.

3. What approaches will you take to foster economic growth? (125 words)

MAYER: I believe that the primary function of City government is to provide the infrastructure and amenities that make our community unique and livable. Investing in our neighborhoods with programs to build and maintain sidewalks, rental housing inspection, efficient sanitation and recycling, and city support for neighborhood associations all are an important part of that mission. Support for a transportation system, should include pedestrian, bicycle and vehicle infrastructure as well as efficient public transportation service. Investing in our city parks and trail system add to building a livable community. All of the above lead to a community where people want to live, work and play. If we maintain that level of investment and care in our community – business will follow, grow and prosper.

MICKEL: No response.

RUFF: Given that we benefit tremendously from the presence of IU, Bloomington's economic vitality then flows from the quality of life amenities that those who reside here enjoy. The key economic development initiatives for Bloomington are those investments and policies that protect our community character and local flavor (including local businesses that add so much character), protect our natural environment and environmental quality, and that provide recreational and cultural amenities not typically found in a community of our size and location - these provide Bloomington an advantage to creative entrepreneurs who want a culturally vibrant, diverse, and naturally beautiful place to start businesses, raise families, seek education, and are the factors that make others want to stay here or move here in retirement.

SANDBERG: I am encouraged by the developments in The Trades District (Certified Technology Park), our investment in new job creation, job retention, reasonably priced workforce housing, greenspace development and green building design. This initiative will pay dividends in downtown expansion. We are eager to partner with the private sector in providing incentives to create what residents most need; good jobs with good wages. I strongly support the arts as an important element in quality of life amenities that attract economic vibrancy in Bloomington. Managing growth in a responsible, future-thinking manner will be the goal as we meet needs for economic prosperity and affordable living at all income levels. I support diversity in mixed-use buildings that provide stimulating environments for live/work community development.

TIBBS: Indiana University is the engine that drives our local economy, and much of what local business does is dependent on students. The university's economic impact mitigates or cancels some of the bad economic decisions by the city.

Transportation is critical to economic growth, so we should investigate how to improve east-west traffic, as there is no good way to get from the east to west side.

Finally, we should listen to local business as to the barriers the city puts in front of them, from micromanaging the design of a store (as was attempted with CVS in 2005) to our sign ordinances to the proposal to ban chain stores from downtown or banning plastic bags. We need to stop doing things that harm business.

4. What would you propose to better serve the social needs of senior citizens? (125 words)

MAYER: The City Council and the Mayor established the Commission on Aging, a nine-member citizen board, in 2009. I have the honor of serving on the City Council's nomination committee for appointments to the commission. The members are charged with addressing the concerns of seniors in health and wellness, transportation, employment, social services, and recreation. Recommendations from the Commission are reviewed and worked in to public policy -- such as Bloomington Transit service for seniors, community accessibility issues, and Parks and Recreation programs for seniors. The Commission celebrated its fifth annual Creative Aging Festival this past May. The City Council and the Mayor look to the commission for ideas and concerns to improve the human condition.

MICKEL: No response.

RUFF: Transportation services and options are extremely important for seniors – mobility is key to meeting social needs. Expanding outreach for volunteer opportunities for seniors to further take advantage of their experience and knowledge is something to possibly be expanded which provides great potential benefits in both directions. There may be additional arts programming and production opportunities where the City can play a role.

SANDBERG: Having struggled with medical, social, transportation and hospice needs of my aging parents, I am painfully aware of need gaps in services. I join Commission on Aging activists and agencies in educating the public about enhanced living experiences for aging populations. In November, I will participate in a program at City Hall called Navigating Caregiving, and I will continue my advocacy for basic support services at Area 10 Agency on Aging and Meals on Wheels. I am excited to see smart designs for mature-living developments, including a senior arts colony along the B-Line. These creative visions could greatly enhance Bloomington's potential for attracting and retaining active retirees who contribute to economic diversity and the quality of services to support aging in place.

TIBBS: For one thing, the money we waste by giving it to Planned Parenthood every year could be instead allocated to serve the needs of seniors - especially the poor and those in need of health care. Ensuring the downtown is safe would make it more inviting to seniors. I would have an open door policy for seniors to raise issues of concern.

5. What other concern do you find important and how would you address it? (125 words)

MAYER: Bloomington is faced with the unfortunate possibility that the former Martha's House, may close on December 31st. A working group, the Bloomington Sheltering Project; includes elected officials, social service providers and citizens have secured funds to keep the doors open. It is time to acknowledge that homelessness is bigger than Bloomington and that it will take a regional commitment to address the problem. While city, county and township trustees have stepped-up to the challenge – their resources are limited and offer no guarantee for

the future. I see this as an opportunity to address a long-term plan for dealing with the issue and will seek collaboration from government(s), not-for-profits, and the private sector. I will dedicate time to working on that solution.

MICKEL: No response.

