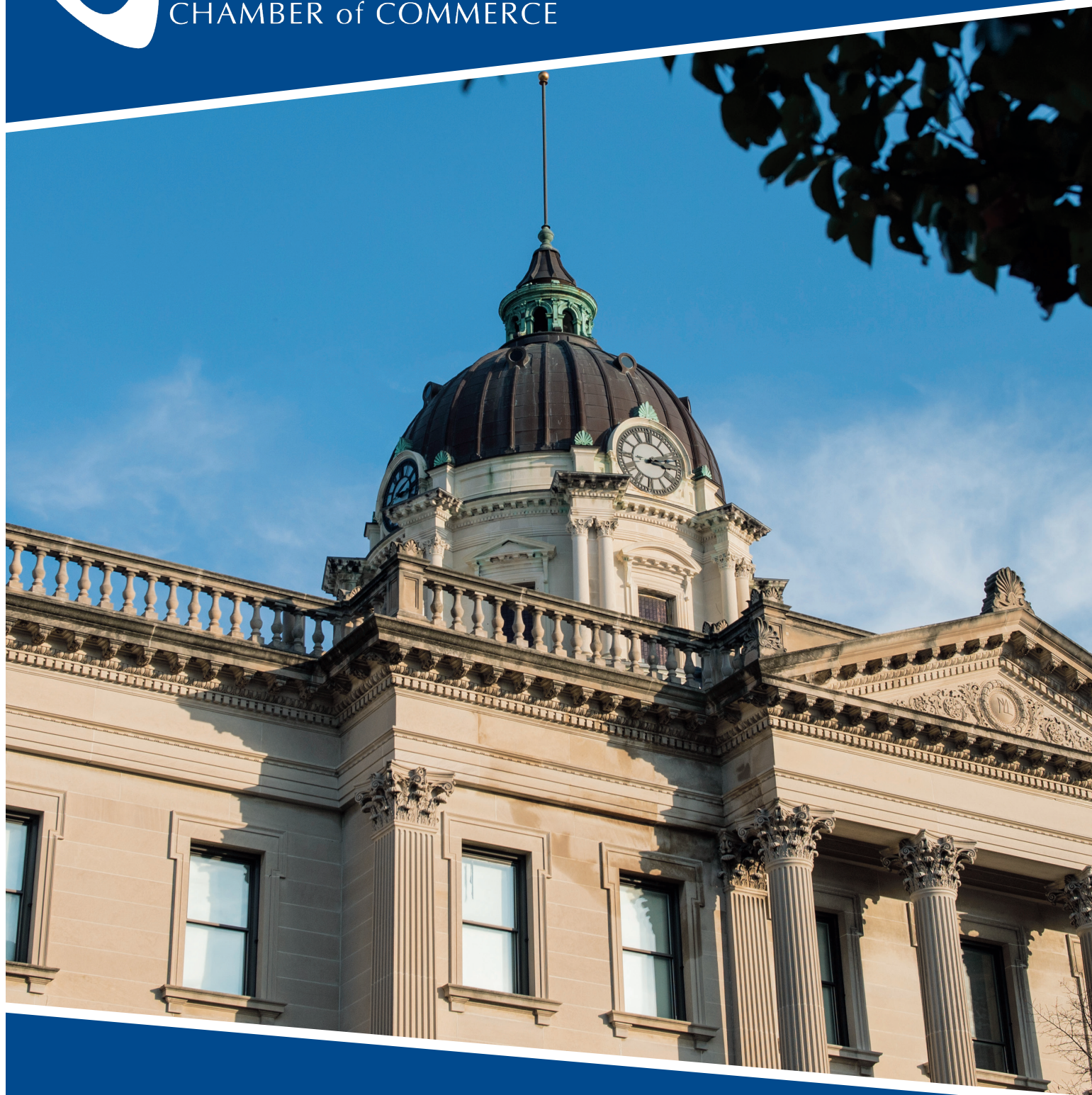




McLEAN COUNTY
CHAMBER of COMMERCE



LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

2019

*To be a vibrant, progressive business community that works
together to make McLean County a great place to do business.*

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA AND POLICY ISSUES

The McLean County Chamber of Commerce continues to be a pillar of advocacy in Central Illinois, representing McLean County business and its membership in Washington, D.C., Springfield, and City Hall in 2018.

