

Barbara Van Auken

BROKEN PROMISES...

...NO RESULTS



Incumbent Council Member
Barbara Van Auken

Van Auken's 3 pillars of her campaign 4 years ago:

1. Abolish the garbage tax.
2. Lower crime.
3. Protect and revitalize our neighborhoods.

Barbara Van Auken made three main promises in her campaign for city council four years ago. Each of those promises—the pillars of her campaign—have been broken with no progress and have even made major steps backward.

1. Garbage Tax

One of Barbara Van Auken's most emphatic promises in 2005 was her promise to abolish the "garbage tax," initiated by the previous council.

This tax has nothing to do with garbage removal as citizens already paid for garbage removal before this new tax was passed. This "garbage fee" was just a new, regressive new tax on residents in our older neighborhoods to finance city spending on projects downtown and in newer neighborhoods. Barbara Van Auken made the swift abolition of the garbage tax a priority in her campaign—one that she has made no priority to fulfill. She had other ideas to spend the money to make her look good as a council member—such as her monumental and extravagant arbor.



2. Crime

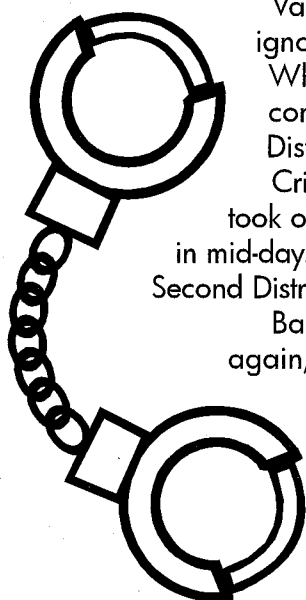
Van Auken made a major issue about crime. In the last election she faulted her opponent for ignoring crime. Van Auken said if elected that she would make crime reduction a top priority. Where's the progress? In the election last fall, a majority of city council members made out of control crime the biggest issue in the race for State's Attorney. In fact, crime is worse in the 2nd District even though in other parts of the city it has fallen.

Crimes such as violent crimes and drug offenses have risen in actual numbers since Ms. Van Auken took office. What is worse is the brazenness of recent crimes—people robbed at gunpoint on the street in mid-day. Recent armed robberies have shattered citizen's feelings of safety in many neighborhoods in the Second District. Bars and small businesses have been held up and customers robbed as well—again with guns.

Barbara Van Auken said in 2005 that she could do something to reduce crime if elected. But again, crime has risen.

Crime in the different neighborhoods of the Second District and in the city as a whole is uneven. New policing policies have reduced violent crime in some areas. But in more and more areas and neighborhoods in the Second District crime is rising.

We need a city council person who puts fully funding essential police services above impractical monuments to herself such as the new arbor she had constructed at the expense of vital city services.



2nd District: We can do better. We need to do better.



3. *Protect Neighborhoods*

Another major pillar of her campaign four years ago, Barbara Van Auken promised she would be a champion of protecting and renovating our older neighborhoods. Until just a few weeks ago, and close to her contested re-election, she made almost no progress.

South Maplewood was a charming and peaceful neighborhood four years ago—it is now gone. Barbara Van Auken posed as a supporter of “new urbanism” and gave lip service to supporting land development codes. But she has, time and time again, voted to run roughshod over the very codes she voted for with variance after variance—many times at the request of the biggest developers in the city. Councilwoman Van Auken has burned bridges with supporters of “new urbanism” and more walkable, pedestrian friendly and safe streets. Her actions clearly demonstrate that the Heart of Peoria Commission to Barbara Van Auken was just for show.

Unbelievably, Barbara Van Auken admitted in a forum that she did not read the Land Development Code that she voted for. That is grandstanding at the expense of due diligence on behalf of the people she serves on the council.

- *Main Street* - People who have had to deal with Barbara Van Auken over the years invariably describe her as “vindictive,” “mean,” “divisive,” and “abrasive.” What was known as the new “Med-Tech” District along Main Street had its name changed which erased any trace back to the previous councilwoman. It then became “Renaissance Park” or “Ren Park.” But it still withered on the vine. Immediately upon taking office as a councilwoman, Barbara Van Auken’s ruthless behavior chased away and chastised some of the best and brightest on the Ren Park board. Progress has been at a standstill ever since. With the exception of the Innovation Center—begun before Ms. Van Auken’s election—there has been no movement on traffic calming, new construction, new plans, beautification or other new urbanism methods of creating a more livable, attractive and safe area that businesses want to locate in.
- *Sheridan Triangle* - Grand plans and hopes raised but absolutely no funding, except for facade updates funded by city taxpayers for taverns. Barbara Van Auken has ignored neighborhood concerns about crime and infrastructure in the core area of our city and her district. In fact, previous active supporters of her last campaign now oppose her re-election over the lack of priority and lack of action in the Sheridan Triangle...*again broken promises.*

It is time for a change.

Dear Second District Voters,

Only one week before Election Day, Barbara Van Auken sent out an alarmist flyer urging people to vote on April 7th — but not all voters.

She specifically does not want Bradley students to exercise their right to vote. This image of her flyer recently sent out to voters proves this.

I do not see representing ALL the people of the Second District on the City Council as a zero sum game. With proper leadership and dialog hosted by the district council member, we can bridge old divides and move forward more effectively for all.

