

1. My main priorities if elected City Councilman are to reduce crime, reduce drug dependency, and improve job opportunities in Bloomington. First, Bloomington has consistently seen rising crime rates since the early to mid 2010s. We have also seen major crime cases such as the bomb threat at Target, the bar shooter, and last month's bus stabbing. If we want people and businesses to move to and visit Bloomington, we need to make sure people are safe to live and work. Second, State Representative Dave Hall had proposed bringing a facility to Monroe County similar to one in Jackson County that allowed rehabilitation for drug addicts while they were allowed to work and pay their way at no cost to the taxpayer. I would like to set up a similar facility in Bloomington. Finally, there have been expanded manufacturing opportunities in Southern Indiana, especially with Cook Medical, and I believe our city government should work to incentivize people and businesses to move to Bloomington. If Bloomington wants people to stay, it will need to create a business climate that creates jobs that keep people and families around longer. Bringing jobs that build Bloomington and its people will be a top priority.
2. The city is increasingly becoming a college town run by IU with students who do not stay as well as housing developments aimed at packing as many people as possible into the city instead of developments that keep people around. The focus needs to be on growth that will create jobs that employees will want to engage in and stay in Bloomington, as well as building a community that will allow people living here, either born or moving into the area, to want to engage and stay for a long time. We want to prioritize and make people want to raise a family here and feel like they are part of Bloomington as opposed to just living here.
3. There are a variety of proposals to make sure people want to move to Bloomington and start businesses. We need to expand police services and patrol, and we need to make sure that Bloomington is taking a greater role in crime prevention and management than the university. We also want to make sure we are hiring people in the area as officers to promote better relationships with the locals and the police. In addition, I want the city to take an active role in making sure local companies are working with the university to provide students with jobs after college so that they stay in the area after graduating instead of going to Chicago, Indianapolis, or elsewhere.
4. Our biggest opportunity is most likely the students. We have a lot of people moving to the area being trained for careers and getting a world class education. If we could work to retain that, we could harness the students leaving college to become part of the Bloomington workforce and improve city production. Our biggest threat is a lot of people don't feel like this is a place to stay. Be it crime or just not enough to do, most people I talk to feel there isn't enough reason to engage with the Bloomington community. I believe we need to make people feel included in the city's society and that will make them want to stay, as long as we have jobs for them.