

**TOWN OF NORMAL - MAYOR  
CANDIDATE: CHRIS KOOS**

**BACKGROUND**

Aside from the few short years Chris spent in Vietnam, he grew up and has lived his whole life in Bloomington and Normal. As a boy, Chris delivered newspapers for the Pantagraph. As a young adult, Chris put his life on the line in defense of his nation. Today, he balances his time between his small businesses (a bicycle and running shop called Vitesse and Often Running) and City Hall, where Chris has served his community as mayor for eighteen years. His experience is exactly what Normal needs right now because he knows the community, understands local government, and has the leadership, networks, and expertise to lead Normal through this pandemic and begin the long road to economic recovery, stability, and growth.

To learn more or support the campaign to re-elect Mayor Koos, visit:  
<https://electchriskoos.com>, or check out our Facebook at  
<https://www.facebook.com/electchriskoos!>

**WHY DO YOU WANT TO SERVE AND WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR THE OFFICE?**

Normal is my home. I feel a deep sense of responsibility toward this community—to the neighbors I grew up alongside and to the new neighbors in town.

My vision is for Normal to be a city that is complete, compact and connected. We are complete in that we are a welcoming and inclusive community, regardless of ethnicity, gender, age, education, or socioeconomic status. We are compact in our community growth. We are anti-sprawl as we are aware that unbridled physical expansion of our city footprint is unsustainable, both from an ecological and financially sustainable view. We are connected in that we encourage and support cutting edge technologies to save dollars and find efficiencies, promote economic development, and add value to our educational community.

**WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE PRESSING ISSUES FACING THE VOTERS TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE AND HOW DO YOU PROPOSE TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES?**

My platform is focused on several key issues, including essential services, economic development, and pandemic recovery. My #1 priority is ensuring that the town functions at its highest capability, and that means maintaining roads, clearing garbage/recycling/bulk waste, providing clean water, and keeping the community safe with fire and police protection. But I am also looking to continue improving Normal through economic development in industries like Rivian, because I believe the one of



the best ways to recover from COVID-19 is through investments back into our community. Moreover, robust economic development places downward pressure on local taxes.

**TOWN OF NORMAL - MAYOR  
CANDIDATE: MARC TIRITILLI**

**BACKGROUND**

A political independent, Marc Tiritilli moved to Normal in 1997. During his 15-year career as an electronics technician, he received his bachelor's in Mathematics from ISU.

Marc was an instructor at Tremont High School, Mastery Charter School in Philadelphia, and Bloomington High School. Currently, he manages the IDEA Center makerspace at Illinois Wesleyan and teaches physics and astronomy. Marc also serves as a rappelling technician for Over The Edge, conducting fundraising events nationwide for not-for-profit organizations.

Marc has been a Danvers trustee and a volunteer firefighter for Danvers Fire and Rescue. He has served in various roles for cave rescue, recreation, and conservation organizations—he is the secretary and past president of the Karst Conservancy of Illinois and is a board member for the Near Normal Grotto. Marc was also an instructor with the National Cave Rescue Commission.

Marc lives in Normal with his wife Tracy and their two daughters.

**WHY DO YOU WANT TO SERVE AND WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR THE OFFICE?**

Over the last several years, our leadership has focused on special projects at the expense of our real needs. New development isn't bad, but when it's not balanced with the upkeep of our infrastructure—when our “wants” eclipse our needs—we have a problem. Our residents feel our Town has misplaced priorities, and I agree with them.

My vision for Normal includes fixing the parts of our infrastructure that are both figuratively and literally crumbling because I feel a large part of a Town's character is reflected in its infrastructure. My vision also includes easing divisions that have invaded our community. Those tensions tend to start at the top, with those who are in leadership. This is why I feel a change is needed.

**WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE PRESSING ISSUES FACING THE VOTERS TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE AND HOW DO YOU PROPOSE TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES?**

We need to:

Invest more in the repair of crumbling streets and deteriorating water mains. We have plenty of revenue, but we need to shift focus from unnecessary spending “wants” and



reallocate those funds.

