

Post Primary Statement

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

Council President, Susan Sandberg

On this first City Council meeting following the May 3rd primary, I'd like to congratulate council candidates who won their respective races and who will be appearing on the ballot for the general election in the fall. A few of our current council colleagues will be retiring at the end of this term, but most of us will have the opportunity of moving on to November when we face other challengers. We also offer congratulations to our colleague and City Clerk, Regina Moore, and the Honorable Mayor, Mark Kruzan for their primary wins yesterday.

It is not an easy decision to run for public office as it impacts personal and professional lives, and so I offer thanks to every candidate who demonstrates their commitment to public service. It takes a fair amount of courage and confidence to throw one's hat into the ring. Once in office, it takes a certain thickening of the skin to be able to stand up to the pressures and stand for the core values that make Bloomington unique in the state of Indiana as a prosperous, generous and inclusive community. We appreciate everyone who campaigned in this issues-oriented primary election, including John Hamilton who was most energetic in his bid for the Office of Mayor and most gracious in his concession.

The process of winning and losing elections will invariably leave resentments, wounded feelings, great sadness in defeat, great joy in the winning – and that's the nature of the contested primary.

In the wake of these feelings, our most important task ahead is to face them, to come together to heal the wounds, to re-connect our common interests, and to make sure that the City of Bloomington is well-served in its most honorable traditions. Our task in the coming months and years is to make sure that government in Bloomington remains fair and transparent, and that the needs of our residents are well met.

As elected officials, we shoulder our responsibilities to serve the public with humility and due diligence. To that end, I urge all candidates moving forward to focus their debates on the issues and with respect to good governance and responsive constituent services.

Thanks to all of the dedicated and active citizens who came out to the polls to participate in this primary election, and again, my best wishes to all city candidates and incumbent colleagues who will be moving forward in their fall campaigns. As Council president, I conclude my remarks with a call for unity, civility and great respect for differing opinions in the remainder of this term. Let's all work together to keep Bloomington a shining star in the state of Indiana.