



You're an IU student. Local politics do not affect you, right?

Wrong.

Here are the top five reasons why you need to get involved and elect people you know to the Bloomington City Council.

- 1) The City Council shapes policy that changes your community. Like Kirkwood? Hate that new stoplight at 3rd and Atwater? Wish there were more part-time jobs? The City Council directly impacts all of it, and more.
- 2) If you live off campus, you have to deal with landlords. That relationship is regulated by Housing and Neighborhood Development, a City of Bloomington agency. Your time as a tenant in Bloomington is directly impacted by city government.
- 3) Do you feel safe downtown? City Council approves the budgets for public safety and infrastructure (including lighting and crosswalks) and has strong input into Bloomington Transit's organization and management.
- 4) How's parking treating you? It's a real pain on campus, but it's no better downtown. The addition of one parking garage downtown would provide a parking alternative for IU students, free up parking for local residents doing business downtown, and provide a revenue stream for the city. It might even help you avoid those annoying \$20 parking tickets when you go over on your two-hour spot on 4th Street or Indiana Avenue.
- 5) Getting around: have you ever tried to drive to the mall, or get anywhere in Bloomington on Friday night? How hard is it to leave Bloomington for the weekend? Your City Council is directly responsible through their "traffic calming" policies and their opposition to I-69 via Bloomington's Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

Now that you see why your involvement is essential, here's what you can do.

- 1) **Register to vote.** If you live here for school, you can register to vote. To do it, visit my website at <http://www.bakerforbloomington.com/voters.html#register> to register online or obtain the form. *The deadline is October 10 – don't miss it!*
- 2) **Vote!** Sounds silly, but the biggest battle is getting voters to actually do it. You can vote early beginning on October 11, and Election Day is November 8.
- 3) **Tell your friends.** Share this information, and make sure your friends and neighbors know how important it is to get involved, register, and vote. Every single vote matters. In 2003, this election was decided by 400 votes. That's 1% of the IU student population.
- 4) **Volunteer.** You have a chance to get involved on the ground floor of a fully-functioning campaign. This is tremendous practice for future involvement with state or national races, and it makes a difference. We need help at every level. Whatever your availability (5 minutes or 5 hours a week), whatever your interests, we need and want you. Visit my website, and click on Volunteer under the Connect menu (or just [click here](#) to let us know).