

May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020

To: Eddie Mauro  
From: Iowa CCI Action

We are pleased to share our **candidate questionnaire** with you. Your responses will help our thousands of members and supporters around the state get clear on where you stand on our highest priority issues. **We ask that you submit your answers by 5 pm on May 11, 2020.**

Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement Action Fund (Iowa CCI Action) is a statewide people-power organization that uses community organizing, political education, citizen lobbying, direct action, and electoral work to win policies that put people before profits and communities before corporations.

Iowa CCI Action (501c4) is the political arm and sister organization of Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement (501c3), a 45-year old community organizing group with a track-record of helping everyday people be a powerful force for justice.

We are the largest organized, progressive constituency in Iowa with nearly 5,000 dues-paying members in all of Iowa's counties. We are all about taking on the corrosive influence of big money special interests and energizing, engaging, and bringing *real* people into the center of our political system.

#### **Iowa CCI Action's Candidate Questionnaire:**

These are issues that matter most to our members. We know that real change has always come from people pushing for big change at the local, state and national level. No one person or candidate is going to move our agenda for us. It's up to us to make change happen.

Iowa CCI Action will share your questionnaire responses with our membership, supporters and other like-minded people through email, direct mail, social media and other means. We will reach over 20,000 grassroots Iowans.

**We look forward to your response.**





## CCI Action's 2020 Questionnaire

We ask you to submit your answers to [jackr@iowacci.org](mailto:jackr@iowacci.org) by 5 pm on May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

\*\*\* Please limit each response to the lettered questions to 200 words or fewer \*\*\*

### 1. Farm and Food Policy

Industrialized corporate agriculture has monopolized the farm economy, destroyed family farmers, poisoned our water, and damaged our environment. Our local politicians put corporate ag profits ahead of our health and the economic well-being of our communities.

COVID-19 has exposed the cracks in this system at every level of the food chain (from producer to packer to distribution and sale), and it is clear we need a shift back to more localized and regionalized food production that is good for farmers, workers, eaters and our environment.

- A. Currently, Iowa is home to over 10,000 factory farms that produce more than 22 billion gallons of manure every year, making Iowa the leading contributor to the dead zone in the Gulf, and has resulted in widespread water contamination and diminished quality of life throughout our state. Will you support Senator Cory Booker's [Farm Systems Reform Act of 2019](#), that includes a moratorium on CAFO's and invests in a just transition for farmers?

**Yes, Eddie Mauro supports a moratorium on the building of new confined animal feeding operations. He also supports the Farm Systems Reform Act of 2019 and a transition of our farm economy from a "fencerow-to-fencerow" system to one of supply management and conservation that existed prior to the Earl Butz reforms of the 1970s. Family Farmers deserve a living wage, and this is why Eddie has proposed a "Family Farmers First" Farm Bill policy at [EddieMauro.com](http://EddieMauro.com).**

- B. Just as workers need a living wage, independent family farmers need a fair price for their crops and livestock in order to survive. A fair price for farmers would cover the cost of production and the cost of living (also known as "parity pricing"). Do you support farm policy that guarantees fair prices for farmers through higher price floors, supply management and a farmer-owned strategic grain reserve?

**All workers deserve a living wage, and the dignity of getting paid fairly for the work they do. That includes both family farm owners, farm workers and those working in food production – such as meatpacking plant workers and others. He supports a return to supply management and away from a focus on**

**overproduction and low prices. This is all connected to ending the practice of large packers vertically owning the entire meat production cycle, for example. We need to support our family dairy farmers, livestock and poultry producers and corn, soybean and vegetable growers. This should include strategic reserves for all commodity products – including dairy, corn, soybeans and other grain crops.**

## **2. Healthcare**

Our country is facing a serious healthcare crisis. The current COVID-19 pandemic has only further exposed the cracks and inadequacies of our patchwork, profit-driven system – especially for communities of color. The problems with our current healthcare system are clear: the insurance and pharmaceutical industries are designed to profit off of our illnesses, the elderly, and people with disabilities.

- A. Do you support the bills for Medicare for All, SF1804 or HR 1384 and if you are a sitting member of congress would you cosponsor either of these bills? If you do support Medicare for All, what actions are you taking to show your support? If no, what is your alternative plan?

