

## **Bloomington Mayor**

John Hamilton (D)  
John Linnemeier (D)  
Darryl Neher (D)

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

**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, chose to raise our children here. I successfully led two award-winning state agencies for Democratic Governor Frank O'Bannon, overseeing environmental protection and family and social services. I founded an award-winning nonprofit and bank to promote economic justice and opportunity—they now employ 50 people. Very active locally, I also served on the school board, chaired the Sustainability Commission, chair the Shalom Community Center, and have energetically supported Democratic and progressive causes for decades.

**LINNEMEIER:** I hold a B.S. and two Master's degrees from IU. I'm a life-long resident of Bloomington. I've held many jobs, including 7 years in government managerial positions with the VA and DOD. I've been a teacher, steel worker, air track driller, powder monkey, and plenty more. I owned a small business in Bloomington for 14 years (Flying Fish Painting). After being shot in Vietnam, I returned recently and made friends with "the enemy". I've travelled to 115 countries and observed democracy in decline. I relate to people from all walks of life and know how to inspire and lead.

**NEHER:** I've lived in Bloomington for 24 years, engaged in the issues that impact our community – as a student, parent, employee, volunteer, and City Council member. On Bloomington's City Council, I'm in the middle of the policy debates and decision-making, elected as City Council President for two consecutive terms. I've earned a reputation for thorough research, fair and engaged governance, and a deep understanding of how our city works.

Prior to City Council, I led community discussions for 12 years as public affairs host of WFHB's Interchange and WGCL's Afternoon Edition, and continue to teach leadership, strategy, and communication at IU.

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

**HAMILTON:** Overdevelopment of the downtown is jeopardizing Bloomington's reputation as a beautiful city. As mayor, I will protect Bloomington's unique aesthetic. I will push for formal local historic designation of the square to prevent future encroachments. I will implement aesthetic and environmental rules to curb new development that undermine the downtown with "ugly" development. Recent projects like the proposed "Graduate" hotel are not appropriate to the iconic downtown. Such projects evade established standards through a "waiver system" loophole that allows the Plan Commission to permit variances to new developments. I will insist

that the city planning department respect existing standards and I will work with the city council to update standards and tighten waiver loopholes, to assure that future development enhances, rather than diminishes, the beauty of downtown.

I will also implement policies that help create sustainable jobs downtown. I will help establish a shared workplace for start-ups, entrepreneurs, and innovators to work and collaborate in the downtown Tech Park. I will push to build a fiber optic broadband network that will lower business costs and help attract new clean businesses to the downtown area. And I will enthusiastically support the arts and creative vibe that enliven our downtown.

**LINNEMEIER:** The idea of a high-density downtown, which makes for a more efficient use of infrastructure and transportation, was a good idea. The revival of a vibrant downtown scene was also a good idea. It was a good idea for students to live close to campus, not in residential neighborhoods. Sadly, though, the execution of these policies has been inconsistent. The result has been that the streets north of the Square have become unattractive canyons. Most of the apartments are owned by out-of-town corporations that suck millions of dollars out of our community. With practically no setbacks and hideous architecture, they're nothing but cash-cows for people with no interest in Bloomington.

CFC has an honorable track record of considering the needs of our community before thinking about profit. They've built some stately townhouses on East 7<sup>th</sup> Street, The Kirkwood apartment community on West 5<sup>th</sup> Street, and the affordable Bicycle Apartments on South Madison Street. We should work with companies like CFC, who seem willing to create a more diverse downtown community, not just a student ghetto.

We need to ensure that no more small, unique, locally owned businesses like Max's and Ladyman's be pushed out of the downtown by franchise businesses.

**NEHER:** Our focus should be to enhance our community's economic vitality -- and we can do that in three ways:

(1) Stand up against rampant growth to protect the quality and character of our downtown square, Kirkwood corridor, and our neighborhoods. On City Council, I've initiated legislation that would require Council authorization for height waiver requests, and I will push for stronger standards as we revise our zoning codes.

(2) Pursue a sustainable economy committed to local businesses, fostering a culture of entrepreneurship that attracts and retains the young professionals who are our next generation of business, community, and neighborhood leaders. The mayor must serve as an ambassador for Bloomington to attract businesses that are good community partners, fit with our values, and pay living wages. The execution of the Certified Tech Park is important, but cultivating employers who offer our citizens living wage jobs will be the biggest challenge to raising our wage floor.

(3) Continue to cultivate our community's wonderful quality of life by investing in our parks, bike/ped infrastructure, sustainable energy infrastructure, arts, and social services. These

amenities are attractive both to Bloomington residents and potential employers considering a move to our city.

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

**HAMILTON:** I am deeply committed to transparency and accountability in government. As an experienced public executive, I know their power and importance. As mayor, I will ensure that community members have detailed access to all city activities and information, as well as a voice in the budgetary process and policy formation and implementation, though both online and in-person means. As mayor, I and my department heads will offer weekly open meetings to give and receive information about city activities, challenges, and opportunities. I will regularly host town halls and neighborhood forums and maintain an open door policy. I will ensure my administration posts numerous important measures of government performance, including crime statistics, public safety response times, performance data for things like pothole repair or recycling pickup, and other services on the city website. I will work with the city council to explore participatory budgeting to allow neighborhood residents, through a democratic voting process, to nominate proposals for how a percentage of the city's funds will be spent.

In short, I will be clear, explicit and accountable about our goals as a city—what we intend to do, and how well we do it, on a regular basis.

**LINNEMEIER:** The Wycoff and Gerstman scandals have struck at the very core of trust citizens had in their local government.

The most important thing the next mayor must do is to restore that trust. It starts with campaign finance practices. It shouldn't require \$100,00 to run for mayor. Do we need billboards, radio and newspaper ads, PR consultants, and junk mail to learn what we need to know about the candidates?

The mayor sets the tone of an administration, and that starts with how they run their campaign. I've run mine on a shoestring. It was easy to forego corporate contributions, but I went far beyond what the other candidates were willing to do. I don't take contributions over \$250. I require all contributors to affirm that they are not the owner of a business that does business with the city, nor the spouse of an owner, or the employee of such a company, nor their spouse.

Once in office I will request a top-to-bottom audit of all departments. There's a war on whistleblowers in America, but in Bloomington things will be different. First day, a sign will go up on my door... "WHISTLEBLOWERS WELCOME!"

**NEHER:** A culture of transparency and accountability will be the standard of my administration and will be seen in three ways:

(1) Bloomington residents should know the effectiveness of local government in delivering your basic city services. I will initiate a "Bloomington Accountability Scorecard" – an online quarterly update highlighting our city's strategies and metrics for success. If you want to know

emergency response times, how much material is recycled, or how many potholes have been filled, you can readily find these answers and more on our scorecard website.

(2) The City can better utilize communication technology to deliver updates on city projects and policies. I will work with the Council of Neighborhood Associations to share online the most recent information on city projects impacting specific neighborhoods and offer videocasts on legislation and projects most important to you.

(3) We need regular face-to-face conversations and forums that take government directly into our community. I will engage stakeholders in policy initiatives early to ensure I continue to earn the public's trust. I will also reinstitute the State of the City Address and launch monthly forums featuring city and county leaders to answer your questions directly and proactively engage citizens on the issues.

