

Bloomington Common Council
Special Fiscal Committee Meeting¹
Wednesday, November 19, 2025 1:30 pm²

Allison Conference Room (#225), Showers Building, 401 N. Morton Street

The public may also access the meeting at the following link:

<https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/89900745316?pwd=KprervnDXCpLbSxufGZdvwuFC5poRI.1>

Chair: Isabel Piedmont-Smith

Agenda:

1. Agenda review and approval
2. Planning Dec. 10 deliberation session on budget priorities
Included in this packet are:
 - a. Review proposal from CM Piedmont-Smith
 - b. Discussion
 - c. Public comment
3. Budget process and timeline for the 2027 budget
 - a. Matching current funding to programs
 - b. Matching programs to outcome categories
 - c. Ideas for public engagement
 - d. Timeline
 - e. Public comment
4. Plans for tracking the city's fiscal position
 - a. Review of annual audits
 - b. Quarterly updates
 - c. Public comment
5. Adjournment

REMINDER: Charge of the Special Fiscal Committee:

1. Work closely with the Controller to:
 - Create a timeline and activity framework for the yearly budgeting calendar
 - Track progress of the yearly budget and report back to the whole council.
 - Track fund balances (esp. TIF, CRED, Bonds, etc.)
 - Recommend scheduling of specific budget related discussions, presentations, and education for the full council.
2. Be responsible for supporting Council Staff with the 2026 Council Budget and presentation of that budget.
3. Continue the work started by the Ad-Hoc Salary Committee to fine-tune the Elected Salary Framework. The Special Fiscal Committee will be responsible for bringing forward the Elected Salary Ordinance for FY2026.
4. Explore and recommend improvements to the budgeting process.

¹ Pursuant to applicable law and policy, the following details are provided regarding the officers serving on this committee:

- Committee Members: Isabel Piedmont-Smith (Chair), Isak Nti Asare, Dave Rollo, Hopi Stosberg
- Appointed by: Council President
- Term: Beginning 2/19/2025; Expiration 2/18/2026

² Bloomington Special Fiscal Committee meetings can be watched on the following websites:

- Community Action Television Services (CATS) – <https://catvstv.net>
- YouTube – <https://youtube.com/@citybloomington>
- Background materials and packets are available at <https://bloomington.in.gov/council/meetings?year=2025>

Planning Deliberation Session on Budget Priorities for Dec. 10, 2025

PART 1: Overall budget priorities for the City

Councilmember discussions in Spring 2025 focused on what we wanted to see in the budget proposal for 2026. We did not make a comprehensive list of outcomes we want the City to achieve, and we did not prioritize outcomes in light of budgetary limitations.

We can look at the [2018 Comprehensive Plan](#) for some guidance here, and put the objectives from that plan in the 6 adopted spending categories. Here is a first draft effort to do that:

1. Housing and homelessness
 - Increase the range of affordable housing options that are universally designed and environmentally sustainable. (Chapter 5: Housing & Neighborhoods)
 - Improved access of neighborhood housing to community amenities, employment, and essential services. (Chapter 5)
 - Increased diversity within neighborhoods. (Chapter 5)
2. High-performing government
 - Engagement processes are inclusive and representative. (Chapter 1: Community Services & Economics)
 - Community engagement is strong. (Chapter 1)
 - Respond to the results from the Community Survey (Chapter 1)
3. Economic development
 - Quality wired and wireless connectivity is available throughout the City (Chapter 1: Community Services & Economics)
 - Income inequality is reduced across and between all ages, races, and genders. (Chapter 1)
 - Career pathways and training are engaging residents and businesses. (Chapter 1)
 - Entrepreneurial activity has increased and a culture of entrepreneurialism is being sustained. (Chapter 1)
 - Wages, jobs, and GDP are outpacing population growth. (Chapter 1)
 - Enhance the arts and culture industry in Bloomington. (Chapter 2: Culture & Identity)
 - Downtown events are frequent and well attended. (Chapter 4: Downtown)
 - The Downtown business environment is vibrant and sustainable. (Chapter 4)
 - Downtown buildings and sites with blight or disrepair have been identified and remedied. (Chapter 4)
4. Public safety
 - Public safety is enhanced. (Chapter 1: Community Services & Economics)
5. Transportation and mobility
 - The transportation network supports all travel modes for people of all ages and abilities. (Chapter 6: Transportation)

- Public streets and rights of way have positive public health impacts. (Chapter 6)
 - Public parking demands are managed efficiently and effectively, to an optimum level of 85% of supply. (Chapter 6)
6. Community health and vitality
- Public health is enhanced. (Chapter 1: Community Services & Economics)
 - Historically and culturally significant places are preserved and celebrated (Chapter 2: Culture & Identity)
 - Attendance at cultural events is high. (Chapter 2)
 - Public spaces are high quality, engaging, and active. (Chapter 2)
 - Celebrate all forms of difference in Bloomington. (Chapter 2)
 - Detrimental environmental impacts from the built environment are reduced. (Chapter 3: Environment)
 - Fossil fuel consumption is reduced community wide. (Chapter 3)
 - Green space has increased. (Chapter 3)
 - Recycling practices have increased city wide. (Chapter 3)
 - Water consumption has been reduced. (Chapter 3)
 - Water quality in Lake Monroe is improved. (Chapter 3)
 - A local food culture has been promoted and protected. (Chapter 3)
 - Air quality is maintained at a high level, and our carbon emissions are significantly reduced. (Chapter 3)
 - CBU meets or exceeds federal drinking water standards 100 percent of the time. (Chapter 3)
 - Downtown facilities provide services and year-round community programming that is age- and ability- friendly. (Chapter 4: Downtown)
 - Residential growth downtown is inclusive of all ages and abilities. (Chapter 4)

