

*****MEDIA ALERT*****

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**GUENTHER ENDS EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE, AT-LARGE BID FOR
BLOOMINGTON CITY COUNCIL**

BLOOMINGTON, IN --- Former Chair of the Bloomington Environmental Commission and current graduate student at the Indiana University Maurer School of Law and the O'Neill School of Public & Environmental Affairs Andrew Guenther declared his intent today to end his exploratory committee for an independent bid for an at-large seat on the Bloomington City Council. Guenther previously ran for City Council on the Republican ticket in 2019 before publicly resigning from the Republican Party on January 2, 2021.

Guenther is originally from Valparaiso, Indiana, where he grew up before moving to Bloomington in 2013 to work on his Bachelor of Science in Public Affairs (BSPA) from the now-O'Neill School of Public & Environmental Affairs. In 2015 he was unanimously appointed by the Monroe County Council to the now-Monroe County Environmental Commission (MCEC), where he worked on issues of energy use, land use, and municipal sustainability measures, eventually serving as both Secretary and Vice Chair of the Commission. Guenther also concurrently served on the Bloomington Board of Housing Quality Appeals (BHQA), focusing on health & safety violations by landlords, where he also served as Vice Chair.

In 2018, after his service on both the MCEC and BHQA ended, Guenther was appointed by Mayor John Hamilton to the Bloomington Environmental Commission, where he served three terms as Chair. Under his leadership as Chair, the Environmental Commission distributed hundreds of trees, passed many amendments to the Unified Development Ordinance through the Bloomington City Council and Plan Commission, and successfully lobbied for the inclusion of more sustainability measures in developments up for approval before the Bloomington Plan Commission.

“After careful consideration of my current schedule, obligations, and personal health, I cannot in good conscience continue my campaign for Bloomington City Council,” Guenther said. “I do not want to go down the same road as past candidates who tried unsuccessfully to balance law school and a career in public service. The people of Bloomington deserve better than a part-time councilmember who cannot dedicate themselves fully to serving the public interest. I will continue to serve our community through boards and commissions, advocacy, and participation in public input events. In other words, I will not disappear from Bloomington’s political scene - I just will not be a candidate for office in 2023.”

Guenther will continue his advocacy on issues of environmentalism, sustainability, public transit, criminal justice reform, and infrastructure investment, as well as the relationship between the Bloomington and Monroe County governments. He currently is an applicant for an open position with the Commission on Sustainability with the City of Bloomington and the Monroe County MPO Citizens Advisory Committee.

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