

## PRESS RELEASE

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## Chamber's Political Action Committee Announces Their Endorsements for Bloomington City Council & Normal Town Council

**Bloomington, IL** – Today the McLean County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) Political Action Committee (PAC), a separate subsidiary entity from the Chamber with its own Board of Directors, announced their endorsements for Bloomington City Council and Normal Town Council. The MCCC in an effort to educate its members previously released its [2023 Council Questionnaire responses](#) from all thirteen candidates running for office and [held a Meet the Candidates event](#).

"These candidates either demonstrated their commitment to pro-business, pro-growth policies or expressed a willingness to work with the Chamber to better understand key issues impacting the business community," **said Chair Meghan O'Neal-Rogozinski**. "We encourage voters to support these candidates at the ballot box on April 4<sup>th</sup>. Doing so will ensure we have elected officials who understand the need for a business-friendly environment in Bloomington-Normal."

### City of Bloomington

#### **Ward 1: Jenna Kearns**

Jenna Kearns is unopposed and demonstrated a commitment to engaging the business community by participating in the Chamber's questionnaire and Meet the Candidates event. She has expressed a willingness to work with the Chamber and business community to learn more about the issues facing business in Bloomington.

#### **Ward 2: Donna Boelen**

Donna Boelen is unopposed and has engaged with the business community often during her term in office. She has proven to be a voice for business and the Chamber looks forward to continuing to see that be the case.

#### **Ward 4: No Endorsement**

John Danenberger and Steven Nalefski both participated fully in the endorsement process. Following the conclusion of that process it was found that both bring their own unique perspectives in relation to pro-business, pro-growth policies. Therefore, we encourage voters to utilize the Chamber's questionnaire to make an informed decision on which candidate to support.

#### **Ward 6: Jordan Baker**

Jordan Baker has committed to being a pro-business, pro-growth candidate and expressed a strong understanding of the need to give business a seat at the table when it comes to city business.

**Ward 8: Kent Lee**

Kent Lee is unopposed and has committed to dialogue with the Chamber and business community in order to advance pro-growth, pro-business policy.

Town of Normal**At-Large: Andy Byars**

Andy Byars has committed during his campaign to be a champion for business on the Town Council. He will serve as a voice for pro-business, pro-growth policy. He also brings a positive energy and different generational perspective to the council that should serve Normalites well.

**At-Large: Kathleen Lorenz**

Kathleen Lorenz during her time in office has proven to be a active participant in the Chamber and a willing ear for the business community to have its voice heard. She has a strong grasp of the issues facing the Town and exudes a positive, forward-looking attitude.

**At-Large: Marc Tiritilli**

Marc Tiritilli has shown a willingness to ask questions that need to be asked. At the same time he has expressed a desire to do so in a manner that is constructive and geared towards results. He understands the importance of a business-friendly environment in Normal.

About the PAC

The mission of the McLean County Chamber of Commerce is to “promote commerce, advocate pro-business perspectives, collaborate to lead change, and engage in action for results that strengthen the prosperity of the business community” or PACE. For this to happen, it is critical that local elected officials have a strong understanding of the importance of creating a business-friendly environment in the community.

To advance our PACE mission the McLean County Chamber of Commerce Political Action Committee (PAC), a separate subsidiary entity of the Chamber, formed in 2009 as a bipartisan effort to support candidates, committees, and issues at the local and state level that champion a healthy economy, favorable business climate, high quality of life and progressive future for McLean County. The PAC relies on support from individuals and businesses to continue our advocacy efforts. It is governed by its own Board of Directors that are Chamber members and administered with staff support.

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