

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.

- E-mail: council@bloomington.in.gov
or e-mail 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 North Morton, Monday – Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.
- 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 recorded 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 a 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/documents/viewDocument.php?document_id=7263.

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, Deputy Administrator/Researcher and an intern who work 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://bloomington.in.gov/sections/viewSection.php?section_id=250.

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 Krusan, 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

Home > Government > City Council >

Bloomington Common Council

English

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

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

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.

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

Calendar -- 16-21 September

EXPLORE THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES



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

Council Committees

- » Sidewalk Committee
- » Jack Hopkins Social Services Funding Committee
- » Peak Oil Taskforce
- » Platinum Biking Task Force

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 > Council Committees >

Council Committees

The Council convenes a number of standing and ad-hoc Council Committees to address issues of public concern. Two of the Council's most active standing committees are the Sidewalk Committee and the Jack Hopkins Social Services Funding Committee. The Sidewalk Committee meets in the autumn of each year to decide how to allocate funds from the City's Alternative Transportation Fund while the Jack Hopkins Social Services Funding Committee provides funding to local social services agencies who serve residents in need.

- Sidewalk Committee
- Jack Hopkins Social Services Funding Committee
- Peak Oil Task Force
- Deer Task Force
- Bloomington Platinum Biking Task Force

You can click on any of the committees shown in this screenshot and be redirected to their webpages

Information in Council Committees

- ☐ Webpages
 - ☐ Jack Hopkins Social Services Funding Program -- Application Information

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English

Top Services

- » Employment with the City of Bloomington
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- » Healthy Indiana Plan - Health Insurance for Adults
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- » Pay Parking Tickets
- » Parking Ticket Appeals

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.

Related Sections

- » City Clerk
- » City Council
- » City Council Legislation Center

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

Information in City Council Legislation Center

- ☐ Council Packets
 - ☐ Council Packets: 2013
 - ☐ Council Packets: 2012
 - ☐ Council Packets: 2011
 - ☐ Council Packets: 2010
 - ☐ Council Packets: 2009
 - ☐ Council Packets: 2008
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 - ☐ Council Packets: 2005
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- ☐ Agendas
 - ☐ Meeting Agendas: 2013
 - ☐ Meeting Agendas: 2012
 - ☐ Meeting Agendas: 2011
 - ☐ Meeting Agendas: 2010
 - ☐ Meeting Agendas: 2009
 - ☐ Meeting Agendas: 2008
 - ☐ Meeting Agendas: 2004
 - ☐ Meeting Agendas: 2003
 - ☐ Meeting Agendas: 1999
 - ☐ Meeting Agendas: 1998
 - ☐ Meeting Agendas: 2007
 - ☐ Meeting Agendas: 2006
 - ☐ Meeting Agendas: 2005

You can click on the "Council Packets: 2013" or "Meeting Agendas: 2013" links to the left to be redirected to the respective webpage

- » Pay Utility Bill
- » myBloomington
- » Healthy Indiana Plan - Health Insurance for Adults
- » Adoptable Animals
- » Contacting the City
- » Pay Parking Tickets
- » Parking Ticket Appeals

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Councilmember Contact Information

Darryl Neher (President)

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Bloomington, IN

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Dave Rollo

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47401

Dorothy Granger (Vice President)

