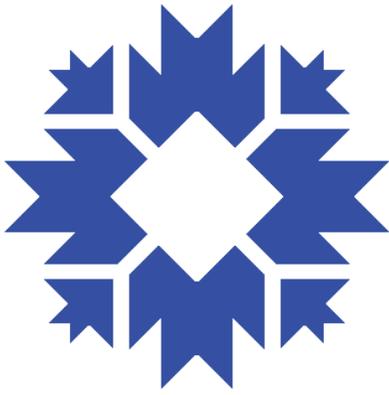


City of Bloomington Common Council

Citizens' Academy 2014

Office of the Common Council
P.O. Box 100
401 North Morton Street
Bloomington, Indiana 47402
812.349.3409
council@bloomington.in.gov
<http://www.bloomington.in.gov/council>



The Bloomington Common Council

Duty

The Bloomington Common Council Establishes City Policy through the enactment of ordinances (laws) and the adoption of resolutions, orders and motions for the governing of the City of Bloomington. The Council also approves and adopts the City budget. (Indiana Code § 36-4-6-1-18)

Members

The Common Council is composed of nine members who are elected by the voters of the City to represent them over a four year term. The term of the current Council runs from January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2015. Six of the members represent individual districts and three of the members serve the City at-large.

Officers

President	Darryl Neher
Vice-President	Dorothy Granger
Parliamentarian	Tim Mayer

Council

At-Large	Tim Mayer
At-Large	Andy Ruff
At-Large	Susan Sandberg
District I	Chris Sturbaum
District II	Dorothy Granger
District III	Marty Spechler
District IV	Dave Rollo
District V	Darryl Neher
District VI	Steve Volan

Democracy in Action

The Council values citizen feedback! There are multiple ways to communicate with us.

- Email: council@bloomington.in.gov
or email each Council member directly (see attached contact sheet).
- Send the Council a letter: Bloomington Common Council, P.O. Box 100, Bloomington, IN 47402.
- Call the Council Office: 812.349.3409
or call each Councilmember directly (*see attached contact sheet*).
- Visit the Council Office at 401 N Morton St., Monday – Friday, 8:00am – 5:00pm
- Attend a Council meeting! Usually the first four Wednesdays of the month. Check our website for the next meeting date and upcoming legislation.
www.bloomington.in.gov/council

Meetings

Council meetings are generally held on the first four Wednesdays of the month in the Council Chambers of the Shower City Hall. In accordance with Indiana's Open Door Law, all meetings of the Council are open to the public.¹

Public Comment

The Council encourages citizens to participate during public comment period. Time is reserved at two places on the Regular Session agenda for individuals from the public to speak on matters of community concern. Citizens may speak at one of the two public comment opportunities, but not both. During a Regular Session, the public may comment only on items not listed on the agenda. During a Committee of the Whole meeting, discussion and public comment is limited to agenda items only.

Authority

The rules for the conduct of meetings are set forth in § 2.04 of the Bloomington Municipal Code. Issues of procedure that are not covered by local or State law are resolved by Roberts Rules of Order.

Regular Sessions & Committees of the Whole

As a general rule, the Council meets on the first four Wednesdays of each month. The first and third Wednesdays are set aside for Regular Sessions, where formal actions of the Council occur, and the second and fourth Wednesdays are reserved for Committees of the Whole, where matters referred to the Committee are discussed and given a recommendation.

Special Sessions

Occasionally, the Council may vote to hold a Special Session. A Special Session is usually scheduled in order to finish items on a long agenda or to consider one complex piece of legislation.

Executive Sessions

Executive Sessions are an exception to the general rule that all meetings are open to the public. Executive Sessions are held when privacy serves the public interest – i.e., to discuss pending litigation, to purchase real property, to implement a security system and for discussion of collective bargaining strategy.² The requirements for notification of Executive Sessions are generally the same as for Special Sessions, except that the notice must cite the statutory basis for holding the closed meeting.

Budget Sessions

Producing the City budget is a highly collaborative and multi-step process. In the Spring, the Controller and the Mayor work with City departments to draft each department's budget. In May, the Mayor invites the Council to a budget advance to discuss budgetary priorities. In July, the Council holds budget hearings wherein each City department presents its proposal and the proposal is discussed. In September, the Council meets to vote on the budget.

Can't make it to a meeting? You can find recordings of Common Council meetings at <http://catstv.net/>

¹ Indiana Code §5-14-1.5-5

² Indiana Code §5-14-1.5-6.1

Legislation

Types of Legislation

Appropriation Ordinances

- Legislation that approves the transfer, deposit, or expenditure of funds.