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

**HAMILTON:** The city, led by the mayor, must address our lack of affordable housing head on. Bloomington must be affordable for people of all incomes and backgrounds to maintain our unique character. Thousands of individuals and families with children struggle with the collision of low wages and high housing costs.

As mayor, I will lead a multi-pronged approach to affordable housing: I support inclusionary zoning, requiring new developments to set aside a certain percentage of units for lower income tenants or owners, to increase the supply of affordable units and keep rents down. I support permanent affordability restrictions, so when public resources create affordability, we keep it affordable in perpetuity, like a trust. I support creative financing of affordable housing, such as identifying a dedicated revenue source for affordable housing (like a real estate transfer fee), activating our long-dormant Housing Trust Fund, and supporting nonprofits in building or acquiring homes needing upgrades or preservation for new low-income owner/renters. And I support combating poverty and homelessness, by attracting additional federal funds for supportive housing, including repeating our efforts at Shalom bringing in \$1 million in new federal funds to create Crawford Homes to house and support some of Bloomington's most disadvantaged.

**LINNEMEIER:** The city must move on many fronts in order to increase the supply of affordable housing.

In 1956 when Tom Lemon was mayor, some people lived up on "Pigeon Hill" in dirt-floored shacks. My dad, Dr. Robert Linnemeier was elected president of the Bloomington Redevelopment Commission because they knew Pop would run a tight ship and see that every dime was spent wisely. Without pay, my father served under Republican and Democratic administrations for over 20 years. He oversaw the construction of hundreds units of decent affordable housing. I believe they should be expanded to meet the growing needs of poor people

trying to get a leg up and in need of decent housing. We should continue to seek out federal funding to expand this program.

In addition, we should engage the private sector. First, we must preserve existing affordable housing using an affordable housing maintenance program. We should identify suitable sites for developers to build affordable housing and include tax incentives and perhaps even subsidies to encourage builders to provide affordable housing rather than more lucrative larger homes. Finally, we should require that builders include some percentage of affordable housing in their plans.

**NEHER:** We must develop stronger policies that support more affordable housing in our city. I will fight for strategies to be clearly outlined in our upcoming Growth Policies Plan revision and pursue those policies in the update of our city zoning code.

With inclusionary zoning under attack by Republicans in the Indiana Legislature, we must consider ways to use the tools we currently have available to incentivize affordable housing: tax abatements, non-financial incentives, and possible use of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) dollars. The combination of incentives encourages the development and/or inclusion of affordable housing units from developers in exchange through financial incentives, city investment in infrastructure, and possible tradeoffs such as increased density, modified use restrictions, changes to parking requirements, and expedited permitting.

Another opportunity is to recapitalize the Housing Trust Fund as a vehicle for the city to support and/or develop affordable housing projects. The HTF has been dormant, but it can once again be a valuable tool with an infusion of dollars from federal grants and private sector participation.

I also look forward to hearing the proposals from the Affordable Housing working group being led by City Council members Chris Sturbaum and Susan Sandberg.

5) How will you address downtown parking issues?

**HAMILTON:** I would not have supported the downtown parking plan adopted by the city council in 2013. Open government and accountability are essential to our city government. But there was no clarity to the purpose, and thus no accountability for success or failure, of the parking plan. Were the meters installed to increase revenue? To steer more cars to parking garages? To improve parking access for downtown stores? To deter full-time employees from street parking? To strengthen the downtown overall? To increase mass transit use? How is success defined? The parking meters should not be used as a revenue-generating mechanism—it's a crude and regressive tool; other options are better if needed.

As mayor, I will immediately review the meters and develop the data needed to determine whether they should stay or go, or on what conditions. All should be measured by whether they are helping strengthen downtown and enhancing the vibrant, creative center of our sustainable city. We need stronger mass transit (e.g., Sunday bus service) and constantly improving ease for

bicyclists and pedestrians, including people with disabilities. As mayor I also will provide crystal clear accounting of where any parking revenue is coming from and where it is spent.

**LINNEMEIER:** It's easier to find parking spaces now than before meters were installed. That's a plus. The city has found a new way to tax and inconvenience us. That's a minus. Since revenue doesn't include costs, the meters may not be netting the city much anyway.

CVS will survive, but small businesses unique to Bloomington, like Caveat Emptor, Yarns Unlimited, and Stefanos will probably die. Employees of downtown businesses received yet another burdensome expense. Furthermore, I think they're ugly.

We built parking garages that we paid too much for and now can't pay off. Rather than moving cars every 2 hours (UNBELIEVABLE!) county employees might have been allowed to use unused parking garage spaces. Is communication between the city and the county that bad? We asked a parking meter company for a solution to our parking problem. Did we expect they'd recommend making parking garages safer and easier to use by using human parking attendants?

Where do we go from here? I'll waffle for once. Let's poll downtown businesses, their employees and those who utilize those businesses and live with whatever the majority decides, including compromises like allowing free parking after 8:00 p.m. Leave parking meter salesmen out of the conversation.

**NEHER:** The pressures on downtown parking will continue so we must regularly re-evaluate our parking policy. The current use of meters has increased turnover, reduced vehicle warehousing on the street, and increased the overall use of our parking garages – all desired outcomes from the policy.

As a member of our City Council, I will be introducing an amendment to change parts of our parking policy in the coming weeks. Specifically, I will propose changes to shorten the hours of meter operation and eliminate credit card fees from meter payments. I will also fight to maintain the three-hours-free parking policy in designated areas of our downtown – particularly the Fourth Street Garage.

As we move forward with our Growth Policies Plan and zoning code updates, we must carefully review our parking requirements near all future development – including parking ratios and possible structured parking in projects with increased density.

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

**HAMILTON:** The white-tail deer pose two very different community challenges. At Griffy Lake, they challenge the long-term viability of the ecosystem. In residential neighborhoods, they challenge some residents' sense of enjoyment of their homes and property, as well as safety, while others strongly appreciate the presence of, and respect for, wildlife.

As to Griffy Lake, I will emphasize first that our community must steward this amazing asset for the long haul. We need clear vision to leave future generations of Bloomingtonians with a fabulous nature preserve. We need better connectivity across the bypass; we need better trails; and we need to preserve the natural diversity and abundance. Science must inform that work. As mayor I will follow the science and the long-term vision for Griffy. And I will respect the actions of the elected city council as well in evaluating options.

The neighborhood deer issue is a social/political decision. Given the great diversity of views of neighbors and neighborhoods, the city council, closest to the neighborhoods, is the best place for necessary decisions and compromises. Four years of study and deliberation have yet to produce action from the council. As mayor, I will press for resolution and support their decision(s).

**LINNEMEIER:** The urban deer problem in our neighborhoods will not solve itself, and kicking the can down the road again is not my way of doing things. I may have a solution that will be palatable to most citizens and make ecological sense as well.

Most people are already acquainted with the advantages of spaying and neutering their pets, so I don't think this idea would be difficult to sell to the citizenry. In Fairfax, Virginia, does are darted with an anesthetic and then transported to veterinarians who perform an ovariectomy before releasing them. With trained volunteers to transport the deer and veterinarians willing to donate their services, the cost becomes downright cheap.

The only problem with this is that the DNR won't allow it. In Fairfax they've gotten around this kind of prohibition by initiating an ongoing scientific study of the effect of sterilization on urban deer population. The IU Biology Department, Ball State, or the Purdue Vet School could easily do that. Failing that, Matt Pierce might introduce legislation to circumvent the DNR's policy, which frankly makes no sense to begin with. Sometime you have to think outside the box.

