

# 2020 Election Questions – State Candidates

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

Chemberly Cummings

1. What are your top three advocacy/policy priorities for the State of Illinois as a whole?

Education, Infrastructure, Community & Economic Development

2. What are your top three advocacy/policy issues specifically for your constituents in McLean County?

Education, Infrastructure, Community & Economic Development

3. If elected, how would you work with other elected and community leaders throughout McLean County to enhance and ensure regional collaboration?

In my current role on Town of Normal, I work collaboratively with community leaders to tackle the issues facing Normal. I will use the same methods of relationship building and collaborative effort to work with community leaders in McLean County.

4. How can McLean County improve and/or stand out compared to the rest of the state regarding business growth, expansion, and attraction?

McLean County is already a remarkable place. There is always ways we can get better; however, we need to continue to highlight the successes of our community. We need to ensure community leaders are the walking billboards spreading the message of the phenomenal work being done in McLean County. Community leaders are the faces and voices that should encourage other businesses to develop, grow, build and expand in McLean County. We are the attractive place to be!

5. The State of Illinois is in financial despair. What do you propose should be done about it and how are you prepared to lead that charge?

The State of Illinois is in financial despair. We have to be willing to have honest bipartisan dialogue about how to fix it. The Civic Federation (non-partisan organization) did a full report with recommendations on how to get Illinois back on track. However, partisan politics has made it difficult to have honest conversation about their recommendations. My hope is to have conversations with people on both sides of the aisle and ask the question as to why we are not having an honest review and dialogue about The Civic Federation's recommendations.

6. COVID-19 brought on a limitless number of issues and challenges for business in 2020. What is your opinion on how the State initially managed the crisis? What would you do/have done differently?

Many people can have opinions about how COVID-19 was handled. I don't think any of us would have the best idea as there was no blueprint on how to handle a pandemic like COVID-19. This was truly a balancing act between the safety and welfare of citizens and economic vitality. While we were able to reduce the number of deaths and cases in our state compared to others, it did have a financial impact. However, we are watching states that refused to close down in the beginning be forced to do so now. As we go forward, the State will need to find ways to help businesses recover. We will need to continue to note our successes and failures, in order to create a plan in preparation if something like this is to happen again in the future.

7. Moving forward, how should the state manage the Restore Illinois phasing plan and overall economic recovery?

This will be a balancing act between safety and welfare, and economic vitality. I do believe the phased in approach has done so. If we continue to work together through each phase, I believe more businesses will open and we can work to restore. The other piece to this is financial. The State will need to identify how it will use funds to assist businesses, especially small businesses. I know some funds have already been allocated and even been disbursed. It will behoove the State to ensure every business (especially small business) has had the opportunity to obtain assistance and get the needed boost to restore function and viability.

8. Policy issues with the State have continued to be the same over the last decade with very little movement. How do you propose to address issues regarding workers compensation, pension liabilities or property tax rates?

These issues have become stagnant and we know they must be addressed. I will use my voice to push us to have a conversation., but I am one voice. My hope is we can have a bipartisan conversation about these issues. This will be especially necessary given that we will need to figure out the future of our State post COVID-19. We don't have any more time to kick the can down the road.

9. How do you feel about a graduated/progressive income tax and its affect on Illinois to be competitive for entrepreneurship, business attraction and employee/citizen retention?

Voters will vote in November whether to have a graduated/progressive income tax. However, I am in support of a graduated/progressive income tax. While some businesses will use this as an issue to not develop in Illinois, there are plenty who will come to/remain in Illinois to develop, grow, and expand their businesses in Illinois. Using data in McLean County, the median income is approximately \$52-\$56k/year. This tells me that our average citizen will not be impacted by the graduated/progressive income tax. It only impacts someone filing single with an income over \$250k/yr. This is much needed revenue our state needs right now. If we want to continue to be able to assist businesses restore post COVID-19, have funds to assist municipalities across the state to be successful in order to attract businesses, and a host of other things that is necessary; we will need take a serious consideration.

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](http://www.mcleancochamber.org).

Yes

No

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