Last year was not without challenge, as we saw a historic shutdown of our federal government and conversations continuing to turn towards vitriol and anger rather than a reach across the aisle. Now is not the time to run from free market, pro-business solutions but to bolster them for our membership businesses.

In just the last two years, the Chamber was recognized for its advocacy efforts by its peers in two major ways: the recognition as the Illinois Chamber of Commerce of the Year of 2017, and in receiving an elite 5 Star Accreditation from the US Chamber of Commerce, becoming one of 111 out of more than 7,000 chambers in the country.

The Chamber looks forward to leveraging these recognitions, as well as its reputation for action on behalf of its membership in 2019. The Chamber brand is as strong as ever, and we will continue to strive to create and foster the best business climate we can for our membership this year.

We hope you can join us.

The McLean County Chamber of Commerce's 2019 Legislative Agenda was authored to provide its membership with a policy platform based on current trends and feedback received throughout the past year.

The McLean County Chamber of Commerce advocacy work will continue to focus on seven specific subject areas which have a direct impact on business in McLean County including:

1. Taxes and Fees
2. Labor/Employment
3. Transportation and Infrastructure
4. Healthcare
5. Education and Workforce Development
6. Agriculture & International Trade
7. Intergovernmental Cooperation



Connie Mandula

Connie Mandula

2019 Chairman of the Board
McLean County Chamber of Commerce



Charlie Moore

Charlie Moore

President, CEO
McLean County Chamber of Commerce



John Walsh

John Walsh

Government & Public Affairs Manager
McLean County Chamber of Commerce



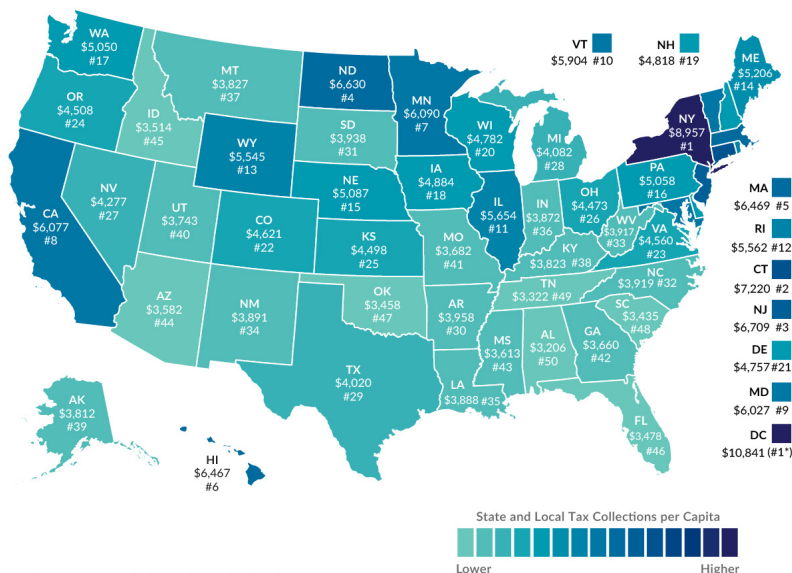
► Taxes & Fees

The McLean County Chamber of Commerce supports a competitive and fair tax climate that promotes and fosters economic growth. Our 2019 areas of concentration will be:

1. Advocate at all levels of government against excessive new taxes, fees, or regulatory burdens that interfere with the ability of companies to do business in McLean County.
2. Advocate against any policy that would begin the legislative process of moving the State of Illinois to a graduated income tax that would negatively affect McLean County businesses.
3. Monitor interpretation and implementation of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, and the effect that sweeping changes will have on the business community.
4. Advocate against “service taxes” that would tax unfairly tax certain industries in McLean County.
5. Advocate against a “per mile” gas tax, as it is inherently anti-downstate and would affect rural McLean County citizens and businesses.
6. Support a bipartisan legislative approach of Net Neutrality policy at the federal level that protects innovation and the free flow of information.