**I would vote for SF1804 or HR1384 and support Medicare for All. I have stated this in my campaign communication over the course of over 80 livestreamed town halls, stated this on our campaign’s website and said so in media interviews. I began the race as a supporter of “Medicare for All Who Want It”, but I’ve always believed that the health insurance system is broken, costs are out of control, that health care is a human right and that I will only support policy that moves us forward towards universal coverage. Over the course of the campaign we’ve recognized how coronavirus is impacting millions of Americans and we need universal health care coverage now – and I will support all efforts to reach that goal.**

**Insurance companies are on notice. They cannot treat Iowans like profit centers.**

**That said, I also support other policies that would be intermediary steps in the event the votes don’t exist to bring M4A to the floor – including: lowering the age of Medicare Eligibility to age 55 for all American, and age 50 for all retirees that are first-responders (EMTs, firefighters, police officers). Second of all, I would support a 100% subsidized Medicare Public Option in the ACA subsidized 100% for all people making up to \$45,000 per year (single) and \$90,000 per year per couple. I would also support immediately expanding Medicaid to cover all children up until the age of 18.**

**This is in addition to improving Medicare by allowing Medicare to negotiate pharmaceutical prices, allowing drug importation from Canada, and having the**

**federal government take over the finance and manufacture of life-sustaining drugs such as insulin.**

- B. The Medicare Crisis Program and Healthcare Emergency Guarantee Act, introduced by Sen. Sanders and Rep. Jayapal, would ensure that people on unemployment and their families can get healthcare during the COVID-19 pandemic and cover the costs of necessary healthcare and prescription drugs until a vaccine is developed. Do you support these measures aimed at harnessing the power of Medicare to cover necessary healthcare costs while our nation grapples with COVID-19?

**Yes. But I believe we need to go further. I've proposed a New Frontier Public Health Corps program that would be used to recruit new workers in both rural and urban settings to provide critical public health services, train them in mental health and other critically needed specialties, and leverage things like grants and targeted student loan debt forgiveness to encourage, recruit and retain workers in these critical nursing and front-line public health fields.**

### **3. Climate Change and Energy Policy**

CCI Action fights for a Just Transition, which means a 100% renewable energy system that is also 100% democratically controlled by and run to serve the interests of communities of color and the working class. We know that for our energy system to work for working people and people of color, who have been the most impacted and most at risk, we can't just switch from fossil fuels to wind and solar; we must fundamentally transform the sector of the economy that generates, distributes and owns energy. We demand a democratically controlled, ecologically regenerative energy economy that treats access and control over clean energy as a human right.

- A. Do you support a Green New Deal that encompasses 100% renewable energy for 100% of people that is locally owned and democratically controlled; includes a "jobs guarantee" for traditionally disinvested communities; and that invests in transforming our food & farm system?

**Yes. 100% yes. I also support supplementing the GND with a Carbon Fee & Dividend program, a targeted cap & trade program to create market based incentives to reduce carbon emissions and invest in soil health/agriculture, and I support a moratorium on the building of all new fossil fuel infrastructure. I have taken the #NoFossilFuelMoney pledge and believe that comprehensive campaign finance reform is critical to tackling the climate crisis.**

### **4. Immigration**

Hard-working immigrant and refugee communities are among the hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic and the dual public health and economic crises caused by the novel Coronavirus. Many are essential workers in Iowa's meatpacking plants, factories, farms, schools, daycare

centers, and restaurants. Others are held against their will by ICE inside Iowa's over-crowded and unsanitary county jails, which are breeding grounds and ticking time bombs for infectious diseases.

- A. Do you believe undocumented workers who pay taxes should be eligible for federal benefits such as unemployment insurance, Medicare and Medicaid, Social Security, and federal stimulus checks? What will you do as a candidate to make this a campaign issue?

**Yes. I have hosted multiple town halls with members of the Latinx, African, Burmese and Sudanese communities during the campaign. I have been an advocate for undocumented people (not just workers) since my early days as a organizer with the Catholic Worker, then as a co-founder of AMOS. I have lead protests at the State Capitol around the DREAM Act, affordable housing and a number of other issues. I've walked the talk for years. I didn't just decide to support these communities when I decided to run for office. These communities are central to the work I do – and they will continue to be.**

- B. Do you support releasing detainees held by ICE on immigration charges in order to prevent new COVID-19 outbreaks? What will you do as a candidate to advance this policy?