Ordinances

- Legislation that becomes law for the City of Bloomington
- E.g., legislation that amends the Bloomington Municipal Code – traffic ordinance, historic designation, the Green Building ordinance, the Living Wage requirement.

Resolutions

- Declarations, approvals, and other, less-permanent actions of the Council
- Examples: opposing routing of 1-69 through Bloomington; establishing Bloomington Platinum Biking Task Force; granting a tax abatement; authorizing an interlocal agreement with Monroe County for animal care and control.

Life of a piece of Legislation at the Council

- Usually, considering a piece of legislation is a three-part process:
 - First Reading – Ordinances are read into the record at a Regular Session by title and synopsis only.
 - Committee of the Whole Meeting – Ordinances and resolutions are discussed and preliminary votes are cast.
 - Final Action – Votes take place at either a Regular Session or Special Session. Legislation is signed by the Council President and the Mayor.

The Legislative Packet

A legislative packet is issued to Councilmembers and the public on the Friday before a Council meeting. The packet generally contains a brief memo, the agenda, copies of proposed legislation and supporting documents, and a weekly calendar of City board and commission meetings. The packets are available on-line at:

<http://bloomington.in.gov/council/packets.php>. Hard copies of the packet are also available in the Council Office and the Indiana Room of the Monroe County Public Library.

» *Call or write the Council Office if you need help finding legislation.
349. 3409 or council@bloomington.in.gov*

Evolution & Development of Legislation

- Who can propose legislation?
Answer: Councilmembers, Boards and Commissions, and the City Administration.
- While only the above can propose legislation, policy change often starts at the grassroots level. Oftentimes, residents will work with members of the Council or City administration to change City policy.

Office of the Common Council

The Council Office is staffed by an Administrator/Attorney Dan Sherman (shermand@bloomington.in.gov), Deputy Administrator/Researcher Stacy Jane Rhoads (rhoadss@bloomington.in.gov) and an intern who works closely with the Council to foster efficient Council deliberations and to help Council members realize their legislative goals. The Council Office also helps constituents address concerns, conduct legislative research and lend their voice to the legislative process.

City of Bloomington Municipal Code

The City of Bloomington's Municipal Code consists of ordinances passed by the Council and signed by the Mayor. The City Clerk serves as legal custodian of the Code. The Code is organized by subject matter under an expandable three-factor decimal numbering system which is designed to facilitate supplementation without disturbing the numbering of existing provisions. Each section number designates, in sequence, the numbers of the title, chapter, and section. The Code is on-line at: <http://www.bloomington.in.gov/code/index.htm> .

CHECK OUT THE CITY COUNCIL'S WEBSITE!

www.bloomington.in.gov/council

One of the many ways the Council communicates with citizens is through our website. We provide up-to-date information on Council meetings, Councilmember initiatives and Council committee work. Here's a quick guide to some of the more notable features of the Council site.

THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
Mark Kruzan, Mayor

Services | News | Calendars | Locations | myBloomington | Sitemap | Subscribe | Contact Us

Take Action Do Report Ask Explore

Home Government Community Business Sustainability Arts & Culture Parks & Recreation Public Safety Transportation

City Council

- » About the Council
- » Council Committees
- » City Council Legislation Center
- » City Council Maps

Related Sections

- » Government
- » City Departments

City Offices

- » Office of the Mayor
- » City Council
- » City Clerk
- » Boards and Commissions
- » Contact Us

Select a Bloomington City Department from the list

City Departments

Home > Government > City Council >
Bloomington Common Council

English

Top Services

- » Employment with the City of Bloomington
- » Parks and Rec Employment
- » Pay Utility Bill
- » myBloomington
- » Healthy Indiana Plan - Health Insurance for Adults
- » Adoptable Animals
- » Contacting the City
- » Pay Parking Tickets
- » Parking Ticket Appeals

Contact Info

Council Office
401 N Morton St
Ste. 110
Bloomington IN 47402
812-349-3409
council@bloomington.in.gov

Attachments

- » 2014 Annual Calendar -- Meetings of City Boards and Commissions
- » 2015 Budget Schedule
- » Calendar 22-27 September 2014
- » Calendar 29 September-04 October 2014

Back, l-r: Andy Ruff (At-Large Representative), Chris Sturbaum (District I Representative), Susan Sandberg (At-Large Representative), Steve Volan (District VI Representative), Martin Spechler (District III Representative), and Dave Rollo (District IV Representative). Front, l-r, Dorothy Granger (Vice President and District II Representative), Darryl Neher (Council President & District V Representative), and Tim Mayer (At-Large Representative & Parliamentarian)

As the legislative body of the City, the City Council is a link between the citizens of Bloomington and their government. By enacting legislation that fosters the health, safety and welfare of the City, the Council works to represent the interests of residents while ensuring the delivery of municipal services. By statute, the Council is responsible for the control of the City's property and finances, and the appropriation of money.

