

### B-CLEAR DATA SET SPOTLIGHT: ANNUAL STATS - BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

“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 *Annual Stats for the Board of Public Works*. How many special events were approved last year? How many noise permits (like the ones issued for Lotus Festival) were approved? How many contracts did the Board approve for work on city streets? It’s all here!

#### FIND OUT MORE:

<https://data.bloomington.in.gov/dataset/board-of-public-works-annual-statistics>

### UREPORT: ON LINE REPORTING AND HELP REQUESTS

See a swing set at the park that needs to be repaired? A sidewalk that’s blocked by overgrown vegetation? A street light that’s not working? A pothole that needs to be patched? Have an idea for a program that you’d like to share with the Parks Department? 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 directly to [info@bloomington.in.gov](mailto: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:

<https://bloomington.in.gov/ureport-about>



### IT’S TIME! GENERAL ELECTION POLLING SITES FOR DISTRICT 2 RESIDENTS

#### EARLY VOTING

Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup> thru Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>

#### Monroe County Government Election Central

401 W 7th Street - Suite 100  
Bloomington  
(Across from Johnson Creamery)

#### ELECTION DAY

November 3, 2020  
6:00 am to 6:00 pm

#### Arlington Heights Elementary School

#### 700 W Parrish Road - Bloomington

Precincts Voting at this Site:

Bloomington 14, 15, and 24

(West 17<sup>th</sup>, Arlington Valley)

#### Indiana Memorial Union Solarium

#### 900 E 7th Street - Bloomington

Precincts Voting at this Site:

Bloomington 5 and 23

(Wright Quad, Teter Quad, Eigenmann Hall, Evolve, College Park, Varsity Gate, etc.)

#### Unitarian Universalist Church

#### 2120 N Fee Lane - Bloomington

Precincts Voting at this Site

Bloomington 7, 13, and 17

(Fritz Terrace, Blue Ridge, Matlock Heights, Ridgefield, Northwood Estates, North Jordan

(east side) Greek Houses, North Jordan Extension)

NEW! Some neighborhoods  
that used to vote at Genesis  
Church will now vote at UU.

## GET INVOLVED: BOARD AND COMMISSIONS



Before I was elected to Council, I served on the City's Redevelopment Commission for five years, and it taught me a lot. Most of all, it taught me that very ordinary people (that would be me in a nutshell) can have a lot of influence on how decisions are made, how money is spent, which projects go forward (and which don't), and when. There are currently more than 30 boards and commissions that advise the Mayor and City Council on a wide range of issues. From the Animal Control Commission to the Parks Commissioners to the Historic Preservation Commission to the Environmental Resources Advisory Council, scores of citizens work to influence policy and spending for the City of Bloomington. Check and see if there's a role for you!

### FIND OUT MORE AND APPLY TO SERVE:

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



## REIMAGINING THE BLOOMINGTON HOSPITAL SITE

You are invited to participate in and hear updates about the master planning process for redevelopment of the current Bloomington Hospital site at the third **virtual public forum** on **Thursday, October 6th at 6 p.m.**

After registering (see link below) you'll receive a confirmation email with your personalized link to the meeting. Forum materials are available in advance via the project website, and the town hall also will be streamed live on the City's Facebook page and via CATS.

On Thursday, the master plan consultants will present a refined plan, and will host three, 25-minute workshops with interactive discussions. Workshop topics will be **Access + Connections, Open Space, and Land Use + Neighborhood Character.**

### FIND OUT MORE AND REGISTER:

- [www.bloomingtonhospitalsite.com](http://www.bloomingtonhospitalsite.com)
- [https://som.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAuf--ppzlvGN0mm7LDvW7xwHaqib\\_u1Vnw](https://som.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAuf--ppzlvGN0mm7LDvW7xwHaqib_u1Vnw)



## WHO'S IN CHARGE OF WHAT? BEGINNING TO DEMYSTIFY LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Ever gotten confused about which local government entity is in charge of what? Me too! Why do both *counties* and *cities* have law enforcement functions? Do public health officers work for the City or the County? What is the role of a *township*? And how does a *School Corporation* or a *Fire Protection District* fit into all this?

Most local governments are created because *state statutes (or the state constitution)* authorize citizens in a particular geographic area who need or desire local services to form a local unit of government. States also determine how much authority each type of government may exercise.

So locally, we've got the following **GENERAL PURPOSE** government entities:

- **Monroe County**
- **City of Bloomington**  
(or the Towns of Ellettsville or Stinesville)
- **Bloomington Township**  
(or Perry or Clear Creek or Benton Township)

In addition, **SPECIAL PURPOSE** government entities, as defined by the U.S. Census, are local entities "authorized by state law to provide only one or a limited number of designated functions, and with sufficient administrative and fiscal autonomy to qualify as separate governments." You'll hear these referred to as districts, authorities, boards, and commissions. Add these in to the mix and you'll find the following:

- **Monroe County Solid Waste District**
- **Monroe County Community School Corp**
- **Monroe Fire Protection District**  
... and others

The National League of Cities (NLC) – a resource and an advocate for municipal governments and local leaders – offers a helpful primer on different types of government entities, what they can (and cannot) do, and how they interact with one another.

### FIND OUT MORE:

<https://www.nlc.org/resource/cities-101-types-of-local-governments>

### KEEP IN TOUCH!



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