**NEHER:** I support only the use of non-lethal measures within the urban environment of Bloomington. Specifically, the Deer Task Force Report proposed a number of alternatives (including fence height, feeding ban, etc.) that should be considered by City Council. Additionally, Ball State researchers are collecting data concerning deer migration within our city that will ultimately help guide future policy decisions – which could include working with the Humane Society of the United States on a deer management plan.

I supported a lethal strategy for Griffy, but am waiting to see the report from White Buffalo to better understand the reasons for the cancellation of the cull. The cancellation is one data point to consider plus the subsequent research on plant regeneration that should take place this spring. This information will provide guidance on how to move forward with the Griffy policy to preserve this critical local ecosystem.

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

**HAMILTON:** I will be a proactive and engaged mayor and communicate constructively with all surrounding jurisdictions, including the county and the region. I will make sure that the leadership of county government, IU, Ivy Tech, and our local schools have open contact with the city in general and me personally. I know many of these individuals personally and will enhance already strong channels to share our goals and challenges. Bloomington is the anchor and leader of our region, and as mayor I will represent our interests and values positively and energetically. I will conduct regular meetings with officials from Monroe County, IU and Ivy Tech.

We in the city will not always agree with sister institutions or jurisdictions. I will be a good listener and a good leader toward important goals. I will set the tone that even when goals are not identical, we can accomplish far more by cooperating. I have decades of experience doing this hard work of collaboration: growing the community development bank that I founded; working with mayors, legislators, and county officials while leading two large state agencies; and serving the public on numerous boards dealing with sustainability, poverty, public education, preservation, and other issues.

**LINNEMEIER:** Coordination between the city and the county has occasionally been a problem. There has been duplication of services, the overlapping of responsibilities and occasionally, unproductive turf wars. These types of problems create inefficiencies and cost tax payers' money.

Full out Unigov like they have in Marion County may be unachievable but we should at least begin to explore what is possible.

I have always felt that the value of informal contacts between people is vastly under rated. Certainly, committees involving high level representatives from IU, the city and IVTC are important but I would like to institute weekly lunches, racquetball games or walks in the woods with President McRobbie, Chancellor Vaughn and the mayor.

**NEHER:** Improving and enhancing cooperation between our city, Monroe County, Indiana University, and Ivy Tech requires the creation of clear and consistent lines of communication. If elected, I would actively work to build those critical community relationships. During my first week as Mayor, I would invite County officials, President McRobbie, and Chancellor Vaughn to establish quarterly meetings with the Mayor's office to enhance collaboration and communication within our shared community.

These relationships are particularly important when considering our vision for our community. For example, each major stakeholder brings its own vision for land use. How do these needs intersect and impact one another? Are there contradictions that work against the benefit of our community that could be resolved?

I would also expand the list of entities I would meet with – including MCCSC, representatives from our business community, our arts community, and social services community. Developing these relationships is central to our long-term planning, and when there are policies that need to be discussed we can do so from a position of trust and respect.

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

**HAMILTON:** The greatest challenge in the upcoming years is building a 21<sup>st</sup> century economy while protecting Bloomington's unique way of life and increasing local sustainability. For decades we have been losing manufacturing jobs. While some employers have created new jobs, today, Bloomington's annual per capita income is just \$19,000. As a community we must unite and implement a strategy to build an economy that serves everyone—good paying sustainable jobs across the spectrum.

That's why I have a plan to encourage an entrepreneurial economy based on innovation and creativity. That means establishing progressive policies and approaches that include investing in city-wide broadband to cut business costs, providing loans and infrastructure for local businesses, and providing job training tailored to the local market.

Next, nothing is more important to our long-term health than strengthening our public schools so that every child has learning opportunities and outcomes second to none. Our next mayor must be an articulate and forceful advocate for our public schools. I will provide leadership in protecting and improving our public schools.

Finally, we must commit ourselves to ensuring all residents are a part of our city's vision, from ensuring affordable housing to providing an open and accountable government.

**LINNEMEIER:** The Hospital...Use sticks and carrots to keep it downtown. Have a backup plan if we lose, so the area doesn't become a hollowed out space...What's possible now that wasn't possible before? Affordable housing? A band shell? A sculpture garden? Start a website where regular citizens, not just the chosen few, can throw out ideas.

The Switchyard...Build a world class park...Seek out private donors...The Buskirk Chumley is an example. I'll donate 10% of my salary for a grove of Dawn Redwoods.

\$12.50/hr minimum wage... Seattle, San Diego and Santa Fe did it... Anyone who works 50, 60 or 70/hrs weeks should be able to own a small house and take their kids out for ice cream.

Decriminalize marijuana... Philadelphia did it... No one's life should be ruined by a victimless crime...It cost money and ties up police, prosecutor and jails.

Buses...For \$600,000 (7% of its operating budget), everyone in Bloomington could ride any bus, hop on and off at any stop, and go anywhere in town for nothing. The BT wants 1.5 million in new taxes to extend hours and add new routes. I'd spend the money differently.

A municipally owned high-speed fiber optic system... a small window of opportunity exists.

**NEHER:** (1) Homelessness: The City of Bloomington cannot be the silver bullet to solve homelessness, but I believe the Mayor can be a catalyst to drive broad-based community

solutions that address our citizens' needs for shelter as well as mental health and rehabilitation services.

Through my work on City Council, I've learned that addressing complex problems requires political will, a commitment to best practices, and a willingness to listen to a range of community stakeholders.

As Mayor, I'll continue to support successful programs like Shalom Center, Crawford Homes, New Hope, Interfaith Winter Shelter, and other local not-for-profits and will drive new solutions through a community-wide collaborative process.

(2) Responsible Financial Management and Oversight: As taxpayers, you deserve to know your city is careful with your dollars. We can continue to expand our economic vitality and quality of life for everyone in our community by developing realistic budgets that protect our community's financial health. I will propose programs for our city only after careful study to ensure our "big new ideas" match the realities of our infrastructure, budgets, laws, and needs. To retain public trust, I will continue to implement sensible internal controls and rolling audits throughout city government.

## **Bloomington City Council, District 1**

Kevin Easton (D)

Chris Sturbaum (D)

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

**EASTON:** My day job involves helping people wade through complex information, process it, and make the best use of it. I am a problem solver that digests the difficult problems, researches them to the ground, and makes informed choices with potentially creative solutions. I work every day with government officials and business leaders at all levels. I have been an auditor and have an MBA, and I understand the process of developing budgets and keeping an eye on things that look out of sorts. I also have worked as a contracts specialist and understand the creation of legal documents.

**STURBAUM:** I have many years of experience in neighborhood issues, business issues as well as the workings of city government. I have a commitment to neighborhood and constituent problems 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 intersection at Country Club and Rogers and the sidewalks and bike paths along Rogers Street. I worked for the roundabout at 17<sup>th</sup> and Arlington and will work to get sidewalks and side paths both to the east and west of that roundabout.

