

2020 County Board Election Questions

On behalf of the McLean County Chamber of Commerce Political Action Committee (PAC) thank you for your interest in elected leadership serving constituents in the communities of McLean County.

Please find our candidate survey attached to this email for the November 3, 2020 general election. Answers must be complete and submitted no later than Friday, July 10, 2020 by 4:00 PM to be eligible for candidate interviews slated for late July and early August. Responses from the survey and interview will be considered by the full PAC Board when endorsing candidates and/or providing a financial contribution.

We look forward to getting to know you as a candidate. If you have any questions about the PAC or our endorsement process for this general election, please call Charlie Moore at 309-829-6344.

Best regards,

Meghan O'Neal-Rogozinski
Chairman

Candidate Name

Adelita Cruz

County Board District

District 4

1. What are your top three priorities if you are elected to the McLean County Board?

Veteran Services, mental health services, and transportation.

2. What is the greatest challenge(s) the County faces? How do you propose to address said challenge(s)?

Based on recent COVID-19 restrictions, the economy in McLean County has been impacted due to loss of revenue, business closures, and unemployment. Now more than ever it is critical that the board work together to ensure we are operating effectively and efficiently within the approved budget. As a County board member, I would create accountability with county projects to guarantee they are meeting deadlines and are within budget.

3. If elected to the County Board, how would you work with the municipalities to enhance and ensure regional collaboration?

Ensuring and enhancing regional collaboration comes down to relationship building. This is one of my personal strengths. I enjoy meeting new people, learning about their background and their skills. It has always been important to me to hear and learn from other people's perspectives. This is an asset I will rely on as a County board member to ensure there is effective collaboration regardless of political affiliation.

4. How do you plan to make yourself available to not only your immediate constituents but to business, civic, and non-profit organizations, and rural community leaders?

I will make myself available through social media platforms. I currently have an active Facebook page and an email account specific to County board issues that I check and respond to regularly. Once I join the County board and receive my committee assignment(s), I plan to identify all of the key stakeholders and set up time to meet with them to hear about what has occurred and what the future plans are. It is important to me that I not only represent the interests of my district, but the interests of all citizens impacted by County board decisions.

5. Do you consider McLean County to be encouraging of business growth, expansion, and attraction? Please explain.

McLean County is supportive of business growth, expansion, and attraction as demonstrated by the creation of BN Advantage. Business Insider also recently named Bloomington, IL as one of the top cities to live in after the pandemic. I believe the County is positioned to improve economic growth and job development if the different municipalities continue to work together and leverage size and scale.

6. What role does County government have in economic development?

County government supports economic development by providing a stable environment for growth. All three of my priorities align with the creation of a stable environment. Transportation and the maintenance of safe and efficient roads and bridges support infrastructure. Mental health and veteran services promote a stable population by ensuring citizens have access to care and support. This in turn, creates a stable workforce that the County can use to attract businesses and grow our economy.

7. How would you advocate the County overcome difficulties presented by the unstable financial situation in the State of Illinois?

The County can assist with overcoming difficulties by promoting current services and resources. There are programs in place to assist our citizens, but they are not widely known. It is imperative that we work together to educate the community rather than trying to create a new plan. By using current resources, we can identify what is working well and where the areas of opportunity are. Then we can develop an action plan to move forward.

8. Are there any government services you feel are missing from the County? Alternatively, are there any that you view as non-essential and could be eliminated?

I do not believe we are lacking government services; I believe we are lacking an effective communication strategy to promote the services that are currently available. My plan as a County board member would be to improve public knowledge using the County board website and social media. Currently, I am not able to determine if there are any non-essential services due to the need to improve public knowledge. Once awareness is created, then additional research can be conducted to determine the effectiveness of programs.

9. Do local government(s) have a role to play in COVID-19 recovery efforts?

Local governments absolutely plays a role in COVID-19 recovery efforts and it all starts with communication. The public needs to be provided with unbiased information regarding COVID-19 trends including the number of recovered cases and demographics. Local governments should also collaborate with the local medical community to implement preventative measures that can be taken to help slow the spread. Decisions to re-open or continue restrictions must be based on relative medical information and public safety rather than political agendas.

The McLean County Chamber of Commerce works with the Political Action Committee to help its membership understand who you are as a candidate and what your policies will be if elected. We achieve this by sharing your responses with the membership to help increase the turnout of educated voters. I agree that the McLean County Chamber of Commerce may share and publish my responses as submitted and as presented, on the McLean County Chamber of Commerce website www.mcleancochamber.org.

☒ Yes

☐ No

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