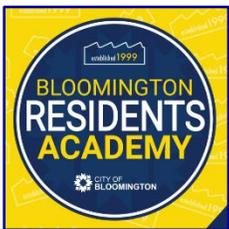


NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS! BLOOMINGTON RESIDENTS ACADEMY (THIS IS A REALLY COOL THING!)

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>



2022 ELECTION PREVIEW: YOUR VOICE MATTERS (AND NOT JUST IN NOVEMBER!)

By the end of this year, we will have elected more than a dozen individuals who will represent our interests at the federal, state and local level. For District 2 residents, those contests start with the primary election in May for the following offices:

US Representative – 9th District*

State Representative – District 61

County Assessor

County Circuit Clerk

County Prosecuting Attorney

County Recorder

County Sherriff

Circuit Judge – Division 6 | Seat 1

Circuit Judge – Division 5 | Seat 4

Circuit Judge – Division 7 | Seat 7

County Council – District 1

County Council – District 4

Bloomington Township Trustee*

(**BOLD*** = The current incumbent is not running for reelection so we'll be choosing a new person for these offices.)

SOME KEY DATES

Monday, April 4th

VOTER REGISTRATION ENDS

Tuesday, April 5th

EARLY/ABSENTEE VOTING OPENS

**at the former NAPA Building on Third Street
(and not at Election Central as in past years)**

Monday thru Friday, April 5-29

8:00 am to 6:00 pm

Saturday, April 23 and April 30

9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Monday, May 2

8:00 am to Noon

Thursday, April 21st

DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR AN ABSENTEE BALLOT

Tuesday, May 3rd

PRIMARY ELECTION DAY

FIND OUT MORE:
indianavoters.in.gov



THE BIG STORY:

WHAT'S ALL THIS I HEAR ABOUT A PROPOSED INCREASE IN LOCAL INCOME TAX?

Actually the proposed increase in our Local Income Tax (LIT) is just one piece of the puzzle. Mayor Hamilton is proposing a two-part approach to raising new revenue for Bloomington including (1) a **LIT increase** and (2) **the issuance of General Obligation Bonds** (aka “GO Bonds” – pronounced “geo bonds”).



So let's start to break this down ...

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.

The Basics:

General Obligation 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.

And now let's dig a little deeper ...

How does our tax rate compare to other communities?

All 92 Indiana counties have a Local Income Tax.

Historically, Monroe County has among the lowest tax rates in the region, including the lowest local income tax rate of our seven contiguous counties. Monroe County's rate ranks 23rd from the lowest in the state.

Why are we considering a LIT increase and the issuance of GO Bonds anyway? What are we raising revenue for?

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.

In addition (and more important to me) are the increased investments that we are considering in several areas, particularly public safety. While the revenue itself would go into the City's General Fund (and thus become part the City's overall budget), they Mayor has indicated that a primary goal would be to fund and ratify the recently-approved contract with the FOP, which included significant salary increases to help us recruit and retain the highest quality sworn officers. Also included in the Mayor's plan are increased investments in public transit, climate preparedness, and more. Materials available on the City website provide a much more detailed overview of the Mayor's proposed projects and expenditures.

What is the process for getting this tax approved?

A new Monroe County tax may be proposed by **Local Income Tax Council**, which is comprised of the Bloomington City Council, the County Council, the Ellettsville Town Council, and the Stinesville Town Council. The LIT Council has 100 votes in total, which are distributed among the member councils based on population. Because a majority of Monroe County's population lives in Bloomington, Bloomington's City Council has a majority share of the votes. City Council will hear a formal presentation from the Mayor at its regular session on **Wednesday, April 6th**, will hold further discussions on the proposed increase on **April 13th**. It's possible that a vote could come on or after Wednesday, April 20th.

FIND OUT (LOTS) MORE:

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