I will demand respect for the residents of neighborhoods surrounding Bradley University by the students. But I will also work with students and Bradley to harness the good they have to contribute to our community and our city. Students and faculty do volunteer a vast number of hours to area non-profit associations and charities. Stereotyping of anyone—including students—is just plain wrong.

Councilwoman Van Auken has repeatedly accused me of inspiring the law suit against her intoxicated behavior last September rampaging against Bradley students. Nothing could be further from the truth.

I decided to step up to the challenge of representing the people of the Second District on the City Council because I clearly saw Councilwoman Van Auken's broken promises and misplaced priorities that have delivered few positive results for the people she serves. That is THE reason I offered myself as a candidate in this race.

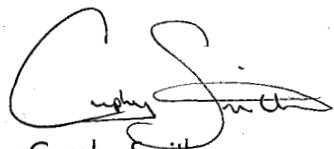
I am, however, appalled by her embarrassing behavior on that night. Until now, I have said nothing on the subject. The lawsuit was not filed when I became a candidate last fall. Nor were the details of those police reports known then.

Throughout this campaign I have stated my qualifications and why I am running.

I have been astonished though by Ms. Van Auken's fixation on that incident last fall for which she is now being sued. It was her decision alone to take 25 minutes of our time before the Journal Star Editorial Board on this subject. Clearly she is hypersensitive and defensive on this subject. She now has followed that by this alarmist flyer. The passion by which she has defended herself in that incident is simply not matched with plans to confront the challenges our city faces.

So be it. Her behavior on that night is ONE issue in this campaign and a fair one. One I tried hard not to highlight, but my opponent has done a big job of that herself.

We can do better and we must do better.



Curphy Smith
Candidate for Second District
City Council

Barbara Van Auken's latest scare tactic to frighten voters - a substitute for lack of accomplishments

Urgent Message Regarding Second District City Council Election

Sigma Nu's recent lawsuit against Second District Councilwoman Barbara Van Auken and certain neighboring residents have become a driving catalyst for Curphy Smith's campaign waging Bradley students against regular citizens of the Second District. This suit was for 'abusive powers & trespassing' arising from a neighbor's quality of life issue.

The Friends of Curphy Smith Campaign, led by Chairman Paul Wilkinson, has engaged in questionable electioneering activities crafted with Jeff Hall, the attorney representing Sigma Nu Fraternity. Mr. Hall has implored and pleaded to Bradley's Greek student body in voting against Barbara Van Auken. Here are excerpts from attorney Hall's email to the entire Greek student community:

"My name is Jeff Hall & I am one of the attorneys representing Sigma Nu in the case against Barbara Van Auken... There is no secret that I am a strong supporter of Curphy Smith. I feel he would do a great job for ALL residents in his district, especially for Bradley Students. If Barbara Van Auken wins, she will exact revenge on the Greek system at Bradley. You think it is tough now, just wait if she remains your council woman. Rumor has it she is a very vengeful person... We will have transportation from the student center from 9am-4pm (Saturday). I implore you to act... You will actually have real political power. This is a big thing to possess, especially around Peoria and Bradley... You and your members are the secret weapon..."

Pictures below taken on March 28, show transportation and escort service being provided.



Note: Bus does not have its DOT Destination Requirement & Bradley students boarding after a kick off in Student Center. Vehicles of Smith's campaign follow.



Continuation of transportation by Tim Vega from Randolph Roanoke for Students

In response to the Sigma Nu suit, Curphy Smith stated: "I want to focus on my campaign and continue to do what I'm doing." Smith continues. A recent Bradley Scout interview quoted Curphy Smith saying: "The amount of revenue that gets put in the district from the University is tremendous, and I think we need to realize what a gem we have amongst us and utilize this resource to make the rest of the district better."

The 'free rides' to Vote for Curphy Smith continue thru Election Day. The committee, Friends of Curphy Smith are active with employing this as a "secret weapon" as quoted by attorney Hall for Sigma Nu. In addition, impermissible electioneering may be occurring during these 'free rides' and within 100 feet of the Election Commission.

The West Bluff's future City Council representation should not be decided by organized student Greeks' voter turnout. These Greeks have waged an election battle against our neighborhoods in the Second District.

Vote April 7th!

No more broken promises.

City Budget

Precarious conditions swept under the rug until after the election to protect the only incumbent being challenged in this election - Barbara Van Auken.

Council Members recently received information that the city is now \$3.5 million in the red and drastic cuts in city services and personnel need to be made or tax major increases need to be made to close the widening gap. (Remember the extravagant monument arbor she built!) Projections now show a \$10 million shortfall for next year. Expect to hear more about all of this... AFTER the election.



**There is a reason Barbara Van Auken is the ONLY incumbent city official to be contested in this election
— poor performance**

Political Calculations and Favoritism

Crime is uneven in the Second District. City Services are uneven too. Most of all, the attention of our Second District Councilwoman is uneven. (AGAIN, THAT EXPENSIVE ARBOR!)

If you are a friend of Barbara Van Auken or part of a group she sees as strategic to her gaining popularity, she can be charming. But a rapidly growing number of former supporters have seen her abrasiveness first-hand. If you do not agree with her 100%, she is often vindictive and you are shut out of receiving equal city services. That is unfair and outrageous. It needs to stop. **It will stop with a new City Council Member—Curphy Smith.**

CURPHY 
SMITH
Action for All

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VOTE FOR CURPHY SMITH • APRIL 7, 2009

PAID FOR BY FRIENDS OF CURPHY SMITH