EXPLORE THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES

The screenshot shows the City of Bloomington website's "Council Committees" page. The header includes the city logo, navigation links (Services, News, Calendars, Locations, myBloomington, Sitemap), and a search bar. The main navigation bar lists various city departments. The left sidebar contains "Council Committees" (with links to Sidewalk Committee, Jack Hopkins Social Services Funding Committee, Peak Oil Taskforce, and Platinum Biking Task Force) and "City Offices" (with links to Office of the Mayor, City Council, City Clerk, Boards and Commissions, and Contact Us). The main content area features a breadcrumb trail (Home > Government > City Council > Council Committees >), a title "Council Committees", and a paragraph explaining the council's committees. Below this is a list of committees with links: Sidewalk Committee, Jack Hopkins Social Services Funding Committee, Peak Oil Task Force, Deer Task Force, and Bloomington Platinum Biking Task Force. A note states: "You can click on any of the committees shown in this screenshot and be redirected to their webpages." The right sidebar includes "Top Services" (with links to Employment with the City of Bloomington, Parks and Rec Employment, Pay Utility Bill, myBloomington, Healthy Indiana Plan - Health Insurance for Adults, Adoptable Animals, Contacting the City, Pay Parking Tickets, and Parking Ticket Appeals) and a "Contact Info" section with the Council Office address and contact details.

BROWSE LEGISLATION

Each Friday before a council meeting, the Council Office posts the meeting agenda, legislation, and all background documents such as reports, memoranda, and maps.

The screenshot shows the City of Bloomington website's "Browse Legislation" page. The header and navigation are identical to the previous screenshot. The left sidebar features "City Council Legislation Center" (with links to City Council Minutes, City Council Packets, and City Council Meeting Agendas), "Related Sections" (with links to City Council, City Clerk, City Council Meeting Agendas, and City Council Packets), and "City Offices" (with links to Office of the Mayor, City Council, City Clerk, Boards and Commissions, and Contact Us). The main content area has a breadcrumb trail (Home > Government > City Council > City Council Legislation Center >), a title "Browse Legislation", and a paragraph explaining the council's legislative process. Below this is a link: "Resolutions, Ordinances & Appropriation Ordinances Passed by the City Council". The "Information in City Council Legislation Center" section includes a list of "Council Packets" (from 2014 down to 2003) and "Agendas" (from 2014 down to 2012). A note states: "You can click on the 'Council Packets: 2014' or 'Meeting Agendas: 2014' links on the left to be redirected to the respective webpage." The right sidebar includes "Top Services" (with links to Employment with the City of Bloomington, Parks and Rec Employment, Pay Utility Bill, myBloomington, Healthy Indiana Plan - Health Insurance for Adults, Adoptable Animals, Contacting the City, Pay Parking Tickets, and Parking Ticket Appeals) and a "Contact Info" section with the Council Office address and contact details.

Councilmember Contact Information

Darryl Neher (President)

E-Mail: neherd@bloomington.in.gov

Mailing: 1202 S. Dunn St.

Bloomington, IN

47401

Dorothy Granger (Vice President)

E-Mail: grangerd@bloomington.in.gov

Mailing: 3211 N. Valleyview Dr.

Bloomington, IN

47404

Tim Mayer (Parliamentarian)

E-Mail: mayert@bloomington.in.gov

Mailing: 1001 S. Jordan Ave.

