

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

Kenneth Allison

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

1. Transparency 2. Transparency 3. Transparency. No one knows who or what to believe. Our legislators are failing us every single day. The State of Illinois is simply corrupt like a data file. It just isn't working anymore and everyone knows it.

In terms of actual policies.

I would like to put an end to the FOID program plain and simple as it is directly infringing upon our constitutional rights.

I would like to put an end to our legislators receiving a pension. Pension reform is a huge issue here in Illinois and the solution starts with our elected officials.

I would like to see term limits being put into place at every level of government. Not having term limits I'm quite sure has vastly impacted not only our State but also our reputation as Illinoisans. We need to look no further than the current Speaker of the House for a prime example. Simply put, term limits is needed end the corruption.

I would like to see every single elected official produce the last five years of tax returns along with all associated source documents to be made available for public comment and review. The intent is to uncover the self dealing and corruption within our body of elected officials.

The corruption in Illinois has gone on long enough. It's simply time to say enough is enough.

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

I believe that the health of any give community is nested squarely on the backs of the small business owner. The primary goal for me as a legislator, is to make sure our communities have every opportunity to recover from the pandemic. It is absolutely critical that we get this right. We have lost so much in the last 6 months, it would be difficult to argue a more pressing issue. Simply put, I plan to be fully engaged with my sleeves rolled up to help anyone and everyone.

More specifically, I plan to engage with the small business community just as I do for my own small businesses. I also plan to engage with as many not for profits within the McLean County border that will have me. This is necessary in order to find pathways where the two can intersect to help us all keep afloat. I can't say this enough. It is incredibly important that we get our recovery right. And so, we have to look at both for profit and not for profit entities as future partners to help ensure our recovery.

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

Truthfully, it comes down to having a conversation, making a phone call or attending a meeting. The most important aspect our recovery, is that we need to be engaged. Whoever we elect, regardless of office, needs to be prepared to roll up their sleeves to help our communities navigate this difficult time. I spent 27.5 years in the military serving this country, often at great personal risk, so my sleeves are always rolled up. Having said that, we dont need more government programs to aid in the recovery. We just need to open our businesses back up and allow our people here in Illinois to make the best decisions possible related to their health and welfare of their families.

Somehow along the way we have forgotten that we are free people to do as we please so long as we dont break the law. Moreover, it is insane that we are trusting adults to be adults. The Illinois government simply needs to be transparent so that we can make the best choices for our families.

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

As an elected official that will be representing not only McLean County but also Tazewell, I believe it is important to look at the aggregate to see how we all can make both communities stronger together. To that point, the primary emphasis for any elected official is to get the local economies up and moving again. Too many of our small businesses are struggling to make ends meet due to the lock down. I know this gets talked about at length, but the truth is however not much is really being done to keep small businesses from closing. If elected, I plan to be the voice for the small business community in all areas of the district.

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 pension issue is at the top of this list. I believe there are creative ways to incentivize those that are under a state pension program to be moved to a defined contribution plan. We all know that the pension system is unsustainable and its time we have a real discussion about potential solutions.

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?

The lockdown started with the intent to flatten the curve. It was to be a two week shutdown and that has somehow now become a total state lockdown for 7 months. I believe the initial steps were necessary, however the continual closure is not only detrimental to our small businesses but also our communities. I believe the State has failed our communities in epic proportions. I also believe that the Governor has acted unilaterally without the voice of our constituency, not to mention the general assembly. To that point, Keith Sommer has done next to nothing to stand up for small businesses. He has been largely vacant from the conversation and has been in relative hiding since the onset of COVID. In truth, our entire government should be held to account for the financial damage created by enacting such extreme measures when all of the surrounding states are opening up.

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

By abandoning it and allowing local municipalities to handle the pandemic at the lowest possible level. Otherwise, what else are paying our local elected officials for if they are not trying to actively solve this problem. In truth, the Governor has acted well outside his scope of authority. To that point, he has used agencies to apply pressure to our communities in order to keep his actions enforced, all of which he should be held to personally liable for.

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?

Before we can handle any of the above issues, we need to demand transparency from our elected officials. We need to uncover every shred of corruption and self dealing at every level. The reason why none of these problems ever get solved, is because each one of our elected officials are simply acting in their own personal best interest. How else could we be where we are? The fact is Illinois is grossly corrupt and we all need to start talking about it.

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?

Top 10 Reasons to vote “NO” come November 3, 2020 for the constitutional amendment (fair tax as its commonly referred).

1. The Illinois government hasn't been transparent.
2. The Illinois government is not trustworthy.
3. The Illinois government has a great deal of corruption and self dealing.
4. The Illinois government doesn't have a plan to reduce spending.
5. The Illinois government can already raise the income tax but doesn't, because they know it would not be popular and would likely result in some elected officials being ousted.
6. Targeting one section of the population for a tax increase is anything but fair. Its morality tax designed to pit the poor against the rich. And just to be clear...Fair is everyone paying the same percentage.
7. Wealthy individuals will simply apportion more of the income outside the State of Illinois in order to reduce their tax exposure. (If you are not sure what apportion is, comment below).
8. We will see an increase in outmigration as a direct result which will reduce the number of US Reps we are allocated to serve in Congress. We are currently projected to lose one as a result of the 2020 census. To that point, our Illinois voice will have less importance Nationally as the years pass.
9. The government will have to continually raise the income tax rates and adjust the brackets as people choose to live elsewhere because the cost of government is never reduced. Bottom line, over the long run we will all end up paying more.
10. It certainly opens the door to tax retirement income as well as military pay.

A few days ago, there was a mention that there would have to be a 20% increase across the board for the current tax structure if the amendment is not passed. That would take us ALL from our current 4.95% tax rate to just under 6%. It's incredibly important to understand the math. The reality is this. If our elected officials are left unchecked, we will all be paying 9% or higher within a decade if not sooner.

The absolute “safest” choice in this matter is to vote “NO” for the tax amendment.

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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