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

**EASTON:** Positive economic growth downtown depends on making it a destination to live, work, and play for the permanent residents of the city. The goal is to keep the historic charm of the city that provides its current draw while providing a top of the line living experience for the inhabitants. First is a focused development of the tech park. I believe it should be a mini-model of the successful version in West Lafayette, leveraging both IU and Crane. Overall we need to bring more businesses downtown and slow the building of student apartments. I would only approve incentives such as abatements using the city's own guidelines, mostly to improve truly blighted areas. I would also oppose granting variances on established zoning laws, the granting of which I believe creates inequities among developers, angers residents, and ultimately stifles growth.

I want to see Bloomington leverage its assets for economic growth. The current development of the GPP is crucial. The proximity to Crane and I69 should be highlighted for potential businesses downtown. Quality of life downtown with shops, restaurants, trails, and parks should be emphasized and cared for appropriately. The city should help young entrepreneurs start and grow businesses downtown.

**STURBAUM:** Growth is good. It brings jobs and keeps the city as a place where people want to live and also be able to make a living. But uncontrolled growth is not so good. The assessment of our last ten years is that we have filled in old parking lots and one story building sites with housing and long lasting buildings with a future. This has helped keep our downtown viable. We are now in need of some corrections: We want and need more diversity of housing for all types of citizens of all levels of income. We need to refine our design guidelines as well. Adding to the Convention Center and bringing non-student residents downtown will bring different customers to the shops and restaurants on a regular basis so we can maintain and enhance diversity as well as maintain a vibrant downtown. The quality of life in Bloomington does attract businesses and retirees but it also affects our own happiness and is therefore a precious resource to protect.

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

**EASTON:** I understand that the government at all levels must be accountable to the citizens it represents. I am in favor of providing every tool practical to citizens to hold its representatives accountable. For example, public meetings should be held at times that are favorable for attendance by residents, not in the middle of the work day. Non classified records should be kept in a way that is easily accessible on demand. City spending should be easily accessible through a public portal similar to the state's MPH. Too many documents are stored in hard copy, which creates a burden on city staff to maintain them and makes access difficult for the public when records are requested for viewing. More specific to the council, the city should not be approving the hiring of unneeded consultants and bureaucrats. I do not believe the council has been a good steward of the city's money on this issue and has given passes to the hiring of new positions without properly questioning their need.

**STURBAUM:** I am always available to citizens and their concerns. This is part of the job of being a representative of those who live in my district and one of the most enjoyable parts of it. Every regular City Council meeting also has public comment at the beginning and the end of the meeting. Our system of city commissions involves citizens in the activity of government. I am working to expand our commissions by adding advisory positions so it will be easier to be part of the process. Anyone who is really interested should be able to be a member of one of our commissions. Neighborhood organizations are another way to be a part of our government's decision making. The Housing and Neighborhood Department (HAND) works with neighborhood groups and the Council of Neighborhood Associations (CONA) also helps bring neighborhood issues to the attention of representatives. If someone really wants to be involved, the doors are open.

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

**EASTON:** Affordable housing in Bloomington is largely tied to rental prices. Median housing prices actually declined since 2008 and are just now rising to pre-recession levels, but rental demand has increased sharply. Unfortunately, most of the supply increases have been geared towards students. Demand increases have driven up prices, and that is where the city must focus. Much of the current help being provided is through partnerships such as SCCAP, which we should continue to support. The city can help also through its own policies. We should not be approving five-bedroom apartment housing units, for example. We can control zoning to discourage such developments and possibly provide incentives to developers to build units focused on permanent residents throughout the city. We should continue to develop transportation, including BT, to allow lower income housing to be built throughout the city yet still allow people to get to work. Tied to that, we need to bring more living wage jobs to Bloomington so people can afford the housing we have, and the city's own policies can encourage that.

**STURBAUM:** While the city has done a lot by helping both Habitat and Bloomington Restorations in their affordable home ownership programs and encourages affordable housing in many other ways, it is not enough. One danger of prosperity and growth in a community is that this is often not shared and housing costs in a university town have an added cost inflation issue. The market will not create new affordable housing without city involvement in the way of incentives, tax credits, zoning variances and even requirements that a percentage of new apartments be affordable. I am part of a working group that is researching this issue in a timely way right before the new planning revisions take place. The Unified Development Ordinance or UDO is being developed now and has a timeline of approximately a year to complete. Now is the time for real action on a vital issue to keep Bloomington a place for all.

5) How will you address downtown parking issues?

**EASTON:** I believe that the installation of parking meters in downtown Bloomington continues to have an overall negative effect on the livability of the downtown area and the city on the

whole, and as such I believe they should be removed. I believe the decision to implement them was rushed with contradictory reasons – underutilization of the garages and a lack of available spaces, combined with a need to pay for the garages. The current system is confusing for residents, let alone visitors we hope to attract downtown. Most businesses downtown remain opposed to them due to losses in revenue and difficulty in employee retention.

I favor 1) removing the meters, 2) returning limited free parking strictly enforced throughout a downtown-wide parking zone to eliminate the “2 hour shuffle”, 3) establishing uniform payment policies among all the garages, 4) considering incentives for downtown employers and their employees, 5) working with the county on a parking plan for its employees, including a separate garage, and 6) establishment of a fund specifically from garage and parking fine revenue to pay off the garage amortization and nothing more.

**STURBAUM:** There are three hours of free parking downtown to help workers and citizens in the Scotties and the 4<sup>th</sup> Street garages until 6 PM. Just drive in and get a ticket and you can drive out without paying or you will be billed for only hours after the three free. There is some fine tuning of hours needed so the meters might change from 9 to 9 instead of 8 to 10 to help coffee drinkers and late night diners for instance. Nearly every city of this size has meters because it is the best way to allot the use of a common resource in short supply. When cars are warehoused on the street and moved from spot to spot, there is no parking for customers.

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

**EASTON:** I believe the urban deer problem should be focused on the deer within the urban city, not those at Griffy. That said, I think the hired deer cull at Griffy was a mistake, although I believe the city should follow the deer task force’s secondary recommendation to allow managed hunts. Rather than a one-off sharpshooter, regular managed hunts have proven successful in other cities. They will provide revenue via licenses and their ongoing success can be monitored as they are by the state at its parks. I also agree with several of their other recommendations and findings for deer within the city. The deer are not starving and have not reached a biological capacity, so reducing them depends on what we find an “acceptable level”. Hunting in neighborhoods is unacceptable, so I think we must give people the tools they need. First, I agree with allowing taller fences for those who wish to install them. Second, we should leave bowhunting on the books for those with sufficient land. I also agree that contraception and sterilization are not suitable or practical for an open environment. Regardless, the city needs a written deer management plan.

**STURBAUM:** I was convinced that Griffy needed management. Experts from DNR testified about the program that has been used in Brown County State Park and other state parks for years. But the apparent lack of deer raises questions for me, which I will look into. As for the city deer problem, I am not in favor of the same procedure. There may be evidence that the city deer act more like a closed system, which might allow for other methods. Allowing taller fences and other fencing options are a fair start for the city deer issue, plus research into alternatives and their costs.

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

**EASTON:** I believe Bloomington already does a good job of working with Monroe County on key issues. For example, differences were resolved to complete the sidewalk along Leonard Springs Road. Further discussions should continue on the parking garage and annexation of lands. Further studies can be done on overlap of services that could result in lowered expenses for both. I would welcome the development of a countywide bus system.

I would like to see city leaders open better dialog with IU leaders. It seemed there was a lot of antagonism between IU and the city over the relocation of the FIJI house to west 8<sup>th</sup> street. While IU is not obligated to the city on most things, having a better relationship is more likely to generate a favorable response. The city can work with IU on issues such as the merging of bus service, the tech park, and overlap of city services.

