

Shruti Rana, Candidate for City Council District 5, Chamber Questionnaire Responses:

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

I'm running for Bloomington's 5th District to build a strong and inclusive community. My top priorities are:

(1) Expanding access to childcare and healthcare. This includes supporting universal pre-K and public education programs, bringing more healthcare providers and programs to our city, and enhancing the continuum of care for people and families in crisis.

(2) Fostering an environment that will bring good jobs and opportunities to Bloomington. That means strengthening city civil and human rights protections and resources and creating incentives for companies and people to invest and stay in Bloomington. It means increasing workforce housing and building sustainable neighborhoods with thriving public spaces and easy access to transportation. I will also work to secure federal funding to support renewable energy resources in Bloomington, and help the city secure and offer clean energy incentives for homes and businesses.

(3) Enhancing public trust and collaborative leadership. Our city plays a key role in our county, and our leaders must work together respectfully and ensure that all voices are heard. I will emphasize principled leadership, and my experience on city and county boards will help me find creative, collaborative ways to problem-solve, and foster environments where everyone feels respected, valued and heard.

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

We must bring all concerned voices to the table to determine how to best support, preserve and expand the opportunities and resources that bring people to Bloomington and allow them to stay and thrive. I will support using ad hoc committees to research solutions, seek out and amplify community voices, and expand transparency and accountability. I plan to reduce barriers and increase resources so that small businesses can flourish. We must find sustainable pathways to growing our community, and do so in a challenging environment in a state where rights and opportunities are under siege. I aim to make our city the best place possible to live, work, and learn—these are the critical factors that bring businesses and sustainable economic development to our city.

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

We're one of the most inclusive cities in Indiana, with thriving arts, culture, educational resources and public spaces. We can do more to increase accessibility to these resources, and show that we not only welcome but value diversity and inclusivity. We need to support the qualities that create a positive business climate—thriving people and communities, strong educational resources, accessible public transportation, public safety, and support for employees, employers, and families. I believe in adopting best practices from communities like ours that are building affordable workforce housing, creating good jobs, and increasing climate resilience. We have all the ingredients to be a center of innovation and I will support and incentivize the climate of inclusion and innovation that creates a strong business climate.

4. W_h_a_t__d_o__y_o_u__t_h_i_n_k__i_s__o_u_r__c_o_m_m_u_n_i_t_y_'s__b_i_g_g_e_s_t__o_p_p_o_r_t_u_n_i_t_y? What is its biggest threat? (125 words)

Bloomington has a strong workforce, a welcoming climate, and a vibrant energy that sets it apart from many cities its size, and these are the quality of life measures that bring people and investment here. However, equality, public

education, and healthcare are now under siege in our state, and we need to work towards city-level solutions and support to the strongest extent possible to counter this serious threat.