How High Are Tax Collections in Your State?

State and Local Tax Collections per Capita, Fiscal Year 2016



Graphic pulled from taxfoundation.org

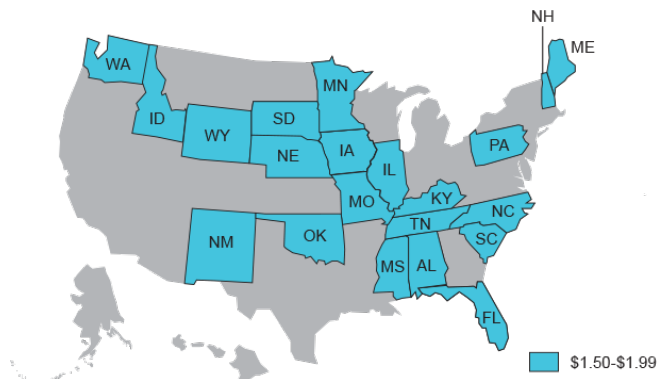


► Labor/Employment

The McLean County Chamber of Commerce supports legislation that emphasizes free enterprise. The Chamber believes the Free Market System is the most efficient and profitable way to conduct business. Our 2019 areas of focus will be:

1. Advocate against any attempt at the state or federal level to raise the minimum wage that negatively affects the ability to do business in McLean County.
2. Advocate for protections for employers who want to maintain a drug free workplace in conversations surrounding the legalization of recreational cannabis at the state and federal level.
3. Advocate against any attempts at the state or federal level to impose mandatory employee sick leave legislation that disproportionately hurts small employers.
4. Support commonsense Immigration reform at the federal level.
5. Advocate for legislation that will address Worker's Compensation Reform in Illinois.

2018 Workers' Compensation Premium Index Rates



Graphic pulled from oregon.gov

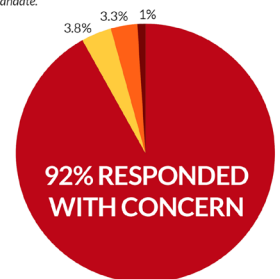
Businesses from across Central Illinois were surveyed on how their business would be affected by a minimum wage increase to \$15. An overwhelming majority indicated concern over the mandate.

92% - Yes, I am concerned that a mandated minimum wage increase will affect my business

3.8% - No, a minimum wage increase would not affect my daily operations as an employer

3.3% - A minimum wage increase would affect my operations, but we could absorb the additional costs.

1% - I do not have enough information on the topic to make an educated decision



POTENTIAL IMPACTS

From the over 550 Central Illinois business that participated in the survey, the following are the potential course of action they might take in response to a mandated minimum wage increase.

LAYOFF EMPLOYEES
(260 BUSINESSES)

51%

**SLOW DOWN HIRING
OF NEW EMPLOYEES**
(327 BUSINESSES)

64%

**INCREASE PRICES TO
COVER NEW LABOR
COSTS** (364 BUSINESSES)

71.2%

CLOSE BUSINESS
(85 BUSINESSES)

16.6%

63.5% **REDUCE HOURS**
(325 BUSINESSES)

48.9% **NOT REPLACE
EMPLOYEES WHO
LEAVE** (250 BUSINESSES)

24.3% **CONSIDER
AUTOMATION OF
SERVICES** (124 BUSINESSES)

24.7% **OTHER**
(126 BUSINESSES)

CIRCLE (Central Illinois Regional Chambers Legislative Effort) is comprised of the Chambers of Commerce of the Canton Area, East Peoria, Galesburg, Greater Decatur, Greater Springfield, McLean County, Morton, Pekin Area, Peoria Area, and the Washington Area.