Bloomington, IN

47408

Susan Sandberg

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Andy Ruff

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47401

Steve Volan

E-Mail: volans@bloomington.in.gov

Mailing: 105 E. 6th St. Apt. A

Bloomington, IN

47408

Office of the Common Council

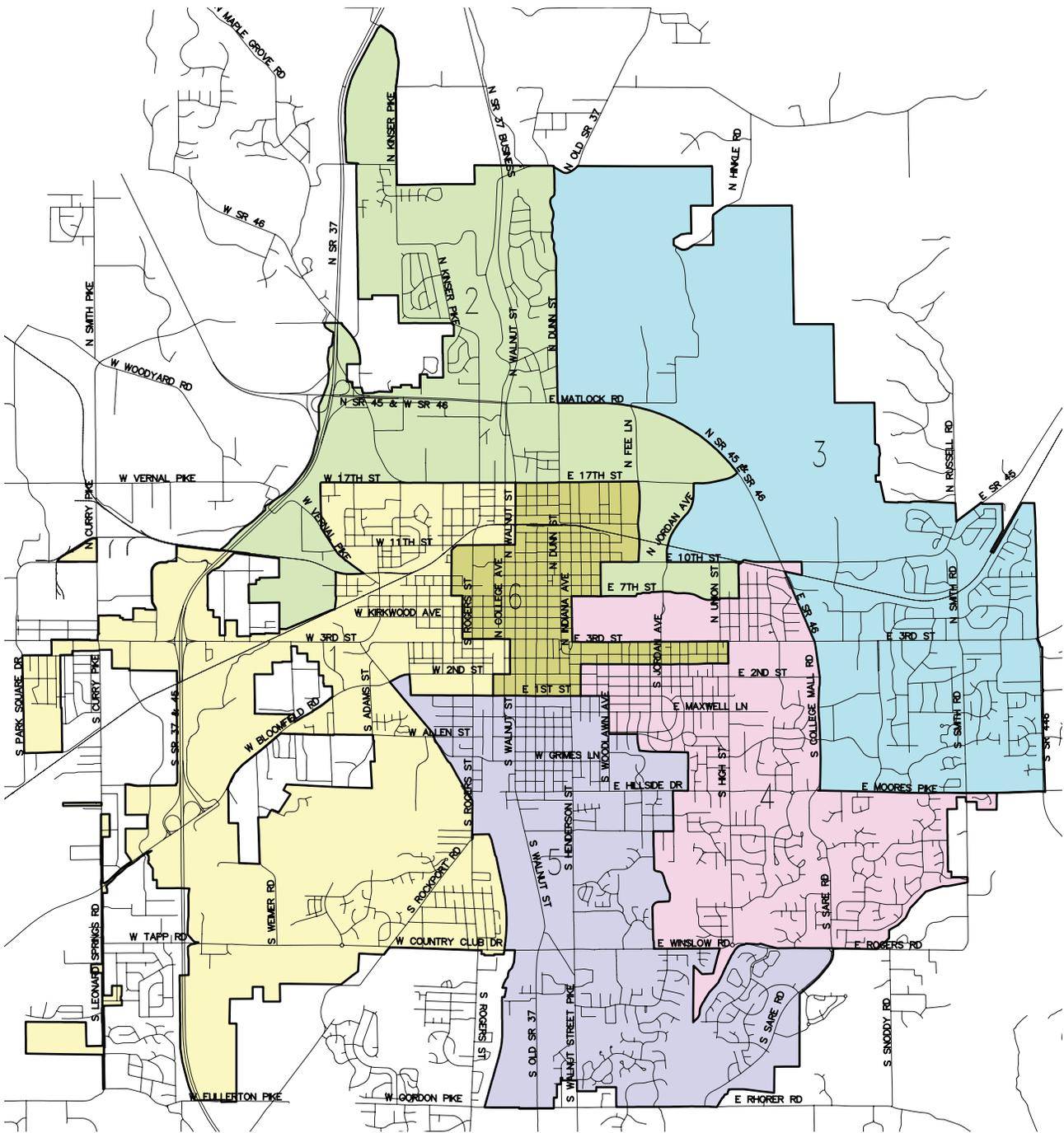
E-Mail: council@bloomington.in.gov

Mailing: 401 N. Morton

Bloomington, IN

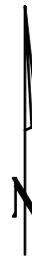
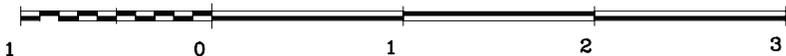
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You can find all of this information as well as Councilmember biographies at
http://bloomington.in.gov/sections/viewSection.php?section_id=404

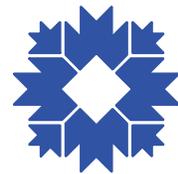


City of Bloomington, Indiana
 Council Districts
 January 9, 2013

Scale: 1 inch = 1 mile



City of Bloomington
 ITS Department



Geographic Information System

For use as map information only, information is NOT warranted.