

**James O’Gabhann, Democratic Candidate for Indiana Congressional District 9
Responses to questions from the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce
For the June 2, 2020 Primary Election**

1. As we look to emerge from the COVID-19 stay-at-home period, we’ll be balancing public health concerns with economic recovery. What guidance would you provide as a federal legislator to navigate this next phase?

I do NOT see health care and economics as a balancing act. Economics is embedded within the civic culture and its health. Economics is within the yoke of cultural imperatives. Saying that..... I agree with Mark Zandi, Chief Economist of Moody Analytics that he predicts the US Economy will NOT recover until we have a vaccine or a treatment plan. It has been repeated by everyone other than the White House that we need society -wide testing or at least an increase in the denominator. With a small denominator the testing is unpredictable. Epidemiologists are currently testing for antibodies in hot spots to decide when and how to return residents to daily life. However, we are nowhere close knowing the reliability, or deploying enough diagnostic and antibody tests at the volume and speed required.

Testing is NOT as easy as it sounds with COVID 19. It has shown to be unpredictable because of our lack of preparedness and research. We do not even know what type of immunity is conferred on an infection. With more than ninety companies that have jumped into the market since FDA eased its rules and allowed antibodies to be sold without formal review or approval,. It resembles the Wild West without a Wyatt Earp. The tests range from ELISA---a laboratory technique that indicates the amount of antibodies that a person may have TO rapid tests that do not have the required sensitivity and specificity.

I fear with this Administration both at the state and national levels that we will rush back to normal and the virus will return in the Fall with a vengeance and all our work thus far will be for naught.

I believe that Indiana and the nation will need to decide between the Republican Party and its bias toward eugenics that was popular in the nineteen hundreds on this Continent and Europe, OR the Democratic Party where human life---- no matter the digits in the age and number --- is valued. If you take grandparents out of the family then you will see a weakening of the emotional AND economic strength of the family and a strengthening of the State. I see it as a teacher where my ten year old scholars are as dependent on their grandparents --and sometimes more so--than their parents.

Multiple generations' contributions are immense in learning and development, and threading the cultural fabric.

2. Many local businesses are struggling in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. What additional federal financial assistance or other actions would you support in the coming months to aid their recovery?

It is terrible what is happening to small business and how they were left behind in the first wave of funds under CARE. However, I think you will find a direct relationship between the amount of funds spent on lobbying and how well certain corporations were taken care of in the first wave of funding. Perhaps it will be better in the next round and maybe not..... One must have US Representatives that are NOT beholden to corporations and their lobbyists. I am taking absolutely NOT taking any funds from others in the Primary, and no funds from chemical companies, big banks or BIG PHARMA in the general election.

To aid the economy and small business, I agree with an efficient approach proposed by economists Emmanuel Saez and Gabriel Zucman and implemented in proposed legislation by Representative Pramila Jayapal (D-Washington) and that is a "Paycheck Guarantee Act "that would cover wages up to \$100,000 per employee as well as healthcare benefits for all. (Germany ,France ,Britain Ireland, among others have similar programs.) There is nothing efficient or rational by laying off workers ,bringing them back and laying them off again, and all this time have small businesses with little resources apply for grants and loans to banks that are in return overwhelmed. It is a recipe for disaster which if we are not now then we are on the cusp of further unknowns in the future.

We must build resiliency for workers and small and family business owners within this economy, and come out of it stronger for long term survival and prosperity for ALL.

3. Other than the current crisis, what will be your top 3 priorities in Congress that tie directly to your district?

My three priorities are: Climate Change, Climate Change and Climate Change for the NINTH District under the theme of a RURAL GREEN NEW DEAL! (RGND) All of my policies will be guided by principles outlined by Governor Jay Inslee 's Climate Change Paper developed principally by Sam Ricketts and Bracken Hendricks for the former

Presidential Candidate in the Democratic Primary. Climate change and a carbon neutral environment must be at the very center of our domestic and foreign policy.

These policies will fold into employment for the NINTH and infrastructure improvements. Instead of rural electrification under FDR , we will have high speed internet service, wind turbines and battery development that will serve our agricultural economy in our rural areas supported by technology and university parks in the Great NINTH. Health care and social services will not be a rarity but a commonality among all.

The rural areas of the NINTH are among the poorest in the nation. As a nation, one in four children lives in poverty. Job growth was less than half the nationwide rate . Nearly 45% of the 2017 deaths from heart disease in rural areas were deemed "potentially preventable", compared with 18.5% in one of the urban classifications. Today suicides among farmers are happening at alarming rates.

Even with these statistics, farmers are courageous and will weather the storm but they will need our support when they are only 2% of the population that provide us with safe and affordable food.

And when it comes to COVID 19 and future emergencies ,the health and welfare of the nation are in their hands when it comes to food scarcity. The time is now for a change in the NINTH. It is time for the end of lethargy and begin this Century anew.