Ivy Tech has been positive for the city. Its main Bloomington campus lies outside city limits, but it has been open and positive towards the city. Its rapid growth has shown a need to connect it to the city, which would be improved with the proposed county bus service.

**STURBAUM:** The recent issue of a fraternity house in University Courts is a good example of town - gown cooperation. The initial proposal was to demolish six historic houses in one of the most historic neighborhoods in the city. Citizen and city groups spoke out and the president of the Bloomington Historic Preservation Commission set up a meeting with myself, the head of IU facilities, and the president of Indiana Landmarks. As a direct result of these meetings, the University agreed to move five of the wonderful historic homes. The houses are already being moved to fill vacant lots from previous tear-downs in University Courts. IU has plans to restore them and use them for faculty housing, thus enhancing the residential nature of the brick-streeted neighborhood. Interestingly, the original owners of many of these houses were IU faculty, so the neighborhood will have come full circle. This kind of sincere and respectful dialogue with IU or the county commissioners or Ivy Tech can often bring about good results for all sides.

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

**EASTON:** A major issue I see is the retention of young professionals in the city. Many employers in Bloomington report difficulty recruiting and retaining 20 and 30 somethings who largely want to go to big cities. This relates to Bloomington's quality of life, which is the focus of my campaign. Some of it is perception. We need to do a better job marketing the city's assets. Some of it relates to the changes Bloomington has gone through recently with all the student centric housing and businesses downtown. We need to attract a better mix of businesses, especially tech businesses, with resources such as the tech park. Good jobs will attract young professionals, and the quality of life will keep them here.

Another major issue is city sanitation. The city is running a significant deficit in its sanitation fund. Sanitation is a basic city service that I do not oppose subsidizing. Still, I want the city to

open the contract to competitive bidding. I am not in favor of trash transfer stations within city limits, such as the JB Salvage site. I favor continued use of the trash sticker system versus monthly fees to encourage lower trash use, and free curbside recycling.

**STURBAUM:** The homeless issue is the most distressing issue for our growing city. We are becoming a regional destination for those in need. With no permanent shelter or detox center, the need is being partially filled by volunteers and churches. This is a regional issue, not just the city's problem. But it is everyone's moral dilemma to find the way to help those in need while protecting our hardworking businesses and citizens and keeping public spaces safe and welcoming for everyone.

On a positive note, achieving Platinum Bike Status may be one of the key issues for Bloomington's future. The recent New Urbanism Conference featured cities favored by today's new 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.

And lastly, we need 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 Showers and hospital site will shape our city for the next hundred years. We must choose wisely.

### **Bloomington City Council, District 3**

Allison Chopra (D)  
Mike Satterfield (D)  
Martin Spechler (D)

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

**CHOPRA:** As a downtown business owner for six years, I have first-hand experience with the local economy, parking issues and employment. I also served on the board of the Bloomington Urban Enterprise Association. That experience led to my interest in serving on the City Council. Through it, I gained an appreciation for the responsibility of being a good steward of taxpayer dollars. In addition, I have completed the Bloomington Citizen's Academy and Leadership Bloomington Monroe County. These programs have widened my awareness of local government and non-profit agencies. I have also been attending City Council meetings for the last year.

**SATTERFIELD:** From a technical side, the required qualifications are that one is a registered voter in the district one seeks to represent and that the candidate has met necessary filing deadlines. I believe that aside from the technical requirements, it is valuable to highlight the fact

that the qualified candidate is simply someone who votes, someone who cares and someone that is willing to listen to and represent the other voices in our community. I meet these requirements.

**SPECHLER:** As a moderate Democrat I have served on the Jack Hopkins Social Service committee granting more than \$260,000 annually to many local charities. I am trying to visit them all. Our Sidewalk Committee has funded walkways after site visits and careful safety assessments.

City Council is an “anytime” job. Many meetings occur during business hours, so I teach only one IU course a semester to be available at any time. I also walk my District nearly every afternoon to discover problems and listen to constituents.

Thirty year resident of District 3. Long-time Democratic Central Committee member and elected delegate.

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

**CHOPRA:** Businesses who develop in the city should be held to a very high standard when being considered for tax abatements. These abatements should be used to incentivize the business to include things that we, as a community, value such as environmental sustainability, living wages, green spaces, and opportunities for all of our neighbors to have decent housing.

**SATTERFIELD:** Many parties have interest in managing downtown economic growth and each carry their own priorities. I believe what distinguishes Bloomington from other cities in our state and works well for us is our attractive atmosphere, great but competitive products and services whether dining, merchandise, housing or technologies and attractive wages. Citizens, city departments, development leaders and legislators shape the shift in priorities. While my primary concerns are housing population diversity as well as business diversity, I will always turn to citizens, business leaders, and colleagues as well as city staff for input on whatever process is driving change.

It is imperative that we protect what we have including access for those who don't live downtown. For them it's a destination. With the abundance of housing in this area, we have more automobiles to manage. We must plan for new business ventures. For better or worse economic trends affect small business owners quickly. Even on personal property, codes and law shape potential changes to a spot of land. While we're protecting what we have, we're obligated to anticipate the future.

**SPECHLER:** I prefer more middle-age and senior residents downtown; design of new apartments can favor a better demographic balance. Off-street parking and more green space must be adequate to attract them. New buildings must conform to zoning guidelines and suit the surroundings, especially near the University on Kirkwood. To avoid congestion and pollution, food trucks should be allowed in designated lots, for special events, and away from established restaurants.

I oppose tax abatements for new residential or commercial properties unless they add significant numbers of new jobs and/or provide affordable housing. Abatements without these benefits make existing taxpayers pay more.

I would like to see the Convention Center expanded and a new hotel erected opposite it in the present parking lot. These additions would provide new entry level jobs for the unemployed, the handicapped, and ex-offenders trying to make their way into the mainstream of community life.

As a social liberal, I welcome everyone to our diverse city-- Christian, Jew, or Muslim; Afro, Latino, or Asian; straight, LGT, or bi; Libertarian or even Republican. Rehabilitating existing houses and apartments, rather than concentrated projects, would settle diverse new residents of all types throughout the City.

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

**CHOPRA:** It is important to stay connected with constituents, and not just those who are already actively involved in the process. I will personally employ two methods to address this. First, I will hold regular, monthly meetings with District 3 residents. Second, I will randomly reach out to constituents to ask how they think things are going and what concerns they may have.

On a broader level, I will thoroughly scrutinize each issue that comes before the council. I will ask questions and dig deeper into matters when it is required.

**SATTERFIELD:** All employees of City departments including the legislative side should maintain official communications on information retrieval systems that are maintained or contracted officially. Email is not the only means to store information. Whatever the system used it must be capable and configured for reasonable searches. Accountability will follow easily enough. In any case however, accountability should not have an undue negative impact on productivity.

I believe the next administration should review current policy and procedure with an eye to transparency and productivity. Much of this falls to the executive. A change in administration creates the right space to lose touch with important rules and procedures. I will monitor accountability to the extent a legislator in this role can. Most importantly however, I want to foster responsible governing.