Shore up underfunded pensions. The gap between pension obligations and funding has been widening—the shortfall is now \$95M. Raising property taxes hasn't worked. I will commit resources from the general fund to reverse the downward trend and get our pensions back on track.

Enhance representation in our government. Restrictive public comment policies discourage people from speaking. Frustration results. I will remove restrictions that discourage residents from speaking and bring closed-door deliberations out into the open. I also want to change the council's dynamics so there's no longer a monolithic mindset.

**TOWN OF NORMAL – TOWN COUNCIL, AT-LARGE**  
**CANDIDATE: CEMBERLY CUMMINGS**

**BACKGROUND**

Since moving to Normal in 2012, I have served this community volunteering for Habitat for Humanities Women Build, YWCA, Home Sweet Home Ministries, Children’s Discovery Museum, and Junior Achievement to name a few. I have served on the YWCA and Children’s Discovery Museum boards. In 2019, I was selected to be a part of former Governor Jim Edgar’s Edgar Fellows. I am a 2018, graduate of Illinois Women’s Institute for Leadership Training Academy. I have served on the National League of Cities Federal Advocacy Committee (Community & Economic Development) and University Cities Committee. I have a Bachelor’s in political science from Central State University. I am a member of the NAACP and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. My life’s task is to put “human” back in *humanity*, by serving each person where they are.

**WHY DO YOU WANT TO SERVE AND WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR THE OFFICE?**

I want to serve to keep the Town of Normal moving forward. I want all groups of people to be considered in the decision making. Sustainable and viable communities of the future are diverse and inclusive socially, racially, and economically. I want the Town of Normal to be a leader in economic development for small to mid-size communities. I want the Town of Normal to continue to be the gem of Central Illinois. I want us to retain a greater portion of our higher education students post-graduation. I desire to serve to create a future for all who have a desire to live in this wonderful, progressive community.

**WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE PRESSING ISSUES FACING THE VOTERS TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE AND HOW DO YOU PROPOSE TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES?**

Voters are concerned about pandemic recovery, property taxes, and infrastructures. Pandemic concerns are varied in nature. Business owners are concerned with viability and sustainability. While some individuals are concerned about finding a job and housing stability. There is concern about vaccination, healthcare access, etc. Property taxes or taxes in general are always an issue. I know the Town is mindful of managing its revenue streams. As it relates to property taxes, there are other taxing bodies that may require increases that the Town would have to vote on, like Unit 5 Schools. There are also growing concerns about conditions of streets. The Town has heard the issues and increased the budget for resurfacing and street improvement projects.

**TOWN OF NORMAL – TOWN COUNCIL, AT-LARGE**  
**CANDIDATE: STEVE HARSH**

**BACKGROUND**

I was born and raised in Bloomington/Normal. After graduation from Trinity High School (now Central Catholic), I attended the University of Missouri. Upon returning to Bloomington/Normal, I have owned and operated two separate retail businesses, a Real Estate office, and for the last 30 yrs. a Financial Services office.

There are three very important qualities you must possess in running a business, as well as your daily life. You must be Responsible, Accountable, and Trustworthy. You have to Responsibly meet your obligations financially to your vendors, to your customers/clients with quality, and your family. You have to be Accountable with a solution for the things that need to be fixed. Your Credibility is everything. It is very simple, if people can trust you, and believe you, they will support your efforts.

**WHY DO YOU WANT TO SERVE AND WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR THE OFFICE?**

I have three main reasons for running: our unnecessary spending, our ever-increasing Taxes, Fees and Regulations, and our deteriorating Infrastructure. We should reprioritize spending by using Revenues for their intended purpose, not just a portion of them. We need to know where that money is going. As our Taxes, Fees, and Regulations keep increasing, it makes the Community less desirable for new residents and businesses. As a result of our spending problem, our streets, sidewalks, water and sewer have been severely neglected. If elected, I will demand to know where the Revenue for these is going, with full disclosure to the public.

**WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE PRESSING ISSUES FACING THE VOTERS TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE, AND HOW DO YOU PROPOSE TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES?**

The most pressing issue today for the voters dealing with the out-of-control spending, the new and increasing Taxes, Fees and Regulations, and the deteriorating Infrastructure, is who can they trust to actually resolve these problems without even more Taxes? Over the last 20 yrs. we have gone from virtually Zero debt to over \$80mil. in debt, Real Estate Taxes without the Senior Freeze, have more than doubled, and water bills have increased by more than 400%, while our Infrastructure is crumbling. Clearly, the current administration, and the candidates they endorse, is not the answer. If elected, I will prioritize Responsibility, Accountability, and Trust.

**TOWN OF NORMAL - TOWN COUNCIL, AT-LARGE**  
**CANDIDATE: KEVIN MCCARTHY**

**BACKGROUND**

Since joining Normal Council in 2012, I have dedicated myself to representing the views of all members of our community, and have been a strong advocate for engaging Normal citizens in Town government by working alongside friends and neighbors in Normal's Comprehensive Plan and other planning efforts.

Together with Council colleagues, I have supported economic development that benefits everyone in our community. The result of the development projects I've supported is tens of millions of dollars of new property value, the creation of thousands of jobs and nearly one billion dollars of private investment and economic benefit for our community.

I have collaborated with community partners to build business and education partnerships that help ensure local employment, educational opportunities, talent development and access to education. Some efforts include:

- Co-Founder, EDC STEM Education partnership
- Co-Founder, Bloomington-Normal Innovation Alliance
- United Way broadband for students in rural McLean County taskforce

**WHY DO YOU WANT TO SERVE AND WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR THE OFFICE?**

I am running for re-election because I love Normal and to represent citizens. Our town is facing a triple-threat of economic instability, divisive politics, and a global pandemic, and Normal citizens deserve experienced, collaborative leaders with a proven track record of success. As a successful small business owner for nearly 29 years I bring pragmatic, forward-looking, results-oriented focus to Council. I've used that perspective to manage funds responsibly while investing strategically in our future.

If re-elected, my focus will center on financial resiliency, high quality services, economic development through technological innovation, high-quality education systems, environmental stewardship, and social equity. Demonstrated results include:

- Maintained AAA credit rating
- Reduced debt \$14 million
- Saved \$8 million of interest costs
- Invested \$93 million in infrastructure

**WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE PRESSING ISSUES FACING THE VOTERS TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE AND HOW DO YOU PROPOSE TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES?**

Our most pressing issues include managing pandemic-induced economic instability locally and on the state level. If re-elected, I plan to focus on:

1. Financial resiliency through economic development across industries to attract and grow jobs and tax base to protect against pandemic instability and state financial position.
2. Technological innovation to ensure sustainable and cost-effective town operations, high quality of life, educational opportunities and economic development.
3. Social equity initiatives in education, justice, and government representation.

After nearly 9 years on Normal Council, my voting record demonstrates prudent judgment, successful results, and the ability to balance pragmatics today with investment for the future. Normal voters face critical choices between those of us focused on progress and community investment and those focused on austerity and disinvestment.

**TOWN OF NORMAL – TOWN COUNCIL, AT-LARGE**  
**CANDIDATE: BRAD MCMILLAN**

**BACKGROUND**

I graduated from Illinois Wesleyan and Southern Illinois Law School. I practiced law for ten years in Central Illinois and then served as District Chief of Staff to Congressman Ray LaHood for ten years. For 14 years, I have served as the Executive Director of the Institute for Principled Leadership in Public Service at Bradley University where I also serve as Coordinator for the Master's in Nonprofit Leadership program. I teach courses on Bipartisan Leadership, Collaborative Leadership, Strategic Planning and Organizational Leadership. For 11 years, I have been a statewide leader on Fair Maps and ethics reform in Illinois and currently serve as Co-Chair of the CHANGE Illinois Board. I also serve on the statewide Board for The Nature Conservancy.