RUFF: The scale of buildings downtown has become a major issue for preservation of community character. The City Council is currently working on legislation that will change City laws in a way that will bring the responsibility for building height waivers to the Council rather than it resting with the Plan Commission where it currently resides. We also need to revisit our City's Living Wage Ordinance to expand the policy to cover more programs and more workers and to consider increasing the wage floor and benefit levels. We also need to be more aggressive in our leadership in the area of sustainable living, renewable energy, energy efficiency, local food production, alternative transportation, etc.

SANDBERG: While I have focused my Council leadership on the concerns of our social service providers in a community with high rates of poverty, I take a balanced approach to oversight of a full array of city resources that fund basic services. Public safety and providing our first responders with adequate equipment and vehicles to deal with emergencies is an important future need. I will continue to focus on the Jack Hopkins Social Services and the Community Development Block Grants while expanding my understanding through the Affordable Living Study Group. For Bloomington to remain a healthy, economically secure community, residents from all economic levels and age demographics must have ample opportunities to live safe and self-sufficient lives through good jobs and community resources.

TIBBS: We need more openness in our civil asset forfeiture, and there should be an annual report on how much property is confiscated by the BPD via asset forfeiture. Because of the due process and civil liberties issues involved, secrecy is not acceptable. Taking money or property from someone who has not been convicted of a crime is theft.

We need to stop giving handouts to Planned Parenthood. There is no justification for doing so from the Hopkins social services fund. It is a pro-abortion political statement, not a legitimate effort to help the poor get reproductive health care. The city council needs to stop waging a culture war and instead allow the citizens of Bloomington to give money to the charities of their choice.

6. What possibilities do you see for the use of the hospital site on Second Street? (125 words)

MAYER: I am a member of Mayor Kruzan's Hospital Site Review Committee, chaired by State Senator Vi Simpson. I serve on the building/facilities review sub-committee. At this point in the process we are learning as much as possible about the buildings on the site and the infrastructure necessary to support them. The over-all goal is to determine the viability of the current structures for adaptive reuse.

Clearly the site lends itself to residential and commercial uses – considering its location to downtown, government offices, social service agencies, the B-Line Trail, the future Switch Yard

Park, shopping amenities and public transportation. The infrastructure is in place to benefit future development. The site could become a mixed-use live, work, affordable neighborhood.

MICKEL: No response.

RUFF: Addiction services – rehab hospital serving large area. Needed mental health facilities. Senior center, with the location central to public transit, the BLine, etc.

SANDBERG: Interesting ideas have been floated by community members, and a task force of hospital stakeholders and community leaders is exploring the realities and possibilities of this property. The future use must be compatible with the surrounding core neighborhoods. I would encourage the best possible use in replacing what is lost with new opportunities for job growth, community service and neighborhood benefit. The loss of this healthcare anchor along the 2nd Street corridor will impact surrounding businesses, and while I have no specific ideas for future use, I eagerly anticipate a robust discussion in identifying productive alternatives for economic development, good paying jobs, and filling community need gaps. This requires ongoing coordination among the public, private and nonprofit sector partners at the planning table.

TIBBS: A building like that will not be feasible for anything other than a hospital, so it will likely be torn down. However, it is not the city's role to decide how private property should be used. The city should ask Indiana University Health how we can help, and ask the business community what barriers are in place to economic development in the area, including traffic infrastructure.

7. What policies would you promote to protect the environment and conserve energy? (125 words)

MAYER: The City of Bloomington has placed high priority on environmental protection and conservation of our resources for many years. Through mayoral and council action, the city has taken measures to cut energy costs, recover resources through recycling initiatives both internal to city functions and for residents at the curb side, and dedicated staff to oversee and initiate policy. The City Utilities Department continues to work to reduce energy consumption and meet state and federal drinking water and discharge standards to protect consumers and the environment.

I look forward to working on the forth-coming Growth Policies Plan Update III (GPP III) and the zoning code updates to encourage ways for recycling in multi-family residences and commercial properties and policies for alternative energy standards for residential/commercial structures.

MICKEL: No response.

RUFF: The City has developed several guiding policy documents on environmental protection and sustainable living, most of them with the participation and help of many talented visionary, committed, citizens. We need to more aggressively pursue the measures and policies recommended in these guiding policy documents. We largely have a set of strategic plans in

place, and we have been taking policy steps in the directions recommended by those guiding documents, but we can and should do more.

SANDBERG: Bloomington has a record of supporting protocols and initiating policies to underscore our commitment to environmental stewardship, energy conservation and honoring green spaces in new developments. Under the leadership of our Sustainability Coordinator, Jackie Bauer, many improvements have been made at City Hall and in other city-owned facilities as an example for others who want to save costs through energy conservation, sound building management, and environmental awareness. We participate in the Monroe County Energy Challenge, already have a Green Building Ordinance, support alternative transportation models, and continually look for better ways to conserve, protect, and manage natural resources and our built environment. I will continue to support incentives for the private and nonprofit sectors to improve environmental practices.