**SPECHLER:** Everything I say or write is public and open to examination and criticism. My views appear quite often in newspaper articles and letter columns and on WFIU's "Speak Your Mind." My positions are thus open to comment, debate, and opposition. I am sometimes the lone dissenter on City Council votes because I am fiscally conservative. My Council comments, which are also frequent and pointed, are available on BCAT and the minutes of the Council. I invite telephone conversations at 812 345-1777 at any reasonable hour.

I invite citizens to stop me on my afternoon walks throughout the City to discuss their opinions and mine.

As a Harvard Ph.D. economist I think I understand budget, pension, and financing issues particularly well. With care we can keep ample reserves and not raise taxes irresponsibly.

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

**CHOPRA:** City Councilmembers have a responsibility to all of our residents to maintain an environment where all people can work and thrive. I think the city should be actively pursuing solutions for affordable housing. While I do not have the solution to this complex problem, I do believe that with a diverse City Council and all of the people who care so deeply for their neighbors that a collaborative effort between the city, the private sector and non-profits can be found. I am committed to work to find this solution.

**SATTERFIELD:** The City should remain a supporting partner to not-for-profit organizations. Habitat for Humanity, Crawford Apartments, Bloomington Housing Authority and others like them understand the local affordable housing challenges better than anyone. Operating under the municipal budget makes them vulnerable to the whim of the voting public where unfortunate change can happen quickly. Affordable housing must be a step toward stability for the occupants.

**SPECHLER:** We have some hundreds of occasionally homeless individuals and families of all kinds in Bloomington. Most of them are now accommodated in public housing, shelters, or relatives' homes. I support them all. Since Bloomington is an open city with relatively generous services, new homeless individuals will always be attracted here and should be dealt with respectfully. Our new police white-shirts are helping us do that.

Rapid re-housing of homeless persons and families is a successful strategy, since medical and psychological services can easily reach those who need them. The most efficient approach to permanent affordable housing is rent-vouchers, allowing recipients to blend into established neighborhoods with residents who will befriend them. New facilities such as the Crawford Apartments, which we helped build, are costly and unlikely to be duplicated soon. Rehabilitating older apartments and houses throughout the City is cheaper than new housing, and I am skeptical of offering developers special zoning or other inducements to create a few openings, because this will invite favoritism and even corruption, without helping enough people.

5) How will you address downtown parking issues?

**CHOPRA:** As a downtown business owner, I saw the effect of the meters first-hand. Luckily, because of the nature of my business, which was by-appointment, it did not affect my business much, though, since I sold the business in August, it has relocated to a section of town that does not have meters. I did, however, see the effect it had on other downtown businesses, which rely on quick, pop-in, transactions. It is negatively affecting many businesses. Many of my neighbors whom I've had the opportunity to meet in the last month have noted that hassle of the parking meters, not the cost, is the main deterrent to coming downtown. I see the meters as a barrier to downtown leisure, and, given the chance, would not have supported the change. However, that is not something I will pursue while on council. There are more important issues.

We can still impact downtown parking congestion. We can require hotel and apartment developers to provide adequate parking for their guests and residents. They should be responsible for not adding to the lack of parking choices.

**SATTERFIELD:** First, our downtown prospered again. Then, we discovered we had parking problems. Some will call this a good problem. But, it's a problem from multiple views. We're currently managing prosperity and the level of prosperity always changes. The removal and re-introduction of downtown meters is evidence of change in prosperity. We must learn to manage parking in the current environment. Keep the surveys and adjustments coming. I support relaxed schedules and fees during lower occupancy periods. On the other hand, varied schedules could become a well-intended gesture that just confuses the public. Avoiding confusion and resentment is great goal.

**SPECHLER:** The parking meters were necessary because of the large number of new student residents downtown who would otherwise want to warehouse their cars overnight on our streets. The money received has helped improve the appearance and safety of our public garages and streets. I favor cutting the paid meter hours to 9 am to 9 pm and making special arrangements for restaurants and church-related volunteer activities. Snow and holiday times should be free, upon a declaration by the mayor. Fines for overtime parking should remain as they are, with clear warnings to out-of-town visitors and reasonable appeal opportunities.

We do invite residents to park free in our garages for three hours or less or in paid lots. Healthy pedestrians can walk a couple of blocks from outside the City center, as I do, or take our excellent bus service. County and commercial employees will have garage spaces with a special discount.

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

**CHOPRA:** First, it is important to establish that there is, indeed a problem, and the severity of the problem. If, for the health and safety of our residents, it is established that action should be taken, that action should be both fiscally responsible and humane.

**SATTERFIELD:** I'm unable to characterize this as a "deer" problem. Deer are simply the most visible part of the problem. "We the citizens" of Bloomington created the problem with deer by providing an abundant food supply. This problem now extends to smaller occupants too such as birds and insects. All are vital in our environment as a whole. Inaction cannot be accepted. We need to reduce deer food sources and utilize direct herd control. These creatures are built to survive in marginal environments. Certain areas of Bloomington are affected more than others but the approach should be community wide.

**SPECHLER:** I favor culling of the deer population if and when a non-lethal method approved by the DNR is proven effective, humane, and affordable to the City. Like our pet dogs and cats, wild deer can be problematic if their numbers and behavior are not monitored and controlled by human beings. Neighborhood deer create expensive accidents, eat our flowers and trees, and attract dangerous predators. Since Indiana eliminated our native wolves and bears, it was up to us to restore the balance of nature at Griffey in which all birds, smaller animals, and plants can thrive there. That policy, approved by the Parks Board, should continue.

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

**CHOPRA:** Our current city officials and staff do great job of communicating and collaborating with other local entities. I believe in using all resources available, and between our city, county and educational institutions, we have many opportunities to draw from the strengths of each other.

**SATTERFIELD:** Communication is the first problem. It's no secret that it happens on sending and receiving ends. Few organizations experience this differently. Most often, we create a forum to state "This is what we're going to do." I want to be present and represent my office. But sometimes we just need a forum to ask, "What do you need?" I'll make the effort to create those too where others are willing.

**SPECHLER:** I now serve on the Economic Development Commission of Monroe County and regularly speak with several members of our County government.

I hope to convince our County Commissioners and Council to develop the Karst Farm Park as a first-class soccer venue for the five-county region with the financial assistance of the Community Foundation for Bloomington and Monroe County, as well as private contributors.

The County should sell the Convention Center to the City so that this facility can be expanded, employing an enhanced innkeeper or food-and-beverage tax on all visitors to Monroe County. These projects could bring jobs and visitors to the Bloomington area with little impact on permanent residents.

I was elected to seven-terms on University Faculty Council, so I have known and worked with several IU presidents. With patience, I find, IU does respond to issues affecting the community, such as historical preservation. Both IU and Ivy Tech are invaluable assets here, but they should work with us to be sure that increased enrollment does not drive up rents for their own students and everyone else.

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

**CHOPRA:** The hospital relocation will be one of the biggest threats to our community in the next several years. However, if we look at the situation as it is, we can also see that it is a great opportunity. Our city needs more affordable housing and employment opportunities at all levels. The city is already being proactive about this change by creating a task force. If the task force includes key local players, including Council representatives in that district, neighborhood associations, social service agencies and those in the business and redevelopment fields, the void left by the hospital can be used for an opportunity for something positive.

**SATTERFIELD:** I indicated earlier that transitional times can be tough on city employees and citizens when experiencing the rules under new leadership. I expect to watch for transitional problems where citizens are not getting the response they need. But the new administration will also have resources to help them with these problems. Fortunately, it doesn't happen every election cycle in this town. But two other problems pose larger challenges.