**WHY DO YOU WANT TO SERVE AND WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR THE OFFICE?**

I have a lifelong record of public service and community service. With my four children all thriving in new jobs, graduate school or undergraduate school I now have the time to give back to the community.

I believe once we finally turn the corner on the pandemic, Normal is well positioned to have a growth spurt in new clean energy and green technology jobs. Rivian is hiring hundreds and this is the tip of the iceberg. Our community's quality of life is high with low crime, strong schools, ISU, a well educated talented workforce, great parks and recreation. I want to be a part of the leadership team that helps our current businesses thrive and attract new businesses.

**WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE PRESSING ISSUES FACING THE VOTERS TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE AND HOW DO YOU PROPOSE TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES?**

I believe we need to prioritize infrastructure. We live on Normal Ave. in the heart of our community and our street has many potholes and deteriorated sidewalks.

We need to be proactive in boosting our local economy with the attraction of new clean energy and green technology companies. We also need to fill the empty businesses in Uptown and across Normal. This progress will create new revenue for the community that will provide much needed resources for infrastructure.

The simple truth is we can pursue both progress and potholes.

**TOWN OF NORMAL – TOWN COUNCIL, AT-LARGE**  
**CANDIDATE: KARL SILA**

**BACKGROUND**

I grew up on Normal's west side and came up through Unit 5 schools. Most of family lives here and will for many years to come. I've worked at various businesses and had classes at Heartland and ISU. I've served on the Normal Library Board and was active in scouting for many years.

I have an accounting background to crunch the number of the many options that face council members, and an engineering degree to help look for solutions other than those that are simply handed to me.

I've noticed that the council represents local egos more than local residents, and that that translates into making very poor economic decisions. Both of these need to change, and electing new challengers to office is the way the voters can achieve that.

**WHY DO YOU WANT TO SERVE AND WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR THE OFFICE?**

I want to serve the people of Normal because so few are able or willing to do so. Most of the current town council is working for the town council, not for the town's people. Taxpayer-paid incentives should only go to businesses that are economic engines, not to bars, restaurants, and similar businesses that will primarily compete with existing businesses.

The town should get out of the real estate business where they consistently buy high and sell low, pay over-market rents, and rent out town property at sweetheart rates. The town council should actively want to listen to the people, not prevent or discourage them from talking to the council except on matters that have already been decided.

**WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE PRESSING ISSUES FACING THE VOTERS TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE AND HOW DO YOU PROPOSE TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES?**

The most pressing issues facing voters are economic. The virus hurt many businesses and jobs, and the town inappropriately enforcing Pritzker's Destroy Illinois plan has given Normal a reputation for putting politics ahead of business, politics ahead of jobs, and politics ahead of people. The most pressing future issues will also be economic as people, businesses, and jobs flee Illinois. A good reputation is the key to Normal luring, starting, and expanding local businesses and jobs without having to force taxpayers to provide huge incentives. The only way we can get that is to sweep out the current establishment and elect pro-business, pro-townspeople challengers.

**TOWN OF NORMAL – TOWN COUNCIL, AT-LARGE  
CANDIDATE: DONNA M. TONEY**

**BACKGROUND**

I have a well rounded background with the belief that if you want something you should go for it. My family is church oriented; we have been blessed with my mother of eighty-four years and counting who now resides in Charlotte NC. I am the eldest of nine with one brother who died two years ago. Our family is blessed to have in the Ministry realm two pastors, two ministers, a deacon, and a prophetess, that came out of the marriage and unity of prayers of my mother and father. I have always had a heart for the people of God and I showed as I was growing up, after school bringing friends home feeding them and talking to them about their problems. Just being a helpful person, because I didn't want to see them go without things that we were blessed with. My mother would always say "Leader".

