

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

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**GUENTHER FORMS EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE FOR INDEPENDENT
AT-LARGE CITY COUNCIL BID**

BLOOMINGTON, IN --- Former Chair of the Bloomington Environmental Commission and incoming student at the Indiana University Maurer School of Law Andrew Guenther filed paperwork today to form an 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.

“I am excited to explore the options before me for candidacy for a position on the Bloomington City Council in the upcoming 2023 municipal elections,” Guenther said. “I have made this decision after long consultations with family and friends, as well as community members who have approached me to ask me to run. Many local Democrats, Republicans, and independents have expressed disappointment to me in the current Administration and Council. I am running to represent all those disappointed in the direction Bloomington is going under our current leadership.”

Guenther’s campaign theme is “Growing Together,” which he says “reflects the need for Bloomington, in some ways, to grow, but in a way that is inclusive, supportive, and collaborative, not a top-down approach as we’ve seen under the Hamilton Administration.” More details about Guenther’s candidacy and platform can be found at www.AndrewForBloomington.com. Guenther is currently serving as his own Committee Chair and Treasurer while he “evaluates potential campaign leadership personnel.”

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