► Transportation & Infrastructure

The McLean County Chamber of Commerce believes quality transportation and infrastructure is vital to the region's economic growth. The McLean County area sits at the cross-section of 3 major interstates and is centrally located in the State of Illinois. Our 2019 areas of concentration will be:

1. Advocate for McLean County projects in discussions at the state and federal level surrounding the passage of a capital bill as any plans begin to emerge.
2. Determine how and where revenue streams will come from for any such capital bill, and monitor their effects on McLean County, while opposing a 'per mile' tax.
3. Support a long-term infrastructure modernization bill, which would address Illinois' crumbling roads and bridges.
4. Support the Central Illinois Regional Airport as a major economic driver in our communities, as well as for the betterment of all local public transportation systems.
5. Support Connect Transit in helping businesses reach sufficient employee transportation options.
6. Support McLean County municipalities in transportation and infrastructure grant applications, such as TIGER, or FastLANE grants.



► Healthcare

The McLean County Chamber of Commerce will continue to partner and advocate along with the Employers' Coalition for Healthcare, Inc. (ECHI) to provide affordable health insurance to our member businesses/organizations. We support local providers, recognizing that quality health care services is a key element in attracting and retaining businesses and organization. Our 2019 areas of concentration will be:

1. Advocate for legislation that protects the Employer-Sponsored Healthcare System.
2. Support the expansion of Association Health Plans.
3. Monitor modifications of the Affordable Care Act and their effect on McLean County businesses.
4. Oppose the adoption of a single-payer, government-run health care system.
5. Advocate for legislation that helps both local law enforcement and health care facilities combat the national opioid epidemic.



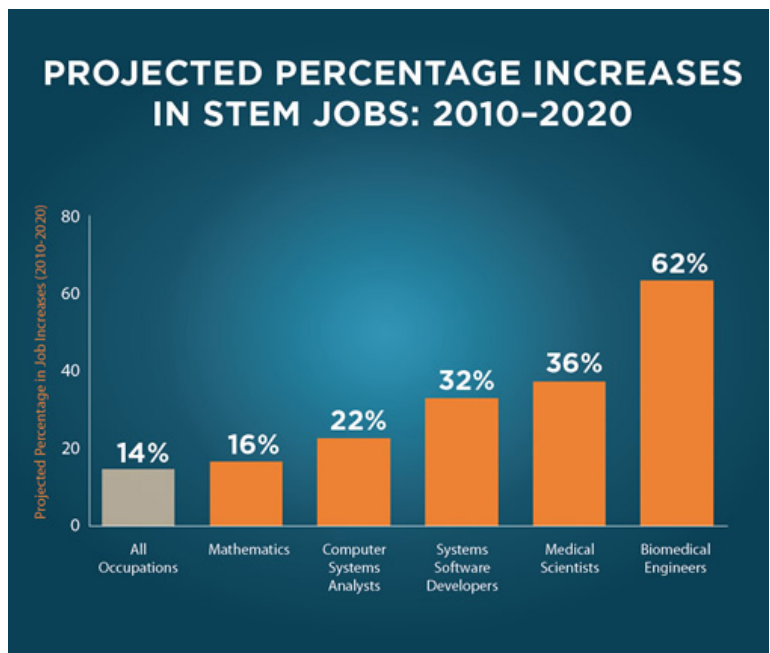
► Education & Workforce Development

The McLean County Chamber of Commerce supports investment in quality education. The future successes of our community are dependent on the quality of the education offered in our schools and colleges, and the preparedness of the community to assist in workforce development. The Chamber advocates consistent and ongoing communication and collaboration, creating and expanding cost-effective opportunities for training, and building partnerships with education providers included in the parameters set forth by the COMPACT Subsidiary of the Chamber. Our 2019 areas of concentration will be:

1. Engage in discussion surrounding the issues behind the mass outmigration of both incoming college students and college educated students and participate in working towards a solution to this problem.
2. Advocate for funding for higher education institutions, MAP Grant Funding, and Perkin's funding, among others.
3. Leverage opportunities under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).
4. Support initiatives that foster the advancement and wellbeing of all individuals in reaching their full potential in a growing workforce and in our communities.
5. Continue to advocate for a legislative solution for the recipients of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program.
6. Advocate for legislation that addresses the 'Digital Divide', as well as promoting the benefits of rural broadband.



