



2021 ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL  
**CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE**

**Please return by: February 19, 2021**

You may return completed questionnaires to: [dlacomb@tmaillinois.org](mailto:dlacomb@tmaillinois.org)

# 2021 ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Running for:  Mayor/Village President  Trustee/Alderman

Municipality: Village of Hoffman Estates

Mark Mueller

(224) 629-0487

---

---

First & Last Name

---

---

Campaign Phone

---

PO Box 957043

---

Campaign Address

---

Campaign Fax

---

Hoffman Estates

---

IL

---

60195

---

Mark@HoffmanForward.com

---

City

---

State

---

Zip

---

Campaign Email

List any local manufacturers who are supporting your candidacy:

---

Name

---

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

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

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

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)

---

---

**Why are you running for office?**

---

Our village businesses are being neglected by the current administration. This was especially true during the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown. Neighboring communities were helping their businesses by providing utility assistance, connecting business owners with helpful resources, and closing down streets and parking lots so businesses could safely operate outdoors. Meanwhile, McLeod’s administration did nothing to assist our small businesses or residents, causing irreparable harm to our community.

Under Bill McLeod and his trustees, the village has also failed at economic development. While neighboring communities like Schaumburg and South Barrington attract small and large businesses, McLeod and his trustees do nothing to attract businesses. In fact, they do the opposite—they so frequently reject businesses that want to open in our community that our village has become known as the “village of no!”

---

**What do you hope to accomplish if you are elected?**

---

The Hoffman Estates Forward team will put a stop to the wasteful spending and constant property tax hikes. We will help our small businesses create good-paying jobs right here in our community. And we will keep our families and neighborhoods safe.

Unlike career politician Bill McLeod and his trustees, we’re not politicians. We’re a team made up of community leaders: a police officer, a teacher, a real estate professional, and a dentist. We’re Hoffman Estates residents who love our hometown but see serious problems and know we must step up to be part of the solution. We care deeply about our neighbors and our village—helping people is in our blood, and that’s why we’re running.

---

**Why should a manufacture support your candidacy?**


---

We face incumbent career politicians with no plans to help our community move forward. Our current village leadership does nothing to attract businesses and those that want to come are often turned away. Our village has become known as the ‘village of no’ in the local business community. We can and must do better.

---

We'll work with everyone in the village to encourage business growth and economic development. Hoffman Estates is the perfect place for manufacturers to come to. We have wonderful people, great infrastructure and our proximity to O'Hare makes our location ideal. We are looking forward to a positive and fruitful relationship with businesses, and especially manufacturers, as they are the backbone of our state's economy.

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.



2/19/21

---

Candidate Signature

Date

## Mark Mueller for Mayor

Mark Mueller is a retired Hoffman Estates Police Lieutenant who has lived or worked in Hoffman Estates his entire life.

From 1993 until recently retiring to run for mayor, Mark served and protected our village as a member of the Hoffman Estates Police Department. Rising from the patrol division to Lieutenant, Mark received two life-saving awards and countless letters of appreciation from residents. He also led public relations for the department for 4 years where he coordinated community information and led the citizens police academy.

Mark has extensive knowledge of complex budgets and has found innovate ways to save money. Mark oversaw the police training budget and community relations budget where he successfully reduced expenses while maintaining staff. While in patrol, Mark assisted with the patrol budget including planning, spending, and bidding.

The youngest of the 6 children in his family, Mark grew up in the "Parcel C" area and attended St. Hubert School. He graduated from Conant High School where he was a student-athlete. After high school, Mark attended Harper College and earned a degree in Criminal Justice.

Prior to joining the Hoffman Estates Police Department, Mark worked for the Village of Wheeling as a community service officer. While with the Wheeling Police Department, one of his commanders, who lived in Hoffman Estates, asked Mark to help coach football with the Hoffman Estates Athletic Association. Mark accepted, and since that time nearly 30 years ago, Mark has continued to coach football and has served as the President of the Hoffman Estates Athletic Association.

Mark founded the Law Enforcement Athletics Program which allows at-risk children to play football as well as participate in cheerleading and other activities. He served as President of the Chicagoland Pop Warner football organization, which serves 30 regional organizations. Mark also started the lacrosse program at Hoffman Estates High School and coached High School level lacrosse for 14 years at Hoffman Estates High School, Barrington High School, Saint Viator, and Schaumburg High School.

Mark and his wife, Jeanne, have two daughters who both attend the University of Iowa. Jeanne is also a frontline hero, working as a nurse at Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood. They attend St. Hubert's Church in Hoffman Estates.