

COUNTY RESIDENTS AGAINST ANNEXATION

August 15, 2021

We, the undersigned, have been meeting with property owners throughout the proposed annexation areas in order to help Bloomington City Council make more informed decisions about the City of Bloomington's desire to annex more than 6,600 parcels involving 14,300 county residents. Shortly after we began our visits to the proposed annexation areas, we came to quickly understand that Monroe County residents overwhelmingly oppose annexation because, in part, the territories sought to be annexed do not meet the following requirements set forth by Indiana Code:

1. Annexation areas 1a, 1b, 1c, 2, 3, 7 do not meet the 3 persons per acre requirement,
2. There is no demonstrable benefit to the areas being annexed
3. The proposed annexed areas do not meet the requirement of population density as urbanized areas

Additionally,

4. The Monroe County Commissioners have determined that the proposed annexation will create a financial hardship on the county
5. The City of Bloomington Police Department has stated that it cannot provide satisfactory safety and protection services to an enlarged territory due to ongoing personnel shortages

Furthermore, property owners throughout the annexation areas have signed petitions, opposing annexation that in some cases exceed the 65% remonstrations requirement that would stop the annexation. In most cases, each annexation area has satisfied the 51% remonstrations requirement to take the matter to court for adjudication.

While, due to their size and other factors, Annexation Areas 1A, 1B, and 3 have yet to achieve the 51% remonstrations benchmark, in several neighborhoods throughout those annexation areas, 90% or more of the residents have signed to oppose annexation and have indicated their intent to remonstrate. We are confident that we can achieve the legal remonstrations requirements in all of these areas. Factors such as size, COVID, and an aging population with mobility issues and internet connectivity concerns have hindered the ability of many residents in these areas to participate in our petition drive.

Annexation area 1C, it should be noted, is comprised almost entirely...if not entirely... of homeowners who receive subsidies for affordable housing. This annexation effort in area 1c will price them out of the homes that they have come to enjoy. They are opposed to annexation.

In proposed annexation area 2, petitions have been signed by more than 60% of property owners indicating their intent to remonstrate should annexation be approved by city council. Please note that Annexation Area 2 meets the 51% threshold for adjudication. We are confident that we will achieve the 65% benchmark in the remonstrations period in order to stop annexation altogether in area 2.

Annexation area 4 has achieved signatures from 74 property owners. This places them in the category of being able to stop, altogether, their proposed annexation. Only 58 signatures are required for them to stop the annexation of area 4.

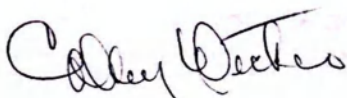
Annexation area 5 has achieved signatures from 63 property owners. This places them in the category of being able to halt, altogether, their proposed annexation. Only 56 signatures are required for them to stop the annexation of area 5.

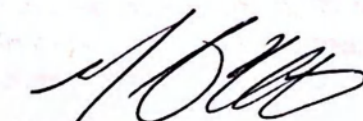
Altogether, we have collected signatures representing more than 5,076 residents who oppose annexation in the county.


Based on what we know of the sentiment of the people in the proposed annexation areas, we strongly recommend that the Bloomington City Council vote no on annexation. The level of anger, division, and offense that this hostile takeover has engendered will take decades to heal. This will damage Bloomington in many intangible ways that will harm the sense of community and common good that has defined Bloomington for a long time. We also believe that it will harm prospects for economic development.


We urge you to save the community time, ill will, money, and safety by voting no.

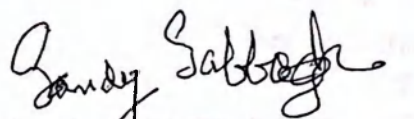
Sincerely yours,

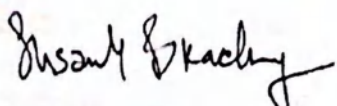

Colby Wicker
President, CRAA


Margaret Clements
Vice President, CRAA


Kent Lawson
Annexation Area 5


Rita Barrow
Van Buren Township


Sandy Sabbagh
Real Estate Broker Emeritus


Susan Brackney, Annexation Area 4