**WHY DO YOU WANT TO SERVE AND WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR THE OFFICE?**

I want to serve because I see with my natural eyes and my spiritual eyes what is happening here. We have a team that is in office now that their concerns and priorities are about them. When you take the voices of the people away you make them feel undeserved and overlooked as if this was a natural feeling to have. I have always been concerned about people's well being. I would say you can't say it. I will say it for you. All though we are a wealthy community everyone that lives here is not. Many are not aware of the events happening here. I believe in being honest and no hidden agendas. The people have a voice and I will let them know.

**WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE PRESSING ISSUES FACING THE VOTERS TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE AND HOW DO YOU PROPOSE TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES?**

The pressing issues of the voters today are taxes, conditions of the roads, clean water, and not being able to have a voice to unanswered questions. The problem is this council wants you to do as they say and not as they do. That's how 'Amalak had Ballam' do in the Bible, tell them anything and we can carry on with what we desire. I plan to continue to work on these problems with the next group that would sit on council and not allow anyone to move forward without questions being answered. As John Lewis would say: "Fight The Good Fight". I plan on digging in and getting to the source of the problem, regardless of who they are. Advocate for Justice!!

**TOWN OF NORMAL—TOWN COUNCIL, AT-LARGE**  
**CANDIDATE: ALBERT J. ZIMMERMAN**

**BACKGROUND**

I was raised on a large working cattle ranch in rural Nevada. As it relates to Normal, my family and I have lived in and been extensively involved in the community since 2008. Presently, I am chair of Normal's Planning Commission, where we address issues such as zoning and development generally. Noteworthy topics have included the zoning of marijuana businesses following marijuana's legalization for recreational use in Illinois and zoning related to emergency services facilities in conjunction with future growth of the community at large. Prior to my tenure on the Planning Commission, I served on Normal's Uptown Design Review Commission. Presently, I also serve on the board of the Miller Park Zoological Society board, where I have a substantial leadership role with the Zoo's "Stampede" 5k race that occurs every year in early March. Lastly, as former chair of Leadership McLean County's board, I oversaw the entire program.

**WHY DO YOU WANT TO SERVE AND WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR THE OFFICE?**

My legal background will serve the Council well, as it's primary function is to enact local laws, ordinances, and resolutions and determine Normal's policies and priorities. Given the state of local politics, my primary motivation for serving is to reduce divisiveness, build consensus, and foster teamwork by living the theme of my campaign, "Listen. Learn. Lead." By listening and collaborating with other elected officials (as well as town staff and residents), we can achieve a greater understanding of the issues, and that will result in better crafted and implemented solutions. We live in a time where soundbites and social media posts garner significant attention, but, when leaders have more meaningful and substantive conversations, a great deal more good can occur.

**WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE PRESSING ISSUES FACING THE VOTERS TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE AND HOW DO YOU PROPOSE TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES?**

The pressing issues I see area need for officials that are dedicated to supporting the town through setting the state for economic growth; providing a safe community; and a general lack of faith and trust in current leaders. I want to bring comportsment, knowledge and experience to the Normal Town Council in an effort maintain and expand on the community's extraordinary attributes. Unchecked, elements of divisiveness can stop the progress that Normal has been able to enjoy. Council members should come to meetings prepared to discuss the items brought for consideration, offer alternatives when they do not agree, and be committed to meaningful discourse. Building on my public and private group experience, I believe I can be a positive force for the Council.

**TOWN OF NORMAL – TOWN COUNCIL, AT-LARGE  
CANDIDATE: DAVID PAUL BLUMENSHINE**

Candidate did not respond to questionnaire.

**TOWN OF NORMAL – TOWN COUNCIL, AT-LARGE  
CANDIDATE: SCOTT PRESTON**

Candidate did not respond to questionnaire.