Revenue coming from the state level may become a problem. State leaders demonstrate they have tax cuts on their mind. How that will affect Bloomington is still far from clear. I intend to support conservative budgets that shore up infrastructure anticipating shortfalls in future years.

The pending Bloomington Hospital move and the effect on the area it alters or leaves behind is of considerable concern. Of equal concern is IU Health's willingness to cooperate with anyone outside of an investor arena. I understand this process will take years. But while in office, I will push to ensure Bloomington is left with an opportunity not a liability. The strongest options must not be removed from negotiations until the deal is done.

**SPECHLER:** Unless the unwise decision to move the IU Bloomington Hospital is reversed, we will need to deal with *the existing structures but keep as many essential (emergency, walk-in, and clinical) services as possible* downtown. To replace any departments that must be redone, such as the ICU, building on a site adjacent to the current hospital is possible and more desirable than the site at North Park. Building at North Park will force many clinics and doctors' offices to rebuild nearby at unnecessary cost to all.

We need to find the funds to develop the Certified Technology Park with some more green space along the B-line trail. The Switchyard Park will give us great opportunities to increase the venues for music and artistic performances outside, as well as play and sports areas. Downtown TIF revenues should be used for these, probably by using bonding authority.

For the colder seasons, we need a medium-size (200 seat) theater downtown accommodate Cardinal Stage and local or visiting theater companies. The Buskirk-Chumley theater needs to be fully supported and perhaps expanded to allow special events nearby. I support subsidies to increase the number of young people and low-income attendees at educational, theatrical, and musical events.

## **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.

## **Bloomington City Council, District 5**

Kurt Babcock (D)  
Gabe Colman (D)  
Isabel Piedmont-Smith (D)

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

**BABCOCK:** Personally-20 plus years living in Bloomington and the last 10 in District 5. I'm a respectful and active listener and as a parent I desire to make Bloomington a better place for my kids.

Professionally- I've worked at both the state and local levels of government for over 10 years, currently a member of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Technical Advisory Committee, Metropolitan Transportation Plan Task Force, Monroe County Emergency Coordinators Board, Outdoor Warning Study Committee, and a member of the Board of Directors for the Indiana Geographic Information Council.

BS Public Affairs- IU School of Public & Environmental Affairs

**COLMAN:** As a Bloomington native with strong skills in communications, creative thinking and coalition building, I am deeply committed to the betterment of our community. I am a small business owner who is eager to work closely with a broad array of community stakeholders to ensure a bold and bright future for all of Bloomington. I believe we can do so through a compassionate and collaborative approach to City government.

**PIEDMONT-SMITH:** I served on the City Council 2008-2012, with one year as president and 2.5 years as representative on the Plan Commission. Before that, I served on the city's Environmental Commission (1 year as chair), the South Central Community Action Program board, the IU Bloomington Professional Staff Council (1 year as president), and the IU Anti-Sweatshop Advisory Committee. I was born and raised in Bloomington and have lived here consistently since 1995. I have a BA in History (Oberlin College) and an MA in Social Studies education (Boston University), as well as 17 years' experience as a fiscal officer at IU.

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

**BABCOCK:** To help maintain its charm and ensure economic prosperity, I will strive to enhance what makes Bloomington unique. I believe the uniqueness comes from the blend of a forward thinking community with a diverse cultural heritage plus a mix of some good old Hoosier hospitality along with a strong Midwestern work ethic. Citizen input will be key, as it's ultimately the citizens who will drive economic growth.

**COLMAN:** My approach will be to keep downtown Bloomington vibrant, safe and accessible, and to promote the area as an exciting arts, entertainment, shopping and fine dining destination.

The cultural diversity that exists within a several-block radius of the Courthouse Square makes it a highlight of Southern Indiana. As a small business owner within that area, I strongly advocate the promotion of downtown to both locals and visitors as a place to spend time and money. This can be achieved in part by helping to facilitate and encourage cross promotion and communication among businesses and other community partners.

I'd also like to help make our paid parking process more user-friendly, and streetscapes even cleaner and safer for everyone. I would work hard to nurture collaborations with organizations such as Indiana University, Downtown Bloomington Inc and Visit Bloomington to promote our area on a regional level in order to help our local art galleries, restaurants, museums, stores, coffee shops, churches and other downtown businesses thrive.

In addition, development of the downtown needs to be organized in such a way as to strike a balance in preserving the look and feel of our community, while also meeting the convenience needs of our citizens.

**PIEDMONT-SMITH:** City government should continue to nurture local businesses downtown through grants and low-interest loans. Tax incentives should be used only in cases where there is a clear community benefit. For example, development of tourism through support for the arts, development of new businesses that fulfill an unmet need, or redevelopment of sites that have been vacant for several years. Our downtown has catered too much to IU students with high-rent apartments and bars replacing existing, more affordable houses and more diverse retail establishments. Through the planning process and the economic development department, the city should encourage downtown investment to meet the needs of all Bloomington residents, including the elderly, lower-income residents, people with disabilities, and families.

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

**BABCOCK:** Hold regularly scheduled constituency meetings, use social media as a tool for mass communication, be approachable when out in the community, and maintain current public notice requirements.

**COLMAN:** I will be open, accessible and accountable. I will explain myself with the goal of informing the public of the issues, and factoring their needs and ideas into my decision-making. As Stewart Huff once said, the three hardest words to say are "I don't know." I promise not to be afraid to admit when I do not know the answer to a question, and I will use my network of support and the input of the community to solve problems effectively. I will invite people to communicate with me via email or in person in my place of business, or in a comfortable setting along the B line trail.

**PIEDMONT-SMITH:** I will hold monthly, open constituent meetings like I did during my first term on the City Council, when I will summarize what the City Council has done during the past month and preview the agenda items ahead. I found these meetings very helpful in gathering feedback on city issues, and both my constituents and I learned a lot in the process. I will also

communicate with constituents via Twitter (@PiedmontSmith), Facebook (Piedmont-Smith for City Council), and my website (www.piedmontsmith.us), and attend community events to talk face to face with residents.

I would seek early input from residents on issues affecting them, such as new real estate development petitions and changes in traffic regulations. The best way to ensure transparency in government is to involve a broad range of residents in government decisions. That way people have buy-in to the decisions and the varied expertise of our residents can be put to use for the public good.

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

**BABCOCK:** The city needs to be at the forefront of promoting safe and affordable housing and help protect low-income tenants from fraud and unjust treatment. I will also promote development that leverages current infrastructure with future needs and is economically inclusive.

**COLMAN:** The City of Bloomington should continue and expand its effort to develop environments that allow a person of reasonable means to have a nice home in a safe and civil neighborhood. The City should make an effort to integrate affordable housing options throughout the entire community, as opposed to concentrating it to specific areas. City Council should seek firm commitments of affordability provisions from developers seeking abatements and variances.

**PIEDMONT-SMITH:** Recently the Plan Commission approved a 70-ft high boutique hotel on Kirkwood Avenue even though our Unified Development Ordinance calls for a maximum height of 40 ft. I publicly disagreed with this decision because there was no community benefit obtained by the city in exchange for allowing the developer to circumvent our UDO. If the developer had proposed to build affordable housing as part of the project, then this exception to our rules would have been justified.

