Tomi Allison was Mayor of Bloomington from 1983-1995. In 2015, she co-authored a book with her husband, Jim, called *The Accidental Mayor*. This engaging narrative offers a rare inside look at the workings of city government and her experiences in office. This book tells how Tomilea Allison accidentally became mayor of Bloomington.

In 1963, Tomilea Allison, a native Californian, arrived in Bloomington as a faculty wife with two young daughters. Her husband, James, was a professor in Indiana University's department of psychology. A few years later she found herself in charge of Senator Eugene McCarthy's Monroe County primary campaign for president of the United States. In 1977 she was asked to fill a vacancy on the city council. In 1983, after the sitting mayor was elected to Congress, she was chosen to take his place and served for thirteen years.