

2021 ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

GENERAL INFORMATION

Running for: Mayor Village President Trustee/Alderman

Municipality: Village of Spring Grove

MARK EISENBERG

First & Last Name

Campaign Phone

3002 MONTERRA DR.

Campaign Address

Campaign Fax

Spring Grove IL 60081

City

State

Zip

MARK@MCHSI.COM

Campaign Email

List any local manufacturers who are supporting your candidacy:

John CAIN CEO

Name

Scot Forge

Company

Name

Company

Name

Company

(Please provide a 1-page bio with this questionnaire)

QUESTIONS

TAXATION

Despite the significant challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, U.S. manufacturing continues to thrive in the global marketplace, especially here in Illinois. The Chicago metropolitan area contains five out of the 10 most concentrated manufacturing zip codes in America.

But external factors continue to place Illinois manufacturers in a precarious position. In Illinois, we pay some of the highest sales, property and income taxes in the United States. In a global economy, Illinois-based manufacturers compete nationally and internationally for work.

Tax demands, in addition to business expenses, may determine whether bids are won or lost. Losing bids risk good-paying jobs and the generous economic benefits resulting from Illinois-based manufacturing.

Do you support/oppose allowing local governments to abate all or a portion of their property tax for small manufacturers?

Support

Oppose

Do you support/oppose freezing the municipal tax levy at its current amount so the tax rate can start to come down and property owners can begin to see much needed tax relief?

Support

Oppose

OUR TAX Rate is only 2% of Total Bill

Do you support/oppose creating a tax exemption for energy used in the manufacturing process?

Support Oppose

I would be open to a conversation

Do you support/oppose adding purchases of production-related, tangible personal property to manufacturing machinery and equipment exempted from sales tax?

Support Oppose

MINIMUM WAGE

Governor Pritzker signed a massive minimum wage increase into law in 2019 that will nearly double the minimum wage in Illinois over the next few years. The latest increase to \$11/hour kicked in on Jan. 1, 2021 and will increase \$1/hour each year until it reaches \$15/hour by 2025. Such a drastic minimum wage increase will surge costs for Illinois employers and lead to layoffs and fewer opportunities for young people and less-skilled workers.

Do you support/oppose the phase in of the state minimum wage to \$15/hour by 2025?

Support Oppose

wages should be set by demand and areas

Would you encourage legislators to support/oppose amending the law to create a regional implementation plan where areas with a higher cost of living (ie. Chicago) would face a higher minimum wage than suburban or downstate regions?

Support Oppose

Do you support/oppose a lower minimum wage (training wage) for teenagers who work less than 650 hours/year?

Support Oppose

REGULATION

Manufacturing in the United States has changed, becoming more precise and higher value thanks to improved technology and cloud-based manufacturing. We are leading the way with performance and technological advances resulting in high-paying, high-performance jobs for skilled American workers.

Overly burdensome regulations at the federal, state and local levels stifle innovation, invade a company's culture, impact its productivity and, inevitably, thwart its bottom line. Employers already understand their employees' safety and happiness are crucial to their company's success and reason enough for investment. That's why nearly all TMA employers already offer vacation and sick days, employee training, and commonly offer salaries starting at 25 percent above the impending minimum wage.

Manufacturing operations often require special needs that don't fit perfectly into municipal zoning classifications. Do you support/oppose providing flexibility through variances to allow manufacturing companies to locate or expand in your community?

Support Oppose

If elected, would you support/oppose waiving or reducing tap-on fees and/or providing other incentives to encourage manufacturers to build new facilities in your municipality?

Support Oppose

The COVID-19 pandemic has placed enormous strains on manufacturers, who have faced significant interference from the State of Illinois while trying to provide essential products our society needs. Our manufacturing facilities are already among the safest and healthiest workplaces with employee health and safety the top priority. Do you support/oppose the Illinois mandatory lockdowns that have limited commerce here while manufacturers in surrounding states prosper?

Support Oppose



GENERAL (Please answer each question in 150 words or less – feel free to provide answers on a separate sheet)

1) Why are you running for office?

ANSWER: I have had the honor of serving as Village President for TMA last 14 years. During that time my overall goal has been to maintain an environment where village residents could enjoy a high quality of life in a safe environment with business and recreational opportunities available. At the same time, fiscal responsibility, and a desire to keep property taxes in check have been primary focus of mine.

See My other sheet

2) What do you hope to accomplish if you are elected?

ANSWER:

3) Why should a manufacturer support your candidacy?

ANSWER:

Thank you for taking time to respond to our query. We will share your responses with TMA membership. Thank you for your interest in Illinois manufacturing and our industry's pertinent future in your community.



Candidate Signature

02/11/21

Date

3

What are you running for office?

I have had the honor of serving as your Village President for the last 14 years. During that time, my overall goal has been to maintain an environment where Village residents could enjoy a high quality of life in a safe environment with business and recreational opportunities available. At the same time, fiscal responsibility, and a desire to keep property taxes in check have been a primary focus of mine.

What do you hope to accomplish?

That focus - expanding opportunities while remaining fiscally responsible will continue. Specifically, my goals for the next four years include:

Expand pedestrian trails and complete a plan for including all subdivisions
Expand the Illinois Prairie Trail from Richmond to The Chain of Lakes State Park which will bring recreational and economic benefits to the Village.

- Funding for this project will come from grants administered by the McHenry County Council of Mayors (of which I am a working member)

Grow sales tax revenue through expansion of retail businesses, particularly along the Rt 12 corridor. Retail sales tax revenue is the best way to expand services while keeping property taxes in check.

Secure our fair share of federal and state funding for road, water, sewer, and recreational projects. Achieved through continuing my work with our local, state, and federal representatives.

Create housing opportunities allowing empty nesters and young families to remain and settle in our community.

Revitalize our downtown district, providing green space for new economic and community building events.

Expand cable and internet to subdivisions with out service AND improve continuity of service from Mediacom.

- I am currently partnering with other communities to bring pressure on Mediacom by enlisting the help of federal and state representatives.

4

Why should a manufacturer support your candidacy?

Spring Grove is home to many small manufacturers and one major forging company. I have work with them as a partnership securing water, electrical, sewer and other infrastructure. The village works with our manufacturers to make the process of expanding their business, zoning and other requirements a smooth process.

Small businesses and large manufacturers are the economic engine of our community. They provide high paying jobs to our residence, and also shop locally. They are a big part of community always giving back.