TIBBS: A top-down approach with mandates, taxes and bans is a poor solution. The proposed ban on plastic bags is a perfect example of this. Instead, we should focus on education, and help people realize that conserving energy saves them money. Perhaps there could be an incentive for people to buy reusable bags, though education is critical here too as the bags can hold harmful bacteria if not washed regularly. Persuasion and education is preferable to forcing others to make the choices you would prefer though the heavy hand of government.

Ellettsville Town Council, Ward 2

Frank Scott Thomas (R)

Jackie Yenna (D)

1. What are your qualifications for the office you are seeking? (100 words)

THOMAS: No response.

YENNA: I have participated on different boards and been involved with different organizations dealing with many different issues. I have always been able to work with people and respect their opinions even if they differ from my own.

2. What is your vision for Ellettsville's development over the next four years? (125 words)

THOMAS: No response.

YENNA: I see Ellettsville continuing to grow as our community continues to develop grow. I can envision more housing and small businesses coming to our community.

3. How would you approach the flooding problem in Ellettsville? (125 words)

THOMAS: No response.

YENNA: I would have to study what has been done in the past and learn what has and hasn't helped the flooding problem.

4. What do you envision as the future of the trail in Ellettsville? (125 words)

THOMAS: No response.

YENNA: It can have a good future if it is handled properly. I am concerned about the security and safety of people using the trail. I can see it being used for fund raising walks and different community supported activities.

5. What strengths do you see in Ellettsville as a community and how would you seek to build on those over the next four years? (125 words)

THOMAS: No response.

YENNA: The biggest strengths I see are the commitments and dedication of the citizens themselves. I would seek input from them and give all the respect they deserve. Most of all let them know their thoughts are important and give all of their ideas serious consideration.

Ellettsville Town Council, Ward 3

Ed Bitner (D)

Scott Oldham (R)

1. What are your qualifications for the office you are seeking? (100 words)

BITNER: No response.

OLDHAM: I have seven years experience on the Town Council, serving as the Council President for the last three years. I routinely work with multiple agencies and various government departments on projects and am intimately familiar with the inner workings of government processes and organizations. I am a small business owner who routinely must interface with corporations, federal, state and local governments and other clients throughout the United States which lends perspective to my work with the Town Council.

2. What is your vision for Ellettsville's development over the next four years? (125 words)

BITNER: No response.

OLDHAM: Ellettsville is on the verge of a great deal of growth which brings with it a great deal of opportunity. The Council has laid the ground work to prepare for this by significantly improving the Town's financial health and modernizing equipment and infrastructure, such as the new Town Hall, to support this growth.

Over the next four years I plan to continue to strengthen the financial health of the Town by carefully crafting our allocations and working with several partners to bring jobs and opportunities to the area by courting a variety of businesses to locate within the Town. Improvements to our Parks and other 'quality of life amenities', which in reality are investments in our future, will only strengthen our ability in these areas.

3. How would you approach the flooding problem in Ellettsville? (125 words)

BITNER: No response.

OLDHAM: This issue has over a 50 year history with little being done to abate the issue in the past, now is the time to correct that. In 2015 the Town purchased the former Stewart's Pasture, and is now awaiting permits to construct a retention basin there to slow the flow of water through the Town. To the greatest amount allowed by DNR the bed of Jack's Defeat Creek has been cleaned and dredged. A second water retention area off of Matthews Drive is in the planning stage. This will allow safe collection of water upstream, followed by a managed flow through the downtown to the northern retention area so that waters do not back up in Town causing flooding.

4. What do you envision as the future of the trail in Ellettsville? (125 words)

BITNER: No response.

OLDHAM: I believe the Heritage trail will serve as a cornerstone to the future of Ellettsville Parks developments. As I referenced, the pasture area was purchased to use not only as a retention basin but also as a large multi-use park giving our citizen's an area to play, exercise or simply enjoy time outside. The Heritage Trail will connect to the Monroe County Trail in this park. A third phase of the Heritage trail, following the historic railroad bed to the north of downtown leading toward Matthew's Drive, can hopefully be built in the near term using grant funding. I envision this portion of the trail leading to another multi-use park where I would love to see a splash pad area built.

5. What strengths do you see in Ellettsville as a community and how would you seek to build on those over the next four years? (125 words)

BITNER: No response.

OLDHAM: Our biggest strengths are our citizens and our geographic location which gives us the advantage of access to larger Cities yet allows us to retain a 'small town feel'. Simply Ellettsville is a great, safe place to raise a family.

Over the next four years we must take advantage of the completion of I69 and the development which has traditionally followed major high-way projects with one of only a limited number of interchanges located immediately east of Ellettsville.

Likewise we should capitalize on major improvements at Indiana University, particularly the athletic complexes. Ellettsville is only minutes from this area and we should seek, on the far eastern side of Town, to become an area of commerce capable of servicing the area's numerous visitors.