

# 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

Dan Brady

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

Property taxes are the main reason I hear why people are leaving Illinois. Reducing the property tax burden will allow people to stay in their homes and make Illinois a more affordable place to live and do business. Illinois also needs to foster a robust economic climate to give our kids and grandkids a reason to stay in our state for and after college but reduce regulations and mandates. The other thing we need desperately is serious ethics reforms to crack down on the corrupt practices of many Chicago politicians.

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

McLean County is a wonderful place, but we do need changes in state government to help our community succeed. I will continue to push to; 1) Lessen tax burden on businesses; 2) Reduce government regulation and workers compensation cost; 3) Fund K-12 and Higher Education, public safety, and infrastructure.

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

As the incumbent Representative I pride myself on being accessible and a true voice for our community. When it comes to the state budget, local issues, infrastructure needs and public safety, I am always willing to listen and am accessible with business and government to continue to enhance regional collaboration.

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 has many natural assets like its transportation network, centralized location, schools, higher education facilities, and other quality of life positives. We are also fortunate to have the strong business climate that includes major employers like State Farm, Country Companies, Brandt Industries, Rivian and others. Through the Blue-Collar Jobs Act, data center incentives, reinstatement of the Manufacturers Purchase Credit elimination, as well as other ways to help job creators grow and thrive, I have successfully pushed many issues that helped our community and will continue to support more pro-business issues as well ensure the state remains committed to funding higher education.

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?

Very in-depth question! I believe if the State would return to its core value and responsibility of funding public schools, public infrastructure, and public safety, it would be a good focus along with property tax relief and pension reform. We must look to grow our economy and in doing so, help improve our fiscal standing. My position comes from negotiations and bi-partisan attempts. Being in the minority makes real change very difficult if confrontation is the means for such change!

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?

Again, a very difficult and in-depth question. One of the first things I did in mid-March 2020 is reach out to Chamber Director Charlie Moore and business leaders to join in a town hall style discussion to learn more on all fronts. I also developed a town hall with business and restaurants before the restrictions went into effect to listen and advocate for some of their ideas. The State's initial reaction was very aggressive on shutdowns, and not following the scientific data that was showing one size does not fit all. One thing I would have done differently would have been to use more local plans, including House GOP plans, to open by regions based on data of confirmed cases versus splitting up the State into large arbitrary regions that did not make sense.

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

Going forward, the Restore Illinois Plan should be modified on a regular basis based on real data and should be using hospital capacity as a metric instead of mass shutdowns in communities that were largely unaffected. Continuing to practice social distancing is important, however opening more business's up should be done, and we should continue to emphasize testing. We need to open up our businesses to get people back to work!

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?

I have always taken an approach that if we respect each other and work in a bipartisan manner we can get things done to benefit our state. As I have served over the years as House Republican point person on workers compensation, there have been improvements we have been able to pass in a bipartisan form, most recently an effort due to COVID but more work needs to be done as causation still has not been accomplished. Pension reform and property taxes need the same type of bipartisan effort and I support major reform in both areas but unfortunately the issues remain off limits for the majority party.

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?

I voted NO on the graduated/ progressive income tax. I believe it will have a negative effect on business and the middle class in Illinois.

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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