

# Statement to the Democratic forum hosted by Democracy for Monroe County. March 21, 2011

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I'm Susan Sandberg, running At-Large for re-election to the Bloomington City Council, to keep the position I've held since 2007, and I'm asking for your votes in the upcoming city elections. Serving on the Council is a job I do well, and here's why I'd like to keep doing it.

I take great pride in the City of Bloomington and I'm honored to be a part of its leadership as a councilmember with over four years of experience. The leadership of Bloomington includes Mayor Kruzan and his administration, our highly capable city staff, the many dedicated citizens who serve on our boards and commissions, community leaders in the private and nonprofit sectors, and citizen activists. We are all stakeholders in the stewardship of this vibrant and livable city, and we all need to work together , cooperatively and respectfully... to keep it that way.

I put my background in the performing arts and my past experiences in social services to good use in respectful and thoughtful deliberations with my colleagues on the Bloomington City Council. This year I've had the privilege of presiding over two special sessions that brought the community together to discuss pending Congressional budget cuts to local nonprofit agencies , and a Resolution opposing Indiana's SB 590, a bill that if passed into law could harm our city's outreach to the many international residents who help make Bloomington a diverse and welcoming place. I'm not afraid to use my City Council voice to speak out on state and national issues that have local impact on Bloomington citizens. I have a confident vision for an economically strong Bloomington, and a compassionate heart for constituent services. I look forward, and I give back.

Working with groups of people with a variety of viewpoints and bringing them together in community forums is something I do with some skill and something I certainly enjoy doing. Working with our Community and Family Resources Commission, we've hosted town hall meetings on emergency shelter and affordable housing. Participating in the Bloomington Entertainment and Arts District meetings and working with the Bloomington Community Arts Commission, I've been involved with the growth of the BEAD and the expanding cultural amenities that contribute to a lively downtown and healthy economic development. With colleagues from the County Council, I help facilitate monthly City/County Citizen Breakfasts to promote friendly conversations about current issues in local government.

Through my past service on the board of the South Central Community Action Program, and my ongoing volunteer work in the Monroe County jail with the Addicts in Recovery program, I have worked with individuals struggling with low-income jobs in working poverty and who face other difficult social challenges like addiction, domestic violence, child abuse, lack of access to resources and affordable healthcare. We live in difficult times, and I'm proud of the growing investments we make in our Jack Hopkins Social Services Fund and other city programs through our Housing and Neighborhood Development department. I respect those working in the private business sector and look for

opportunities to partner with them whenever possible to reach our shared goals of building a better Bloomington.

As I look ahead to the next four years, I pledge my ongoing commitment to the long-term best interests of the City of Bloomington. As I have done for the past term, I will study the issues from all sides, deliberate with a cool head, and legislate with a steady hand. I'm Susan Sandberg, current President of the Bloomington City Council, and I ask for your vote in the 2011 election.