

Andy Ruff – City of Bloomington At-Large Candidate

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

- Restoring respect and civility in Council deliberations, in relations between the Council and the Administration and between the Council and the public.
- Develop rational development strategies for the city and the local economy
- Protect Bloomington's resources, especially its water resources, our aesthetic environment and community character

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

Out of town development interests are having too much influence on local development. Our leaders shouldn't pursue and incent unpopular and unrealistic growth objectives and strategies where we're positioned as a low-wage labor market to attract new employers. Our core affordability problem isn't so much a high cost of living -- it's a lack of job opportunities at living wages.

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

This is primarily an Administration function - Council generally has a minor role in economic development. That said, a positive business climate requires things like a good reputation in public safety, protecting and enhancing our community character and natural environment and amenities, among other functions of local government where Council can play an important role. We should also redirect our business development activities more to professional services industries that match well with Bloomington's workforce and the talent pipeline from IU and away from those that don't match our local strengths or IU's graduate talent.

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

- **Biggest opportunity:** To become a major regional destination for creative and arts entrepreneurship.
- **Biggest threat:** Exploitative, predatory overdevelopment by private equity-backed real estate investors, who already are overbuilding expensive and oppressively ugly housing the city doesn't need and crowding out development of affordable housing the city does need.