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

Darin George Kaeb

County Board District

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

Public Safety, Public Health, Education

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

1. Keeping business, of all types, in the county because business equals jobs and having a job means people can afford to go to doctors to maintain their health. 2. Maintaining current roads both rural and metropolitan. Maintaining the roads keeps people safe. Maintaining can also mean finding ways to keep pedestrians safe if they have to cross a major road like Veterans Parkway. /// I am sure there are others and even greater, but those are from the viewpoint of someone new to politics. /// I would make sure I am educated on the issue at hand and of various solutions from more than just one side so I could make a more informed and fair decision. But also as a County we need to be imaginative and think outside the box because if we can greatly improve our County, we could be the example for the rest of the state.

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

Granted my district is in the Bloomington city limits, but I would be willing to talk with various Mayors, City planners, board members etc. because they should not only be representing the people in their respective areas but should also be listening to their people to make sure they are representing them properly. Once we have an idea of what the people want, plans can be made with consideration of all.

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 don't work a 9-5 job, so I am not readily available when most people are "typically" home from work. However I do always carry my phone on me and can be just a call or a text away at my earliest convenience if I am working or otherwise busy. I am willing to answer e-mails as well. Since I have various things in my life, I have began to carry a date book, so I know I can make time for others.

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

That is difficult to answer considering I've been in McLean County long enough to see the Interstate Center be built when the fair grounds moved from the East side of Bloomington where Lowe's is to its current location and for the largest building of the facility fail to hold as many events as originally planned just for it to become a farm implement store that our farmers need. Bloomington is struggling with its arena, we lost Mitsubishi but gained the smaller Rivian but still haven't replaced other business that were linked to Mitsubishi. So much industry has come and gone just from the county seat alone. Many factories no longer give tours so there is no attraction there. We have few places for amusement and they are not geared for all ages. So again this is difficult to answer.

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

To be honest with this being my first time involved in politics I would assume that the County has to aid in the research of the types of economy wishing to come into the areas and where they would best fit. They need to assess the multiple ways the business effects the area it is in such as economically, and environmentally. Point out, and if needed recommend ways to fix, issues and set a reasonable time frame to fix the issues before weighing in fines because there is a way to be economic and environmental at the same time.

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

We would have to lead by example with our own budget. Where can tax money be used better? In other words we need to think of other solutions before raising taxes. We need something fair to all citizens based upon their needs and capabilities.

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?

To be honest at this point in time, with my current political knowledge, I am unaware of what all the Country currently offers or could offer. So it would be unfair of me to make a judgement statement without proper knowledge.

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

I would say yes because each mayor and board knows their town the best. As a hypothetical situation, Downs is a smaller town that sits off the interstate along with most of its business so that mayor may want to take different or more precautions then lets say the mayors of Stanford or Gridley which are both small but not off as major of roads like the interstate. Either way though all should pay attention to CDC guidelines. Local governments could also survey their towns/cities to see how their areas were impacted and figure some other form of relief.

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.

- [x] Yes
- [ ] No

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