The city should continue to encourage affordable housing through higher density incentives. Such incentives already exist, but they haven't attracted much interest from real estate developers. Therefore, I propose the city go further and implement inclusionary zoning. Under this policy, a certain percentage of any new housing development must be rented or sold at affordable rates. The percentage and the rates would be determined with input from the community. Alternately, the developer could pay into a local housing trust fund, and the city could use that fund to provide grants for affordable housing elsewhere. This has been done successfully in many cities across the US including other college towns like Boulder, CO; Cambridge, MA; and Chapel Hill, NC.

5) How will you address downtown parking issues?

**BABCOCK:** I will propose reducing the times the meters are enforced and encourage the use of other options. Currently there are two city parking garages that offer 3 free hours of parking with minimal requirement. Also, our expanding bicycling infrastructure is helping to make biking a safer and more efficient form of transportation. While Bloomington Transit and Rural Transit are valid options for those outside of the downtown area. Both biking and mass transportation would reduce the number of cars downtown and thus making parking easier.

**COLMAN:** I will address downtown parking issues openly and fairly with the reality of the parking supply in mind, and with the goal of striking a balance among the interests of the downtown business community and its patrons, visitors and residents. As a downtown business owner, I am aware of the concerns of both visitors and business owners as well as of the overall picture of the parking-space inventory. We need to refine the parking systems we have in place in an effort to entice our own residents to spend more time downtown while ensuring that parking remains an open, affordable and usable amenity.

**PIEDMONT-SMITH:** I will work to make the parking garages safer through better lighting and increased staffing. The city should have a consistent policy of a certain number of free hours in all downtown garages. As for the on-street parking meters, I think the effective hours should be reduced so that there is no charge after 8 pm. This makes it safer for people feeding the meters after dark, and would help many downtown businesses. Also one free day per month, possibly in combination with the Gallery Walk, should be considered.

Overall, we must be clear about the goals for parking downtown. Are we trying to raise money to pay for the parking garages? Are we trying to make sure that we have good parking turnover, and that no one “stores” their cars in prime parking spots? The goals need to be clearly articulated by the City Council and the mayor’s administration, and then logical decisions should follow. I think both of the above questions represent valid city goals, but I would welcome further conversations with stakeholders. Administrative hassle is a bad reason not to tweak the current on-street and garage systems. There is sufficient revenue to hire new staff if necessary.

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

**BABCOCK:** I know this has been an emotional topic and my approach will be one of respect, patience, and logic, the same way I will approach any issue.

**COLMAN:** Regarding urban deer, it is easier to say what my approach will not be: I do not advocate the use of lethal means for deer population control in our community. We would do better to find, and use innovative solutions. I will not address this issue without involving my own due diligence. I will physically involve myself in the areas being affected, and base my opinions on a combination of my personal experience, in conjunction with evidence provided by others. I will collaborate with local and national groups, experts and resources to help educate my neighbors on how to protect their property from deer. I will not support lethal force being used in District 5 to address this issue.

**PIEDMONT-SMITH:** Legitimate concerns have been raised about deer eating both decorative and edible plants, deer causing traffic accidents or scary near-misses, deer running through plate glass doors, and even deer attacking small pets. While the deer in Bloomington are doing fine, many humans feel there are too many of them.

The Dear Task Force outlined many options for dealing with this problem, which was first brought to the City Council's attention in 2009 through a petition signed by 501 city residents. I have read the report and think we should act incrementally. A deer feeding ban should be enacted, and residents should be allowed to build higher fences (depending on the material) than currently allowed under city code. Gardeners should be educated on which plants are deer-resistant, and all residents should know to stay away from a doe when she is with her fawn(s), and to keep pets and small children away as well. Following an educational effort and relevant changes to city code, residents should be surveyed again to see if they still perceive a problem. Only then should more drastic measures be considered, if necessary.

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

**BABCOCK:** Be proactive and seek opportunities to build and develop relationships that foster trust and promote the betterment of the community, such as the Small Business Development Center. This is a prime example of the potential benefits the community can garner when the major players work together.

**COLMAN:** Collaboration is the key to success, and we have some amazing community partners. A great deal of headway has been made in nurturing relationships with our major institutions and I will work hard to take these relationships to the next level. I will help coordinate and facilitate efforts among these institutions to highlight and promote the cultural diversity and opportunities that make Bloomington a worthwhile visitor destination. When significant community issues arise, I will advocate for the use of joint task forces made up of representatives of each institution. As Bloomington grows, I look forward to sharing policies that will allow infrastructure, utilities, transportation, police and fire departments to benefit Ivy Tech, Indiana University and the City.

**PIEDMONT-SMITH:** Though many forms of collaboration already exist, more communication between these entities would benefit our community as a whole. Historic preservation is a topic on which IU and the city should have more conversations, as the city's historic districts don't require compliance by IU, a state entity, but IU does have an interest in upholding the vibrant architectural history that makes Bloomington special. Likewise, we see tensions between the County and the City about the County's parking garage proposal. An overall vision for the Morton Street corridor, where both county and city offices are located, would have been useful prior to the issue coming to the city's Plan Commission.

I propose monthly meetings between leaders from the city, county, IU, Ivy Tech, and the Monroe County Community School district to discuss both an overarching vision for Bloomington's future and specific projects for which collaboration and cooperation are essential. From the city

government, both the City Council and the Mayor should have a seat at that table, and the meetings should be open to the public. Such meetings used to take place in IU's Bryan Hall and can once again be a helpful tool for community leadership.

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

**BABCOCK:** One of the biggest issues coming down the 'road' for the city is the completion of I69 and the true impact it will have on our wonderful community. I will do what I can to make sure it is as positive as possible.

With manufacturing jobs leaving the city, it's vital the city create job growth opportunities and the Certified Technology Park has the potential to help fill the void.

**COLMAN:** The development of Switchyard Park needs to be organized in such a way as to balance the presence of business and homes, in an effort to create a safe, civil atmosphere akin to Bryan Park, and in contrast to Seminary Park. We've seen what happens when a park is surrounded on all sides by business that close up shop and leave the area unattended. It is in Bloomington's best interest to create a community around Switchyard that identifies with the space as a neighborhood, cherishes it as a resource, and protects it like it's their own backyard. It has such tremendous potential to be a driver of not just the economy but of a community that celebrates and benefits from a healthy lifestyle, full of beauty and multiple recreational options.

**PIEDMONT-SMITH:** The move of Bloomington Hospital outside the city limits will have a profound impact on all of Bloomington, especially District 5, which lies just south of this historic institution. We must bring all stakeholders together, as the mayor is doing with the current task force, and talk with IU Health representatives to prepare a smooth transition and to ensure that many health care needs can still be met downtown, on a portion of the current hospital site. While the main hospital building may not be reusable, the city can, through incentives and partnerships, encourage other development on the site that meets community needs, such as affordable housing.

Bloomington continues to make strides toward sustainability, but there remains much to be done. The Center for Sustainable Living has been working on an ordinance to ban free plastic bags at grocery and other stores. The Bloomington Food Policy Council has proposed a Food Charter to address food security (hunger) in Bloomington and encourage the development of resources to grow and process food locally. The city should also look into renewable energy sources such as solar panels on city buildings and, possibly, some hydroelectric power at the water treatment plant at Lake Monroe.