COMPACT champions the region's educational and training institutions, resources, and programs that enables Bloomington-Normal's existing and future employers to cultivate, retain, and attract the talent that they need.



Graphic pulled from ed.gov



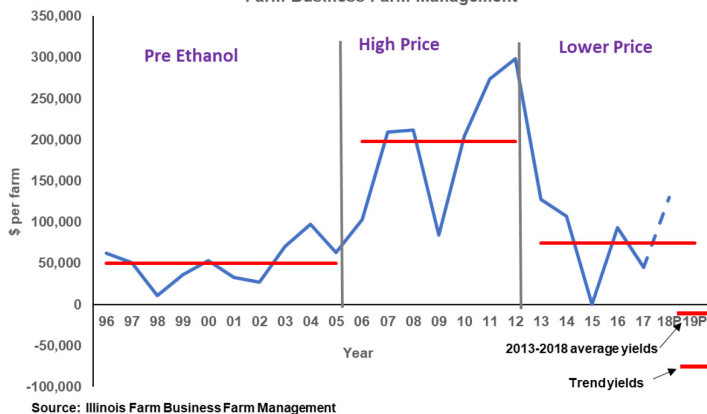
► Agriculture & International Trade

The McLean County Chamber of Commerce supports agriculture operations and agribusiness, as it is McLean County's number one industry. We support policies that encourage agriculture to exist, to enhance their operations for modern farming procedures, to be profitable, and to foster economic growth on the farm and in businesses that support agriculture. Our 2019 areas of concentration will be:

1. Advocate for congressional approval of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) in order to retain the benefits of free trade amongst our North American partners.
2. Oppose withdrawal from the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) without a successor agreement in place.
3. Advocate for the termination of U.S. tariffs on imports of steel and aluminum on our international trading partners and monitor said tariffs impacts on farmers and businesses in McLean County.
4. Advocate against any changes to federal H-2A Visa Program that negatively affects McLean County farmers' ability to use the program effectively.
5. Promote commonsense implementation by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in federal legislation requiring food companies regarding GMO disclosure.
6. Monitor impacts of 2018 Farm Bill and its positive and negative effects on farms and businesses in McLean County.
7. Advocate for legislation that allows alternative fuel and power organizations to be an economic boost to McLean County.



Figure 1. Net Farm Incomes on Illinois Grain Farms Enrolled in Illinois Farm Business Farm Management



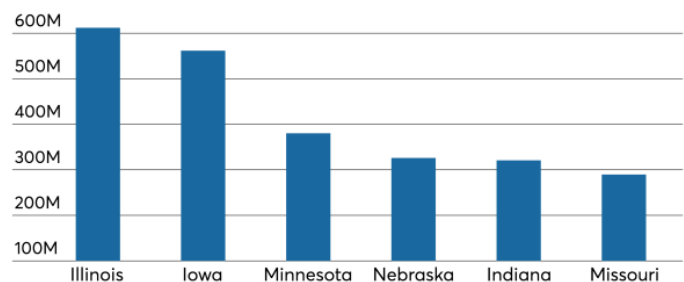
Source: Illinois Farm Business Farm Management

Graphic pulled from farmdocdaily.illinois.edu

Soy story

Sales of U.S. soybeans are expected to decline due to tariffs imposed by the world's largest buyer, China. These six states exported the most soybeans last year

● 2017 soybean exports, in bushels



Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Graphic pulled from cujournal.com



Advantage

► Intergovernmental Cooperation

The McLean County Chamber of Commerce strongly supports increased collaboration and sharing of resources between local units of government to increase the cost effectiveness and efficiency of service to taxpayers and businesses. The Chamber will continue to find ways to partner with and recognize the immense contributions of the non-profit community in McLean County. Our 2019 areas of concentration will be:

1. Maintain and build relationships with elected officials and government entities to encourage cooperation and efficiency to embrace and advance a unified region.
2. The Chamber will continue to utilize advocacy efforts with the BN Advantage, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and the Illinois Chamber of Commerce.