**Yes. I have advocated. I have listened. I have met with. I have spoken up for these communities since I was 14 years old. For examples of work we have done this campaign cycle. See clips [here](#) [here](#) [here](#) [here](#).**

## **5. Higher Education**

Iowa Student Action (A project of Iowa CCI Action Fund) is a statewide student organization fighting for Free College for All, with active chapters at University of Iowa, Iowa State University, the University of Northern Iowa, Grinnell College, Cornell College, and Drake University. Our vision of free higher education includes formerly incarcerated and undocumented students and the full cancellation of student debt.

- A. Do you support universal free undergraduate tuition -- including undocumented and formerly incarcerated students -- at all 2 year and 4-year public colleges and universities?

**I support a massive expansion of Pell Grants to allow every person to attend the 2 year or 4-year college of their choice. That includes undocumented and**

**formerly incarcerated students.**

B. Do you support the full cancellation of student debt?

**I support the cancellation of all interest on student debt and targeted debt forgiveness based on need, interest in targeted occupations/fields, and as part of programs to address historical disparities in wealth generation and college graduation amongst communities of color and other historically disenfranchised communities.**

**I also support movement away from a system of private loans for post-secondary education towards one where it is managed by the U.S. Department of Education as a non-revenue (non-profit) endeavor. No person should be turning a profit on the backs of our students.**

## 6. Workers' Rights

Anti-union and anti-worker laws are being passed in states across the country and Iowa is unfortunately no exception. With this pandemic, we're seeing how devastating these laws are for working people: millions have lost their jobs, while others have been deemed essential and are risking their health and safety every day to ensure we all have the groceries and supplies we need, so many of them with little to no protections on the job and no one to advocate for them.

A. Given all the above information, do you support at least a \$15 an hour minimum wage and the right for every worker to join a union? What specifically will you do to ensure workers' rights and safety on the job?

**Yes. I support increasing the minimum wage and in fact, I support a living wage that would be attained by combining a minimum wage increase with an expanded earned income tax credit program that guarantees a monthly income of at least \$1,000 per month for every U.S. resident. \$15 per hour isn't enough.**

**Additionally, I support passage of the PRO Act, expansion of funding at OSHA and other regulatory bodies to improve workplace safety, programs to end vertical integration of meat production to improve conditions in meatpacking plants and other policies to make it easier to organize a workplace. In fact, my campaign was unionized by the Campaign Workers Guild, covers 100% of health insurance premiums for our staff, and provides unlimited sick leave.**

B. Corporations have spent decades working to create anti-union workplaces by forcing workers to go to anti-union meetings, misclassifying employees as supervisors and independent contractors. The "Protect the Right to Organize" Act of 2019 puts in

place measure to stop these practices. If elected would you sign onto the PRO Act (H.R.2474)?

**Yes.**

## **7. Co-governance and Movement Politics**

Black, brown, indigenous, women, trans, queer, and working-class people in general have not had a real stake in our government and have been intentionally excluded from having a seat at the table, while big-money corporations and billionaires rig the rules to buy our government to benefit themselves. We recognize that President Trump is a problem, but he is a symptom, not the cause, of a larger system of inequality and business-as-usual politics, which maintains the political and economic status quo. Electoral moments are only one of many tools to uplift our “People and Planet First” narrative and challenge the political and economic status quo. Our movement aims to uplift everyday people and the issues we care about.

- A. Do you plan to support Public Financing of Elections, the optimal process to rid politics of the corrosive influence of money on our democracy?

**Yes – and it’s been part of our campaign finance platform since day #1.**

- B. What is your plan to make sure voting becomes more accessible, not less accessible in the era of COVID-19 and beyond?

**Universal vote by mail. Comprehensive non-partisan redistricting reforms. Ranked choice voting. Making Election Day a national holiday.**

- C. What is your plan to co-govern with — and be accountable to — people and planet-first movements if elected?

**I have committed our campaign to be staffed by an incredibly diverse team. Less than 30% of our team are cisgender white males. I regularly seek out advice from people in communities of color and have a dedicated outreach staffer working with the LGBTQ+ community. We have a dedicated #MauroGreenTeam working on environmental and climate issues, but we also have to recognize that we can always do better. Even with limited resources. We can do a better job of reaching out to ALL the diverse communities that make Iowa a wonderful place.**

**As a campaign lead by a cisgender white man with a white male as campaign manager, we’ve worked to proactively recruit, train and hire diverse teams. But, we also recognize those limitations and the privileges having financial resources to do so have afforded us. And we will continue to instill those values into a Senate staff that I expect to have dedicated staff focused on outreach with indigenous communities, people of color, the LGBTQ community, women, family farmers and more.**