

THE BIG STORY: WHAT HAPPENED WITH THE PROPOSED BONDS AND LOCAL INCOME TAX (LIT) INCREASE?

This spring, Mayor Hamilton proposed a two-part approach to raising new revenue for Bloomington including (1) **the issuance of General Obligation Bonds** (aka "GO Bonds" – pronounced "geo bonds"), and (2) **an increase in the Local Income Tax**.

The Basics: GO Bonds

A general obligation bond is a municipal bond backed by the credit and taxing power of the City (rather than the revenue from a given project.) General obligation bonds are issued with the belief that we will be able to repay the debt obligation through taxation or revenue from projects. No assets are used as collateral. **One-time capital investments** are good projects for being funded with a G.O. bond, like a multi-use trail or essential equipment replacements.

The Basics: Local Income Tax (LIT)

The Local Income Tax (or LIT) is a tax on income, paid by individuals and is used to fund the **ongoing expenses** of the City. It is a proportionate tax on adjusted gross income, assessed at a flat rate, meaning that the more income you earn, the more tax you pay. According to state law, local income taxes are county-specific, so the LIT applies to all Monroe County residents. Our **current LIT rate** is **1.345%** of adjusted gross personal income.

How did the votes turn out?

- On April 20th, City Council approved the issuance of **two \$5 million bonds** to invest in infrastructure projects throughout the City.
- On May 4th, City Council voted unanimously to support a **0.69% increase** in the Local Income Tax. Effective October 1, 2022, the **new total LIT rate** in Monroe County will be **2.035%** of AGI.

What is being funded?

How could District 2 residents benefit?

The **GO Bonds** will fund multiple projects including sidewalks, side paths, bike lanes, and trails, as well as ADA ramps and energy savers like LED streetlights throughout the City. All good things.

*I am, however, **especially** thrilled to report that \$960,000 has been earmarked for the design and right-of-way acquisition for a North Dunn multiuse path from the SR 45/46 Bypass to Old SR 37!*

This is HUGE news! It's long been my feeling that District 2 has been "under-invested in" and so I'm very pleased that we'll finally be able to make progress on this important project.

While extensive design work hasn't begun yet, Planning and Transportation staff have indicated that the path may be on the east side of the street for most of the distance, with a few switchbacks to accommodate the hilly, wooded terrain (most likely north of Clover Lane). Typical path width is about 10-12 feet, plus a possible 6-8 foot tree plot.



The increased **Local Income Tax** will fund public safety (including the new FOP Contract with its much-needed raises for sworn officers), essential city services, climate change preparedness, public transit, and equity/quality-of-life initiatives. Just as the costs associated with running a household have increased in recent years, the costs of running a city increase too, and so we've seen increases in essential items like insurance, supplies and materials, equipment, labor, maintenance costs, and so forth.

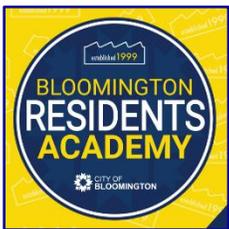
FIND OUT (LOTS) MORE:

<https://bloomington.in.gov/newrevenue>



NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS! BLOOMINGTON RESIDENTS ACADEMY (THIS IS A REALLY COOL THING!)

The **Residents Academy** is a ten-week, highly interactive program that provides participants with an inside look into City services, programs and responsibilities. I completed Residents Academy (then called Citizens Academy) back in 2014 and came away feeling way more informed about Bloomington and more able to participate in our local government.



The class will meet weekly on **Thursday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00 pm from August 25 to October 27, 2022.** (So it's not a huge time commitment.) Together with your classmates, you'll spend time with department

heads and other City leaders and you'll hear firsthand about the challenges and opportunities involved in balancing a budget while responding to community goals and needs. You'll learn about the structure and function of these departments, the role of City Council, resident involvement in boards and commissions, innovations in government, and more.

- Office of the Mayor
- City Council and Clerk's Offices
- Public Works
- Parks and Recreation
- Planning and Transportation
- Housing and Neighborhood Development
- Police Department
- Fire Department
- Utilities
- Community and Family Resources
- Controller's Office
- Bloomington Transit
- Information and Technology Services
- Economic and Sustainable Development

FIND OUT MORE AND APPLY:

<https://bloomington.in.gov/residentsacademy>

Next Constituent Meeting:

Saturday, June 4th | 1:30 pm | Via Zoom

Special Guest:

Devta Kidd

Director of Innovation – City of Bloomington

B-CLEAR DATA SET SPOTLIGHT: BLOOMINGTON CRIME MAP

“B-Clear” is short for *Bloomington Clear*, a web-based, one-stop site for data about the City of Bloomington, its services, and its neighborhoods. The site is open to the public and includes over 200 data sets about everything from park trails to police calls to paving schedules. This month, I’m spotlighting the *Bloomington Crime Map*.

Crime mapping helps us better understand local crime activity (or lack thereof) so we can make more informed decisions about increasing public safety. What crimes have been reported in your neighborhood and when? How can you submit a tip if you have knowledge about a crime? Start here!



FIND OUT MORE:

communitycrimemap.com/?address=Bloomington,IN

Visit SueForCityCouncil.com

My Legislative Priorities

Links to Constituent Meetings

Issues of “Sue’s News”

Quick Links for Getting Involved in the City

UREPORT:

ON LINE REPORTING AND HELP REQUESTS

See a sidewalk that’s blocked by overgrown vegetation? A street light that’s not working? A pothole that needs to be patched? Have a compliment for a city staff member? **Use UReport!**

This online portal is a quick, easy way to communicate with the city about non-emergency issues like those above. The site is easy to navigate with drop-down menus, open fields to record your comments, and even a place to upload your photos of whatever needs attention. When you submit your reports or comment to the City it will be sent to the appropriate department and you’ll hear back from the staff who are working on the issue (generally within a day or two). You may also send an e-mail to info@bloomington.in.gov or call the City at 812.349.3400, (but I’ve found UReport to be a lot faster!)

FIND OUT MORE:

bloomington.in.gov/ureport-about