McLean County - Government Center

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CREDIT: Bohao Zhao

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Local Officials

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Karyn Smith

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MCLEAN COUNTY BOARD

Don Cavallini (R), District 1 Rep.

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Catherine Metsker (R), District 1 Rep.

P: 309-376-5881

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P: 309-724-8240

Scott Murphy (R), District 2 Rep.

P: 309-824-0260

George O. Wendt (R), District 3 Rep.

P: 309-830-6685

Randall Martin (R), District 3 Rep.

P: 309-963-4687

William T. Caisley (R), District 4 Rep.

P: 309-452-6339

Mark Johnson (R), District 4 Rep.

P: 309-319-6080

John McIntyre (R), District 5 Rep. & Board Chair

P: 309-452-0552

David Selzer (R), District 5 Rep.

P: 309-454-2773

George Gordon (D), District 6 Rep.

P: 309-452-8530

Laurie Wollrab, (D), District 6 Rep.

P: 309-261-2688

Ryan Scritchlow (R), District 7 Rep.

P: 309-287-6294

Jacob Beard (D), District 7 Rep.

P: 309-200-7576

Carlo Robustelli (D), District 8 Rep.

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Paul R. Segobiano (D), District 8 Rep.

P: 309-828-6592

Erik Rankin (D), District 9 Rep.

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Susan Schafer (R), District 9 Rep.

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Josh Barnett (R), District 10 Rep.

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Kimberly Bray

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MCLEAN COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS

Don R. Everhart, Jr., Circuit Clerk

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Michelle L. Anderson, Auditor

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Jon Sandage, Sheriff

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Don Knapp, State's Attorney

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Kathy Michael, County Clerk

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Rebecca C. McNeil, Treasurer

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Kathleen Yoder, County Coroner

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MCLEAN COUNTY MAYORS (RURAL)

Eston Ellis, President, Village of Bellflower

P: 309-772-3392

Cathleen Weber, President, Village of Cooksville

P: 309-725-3294

Jeremiah Pitcher, President, Village of Stanford

P: 309-379-2251

Michael James, Mayor, Village of Downs

P: 309-378-3221

Steven Dean, Mayor, City of Leroy

P: 309-962-3031

Tom Caisley, Mayor, Village of Danvers

P: 309-963-4928

Thomas Wagner, Mayor, Village of Towanda

P: 309-728-2811

Spencer Johansen, Mayor, City of Lexington

P: 309-365-3331

Todd Zalucha, President, Village of Heyworth

P: 309-473-2811

Larry Dodds, Mayor, Village of Colfax

P: 309-723-3261

Jamie Kelly, President, Village of Anchor

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Chad Walden, Mayor, Village of Arrowsmith

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Paul Rutledge, Mayor, Village of Ellsworth

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Jeremiah Houston, President, Village of Carlock

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Aaron Hammel, President, Village of McLean

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Daniel Muffeo, Mayor, Village of Hudson

P: 309-726-1070

Jeffrey Benedict, President, Village of Gridley

P: 309-747-2000

Chris Wilder, Mayor, City of Chenoa

P: 815-945-7619



To support and serve our members, the McLean County Chamber of Commerce strives to Promote commerce, Advocate pro-business perspectives, Collaborate to lead change, and Engage in action for results that strengthen the prosperity of the business community.



2017 ILLINOIS OUTSTANDING
CHAMBER OF THE YEAR