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Steve Volan

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Andy Ruff

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47402

Chris Sturbaum

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Mailing: 334 S. Jackson

Bloomington, IN

47404

Martin Spechler

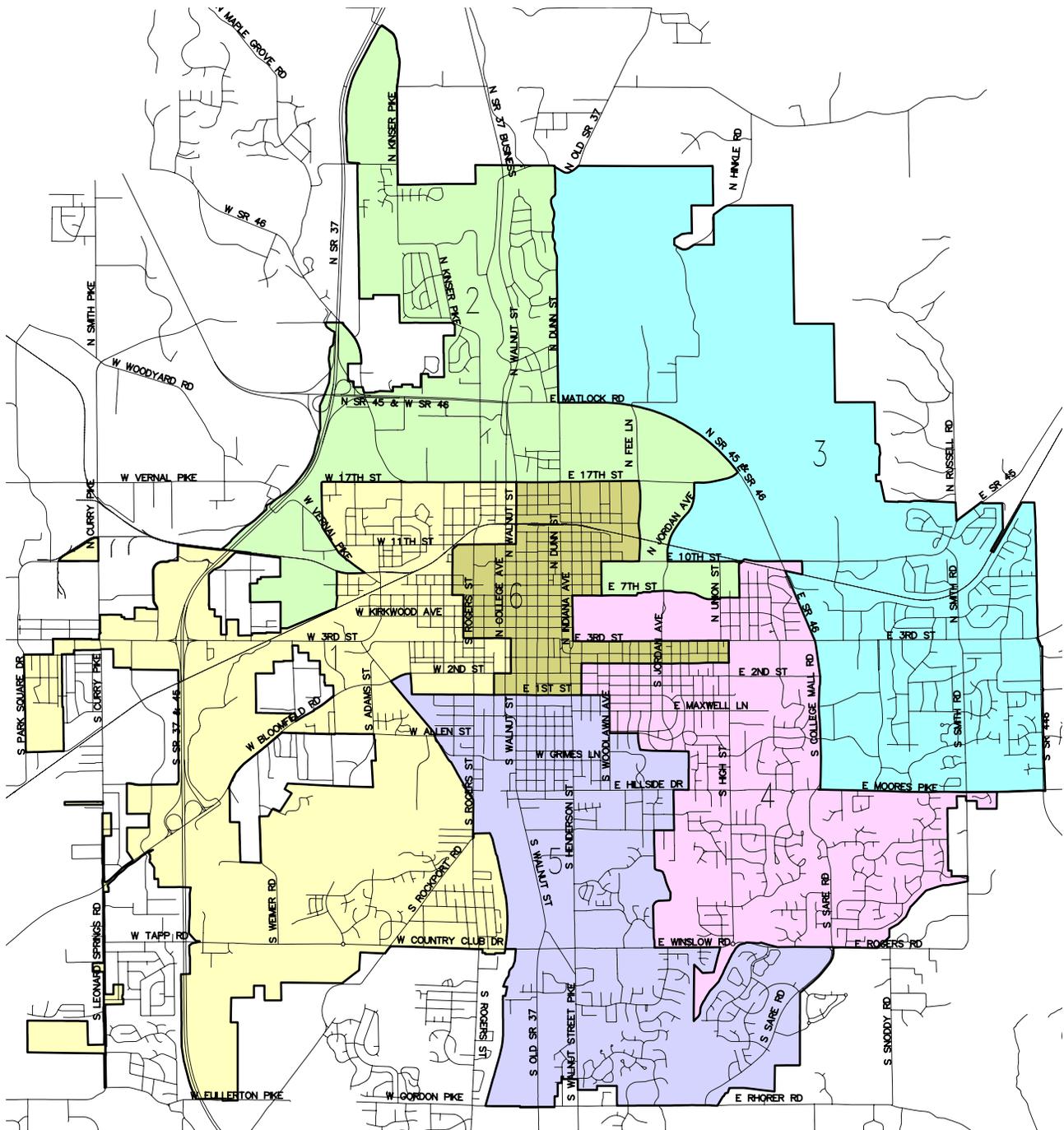
E-Mail: spechlem@bloomington.in.gov

Mailing: 4418 Sheffield Dr.

Bloomington, IN

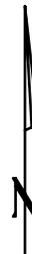
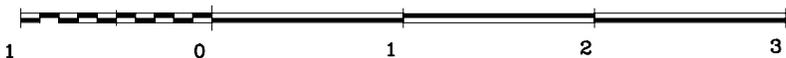
47408

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.