

I have a question for all of the candidates:

Construction seems to be moving at an unrelenting pace in both towns and on campus, even despite the pandemic. Much of it seems to prioritize the investor's well-being over the public's. For example, the huge new complex being built with absolute minimum setback along Vine st. near Main, in Urbana.

Our towns seem to be operating from a "take-what-we-can-get" mentality while investors are lining up to build here. Why aren't we requiring more of them? Why aren't we prioritizing the well-being of residents over investors?

For example:

Necessity: do we actually need this added occupancy or are we just being used for investment purposes by out-of-town corporations?? Will we need it in 10 years? If not, who is responsible for removing it?

Aesthetics: Aside from construction and zoning codes, what are the design codes? None? The proliferation of ugly buildings made of cheap materials is incredibly dispiriting to those of us who plan to live here for the next many decades. We cherish the beautiful historic buildings that form the core of our downtowns but much of OUR legacy will be ill-conceived garbage built for short-term gain by non-local investors. What a tragic loss of opportunity. What is your plan for regulating construction and design?

Climate Crisis: Where are the mitigations? Urban flooding is forecasted to become increasingly disastrous in our area, yet our non-permeable surface area increases with every new project. Skimpy setbacks with little lawnlets of sod are not mitigations. We need rooted plants and TREES. We need alternative energy sources, where are the solar rooftops? We need cutting-edge water and waste management solutions. **These must be an enforced regulation**, not the whim of the investor. Northern California has stopped building natural gas lines in new construction. Whether or not we agree with this approach, are we having these conversations?