

Kate Rosenbarger

1. If elected, what are your top 3 priorities as a City Council member? (200 words)

My top three priorities are to create a more sustainable city by making decisions focused on climate action and racial and social equity, to improve our transportation infrastructure to allow for greater choices and accessibility services for all Bloomington residents, and to promote data-focused decision-making to prioritize equity and justice.

Climate change impacts are linked to social, economic, and racial justice. We're already beginning to see the devastating impacts locally, with cost-burdened households, people of color, and people experiencing homelessness shouldering the greatest burden of harm. As we continue to cope with the reality of a destabilizing climate; t our onus is to explore data-driven, science-supported solutions and to act thoughtfully upon them with equity as our focus We can create opportunities for people to live in affordable homes in transit-oriented areas, and we can improve our pedestrian and transit system so they are the fastest, easiest and most utilized way to get around. Learn more at kateforbloomington.org.

2. What concerns do you have about the business community and economic development in Bloomington? (125 words)

Indiana's [wealth gap](#) for black, indigenous, and communities of color hurts the Bloomington business community. Even before the pandemic, [Census data](#) showed that the percentage of minority-owned businesses is not reflective of the diversity of our community. Not only that, but black owned businesses in particular were the hardest hit during the pandemic. These national and state trends exist at the local-level and it is concerning that we as a city aren't investing enough in the infrastructure and programs that are needed to incubate the promising next generation of business owners.

Local businesses also need support around climate adaptation and mitigation. The flooding last year, rising temperatures, and more extreme weather events are disasters that many business owners do not have the capacity to plan for or the financial capacity to cover.

3. What solutions would you propose to address these concerns? Specifically, what would you do to promote a positive business climate? (125 words)

BIPOC business owners and entrepreneurs know best how to address a business climate that is not reflective of their representation. Funding programs, developing mentorship-protege programs and paid internship opportunities for BIPOC highschool and college level students are a few strategies used in other communities.

Bloomington can implement programs that assist BIPOC businesses and all businesses to access resources necessary to adapt to a destabilizing climate. Specifically, Bloomington could create a program that purchased re-usable carry-out containers and to-go coffee cups for restaurants and cafes. Similar to milk delivery in glass bottles, customers could use them, return them anywhere, and save waste from landfills. We have a role to play in facilitating collaboration. Fundamentally, any solution must be informed by feedback from the BIPOC community.

4. What do you think is our community's biggest opportunity? What is its biggest threat? (125 words)

The scale and urgency of climate change is Bloomington's biggest threat, but in that lies Bloomington's biggest opportunity--to become a model Midwestern city for climate action. We can create a more sustainable, livable, socially equitable city--for everyone. We must look at the long-term benefits and consequences of our decisions, and come up with solutions that address many problems simultaneously.

We can take serious climate action by managing our development to build affordable housing in transit-oriented areas, and by strengthening our transportation infrastructure to attract and retain businesses that grow our economy. Bloomington can become an even better place to call home—where you know your neighbors, are proud of where you live, and can choose how you get around.