Note that each Outcome listed in the Comp Plan has specific indicators listed under it to measure success. For example, under Transportation:

Outcome: Public streets and rights of way have positive public health impacts.

- Number of fatalities and incapacitating injuries
- Crash rates for people walking and bicycling
- Motor vehicle crash rates
- Average pavement condition index by road typology
- Number of known sidewalk and ramp ADA violations
- Percentage of transit stations and vehicles that are ADA accessible
- Percentage of streets that meet the “complete streets” criteria

Food for thought:

- A. Considering there are many outcomes in the 2018 Comp Plan related to the Environment, should we add an “environment” category or bucket?
- B. Should we be open to adding to the outcomes listed in the Comp Plan? On what basis should things be added?

For example, should we add more specific outcomes from plans adopted after 2018? Are there other issues that have become important since the 2018 Comp Plan was adopted?

C. How do we prioritize the outcomes based on limited fiscal resources?

Once we have prioritized outcomes, we can evaluate programs and services funded by the budget that work toward those outcomes.

Question for mayor's administration: Will programs and services be sorted into outcome categories in time for the 2027 budget?

PART 2: Review of Spring 2025 responses

This part may or may not be useful for the discussion on Dec. 10, but reading it may help CMs put their ideas into the context of the bigger outcome-based budgeting project.

Outcomes answer the question: What would a better Bloomington look like?

Outcomes below are in red

Ways of attaining the outcomes are in blue

Listed items are from 4/9/25 deliberation session and CM worksheets submitted via email between 4/10 and 4/14/25.

Interpreted by CM Piedmont-Smith and thus PRELIMINARY!

Budget categories 1-6 are those agreed to by the Council and Administration in May 2025

1. Housing and homelessness
 - a. **It's easier to build housing**
 - i. **Revise the UDO to be a form-based code** (MF, SZ, KR, IA)
 - ii. **Incentivize small housing developers** (KR)
 - b. **There are more single-family owner-occupied homes**
 - i. **Limit short-term rentals** (DR)
 - ii. **Invest in land trusts** (DR)
 - iii. **Continue home owner assistance programs even in view of HUD cuts** (IPS)
 - iv. **Help people stay in their homes through continuation of HAND repair and accessible modifications programs** (IPS)
 - c. **There are fewer unhoused people**
 - i. **Fund a better comprehensive homelessness data system** (CD)
2. High-performing government **(and equity?)**
 - a. **Government actions have equitable impacts**
 - i. **Remove the general fund subsidy for sanitation services** (KR)
 - ii. **Invest in an equity audit and operational reform** (MF)
 - b. **The legislative branch of city government has the capacity to be more proactive in addressing local issues**

- i. Increase investment in City Council staff and consultants (MF, IPS, KR)
 - c. Services provided by city staff are high quality
 - i. Keep staff pay competitive (AR)
 - d. City infrastructure works reliably
 - i. Fund repair and maintenance of city infrastructure (HS)
 - e. Residents know how City government works for them
 - i. Improve communication with residents (SZ)
- 3. Economic development
 - a. There are more successful local businesses
 - i. Provide funds for small business resource center (CD)
- 4. Public safety
 - a. Fire Dept response times are reduced, especially in SW quadrant (DR)
 - b. Crime is reduced and security is increased
 - i. Retain and attract high-quality police personnel (DR)
 - ii. Increase support for non-police community emergency response (IPS)
- 5. Transportation and mobility
 - a. There are fewer accidents on our roadways, especially those involving pedestrians and cyclists (KR and MF)
 - b. The transportation mode share of cars is less (KR and MF)
 - c. Not sure of desired outcome –
 - i. Increase support for repaving and repair of roads (DR)
 - ii. Enhance downtown circulator bus system (IA and SZ) – maybe
Economic Development?
- 6. Community health and vitality
 - a. Our ecosystem is healthy
 - i. Increased funds for invasive species removal (DR)
 - b. Less waste is going to the landfill
 - i. Fund a community composting program (CD and KR)
 - c. More residents are able to meet basic human needs
 - i. Increase Jack Hopkins funding (DR)
 - ii. Increase food security – what does that mean? (IA)
 - iii. Continue subsidies for rent, energy bills, e-bikes (HS)
 - iv. Support co-location of mental health providers in other service agencies (CD)
 - d. Fewer residents have substance use disorders
 - i. Partner with County government on the use of opioid settlement funds (IPS)
 - e. Not sure of desired outcome
 - i. Reinstate curbside leaf pickup program (AR)