

**Mark Powell, 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?**

As an empathetic husband, father and servant teacher of love and life giving action as a pastor, I believe wholly that American citizens are dignified human beings not livestock. Those who call for the dollar to trump life should be ashamed to put greed over life.

First and foremost, this is not an either or choice. America has the ability to care for our citizens over this period of pandemic uncertain IF WE CHOOSE. Senator Robert Kennedy stated exactly 2 years before his assassination on June 6, 1966, "And even government by the consent of the governed, as in our own Constitution, must be limited in its power to act against its people; so that there may be no interference with the right to worship, or with the security of the home; no arbitrary imposition of pains or penalties by officials high or low; no restrictions on the freedom of men to seek education or work or opportunity of any kind, so that each man may become all he is capable of becoming. These are the sacred rights of Western society."

As Senator Kennedy stated we have sacred rights which must be guarded and guaranteed. We need a New Politics in America in 2020 and beyond while we still will have spirited debate, we must understand we are One people, we are on the same team. We lose as One or we win as One. Government action should echo the Hippocratic Oath of "Doing No Harm".

We need not only information from officials but we need officials to empathetically listen to our people. The frustration of problems unheard can lead to anxiety and fear which can lead to action which in a pandemic can lead to loss of life.

Therefore, I commit if I am nominated and elected to host a LIVE weekly radio broadcast/ internet call in program which is unscripted and unscreened and will give constituents access to their U.S. Representative to Congress. I also commit to scheduling District Office Hours to be more constituent friendly and allowing a way for citizens to call a 24 hour hotline to talk with someone who can intake information and allow us to get to work on concerns first thing in the morning. I also commit to holding District Listening Tours and allow for all to ask a question and share their either joy or frustration with our Federal government. In summary, open communication and access between you and your Congressman is essential in this crisis time and then for the Office of the Congressman to act on your problem or question with not just form letters but with a personal response.

**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?**

A. Washington must act swiftly and decisively in this immediate period and over the next decade of readjustment. I believe this is a time for the American Middle Class and America's Small Business owners to regain our financial national security. The Wild West attitude of Wall Street banks and the Federal Reserve which aided and abetted what some would call callous criminal activity due to Washington policymaker's malpractice in Graham-Leach in 1999 and the lack of any real Congressional Oversight of activities that have led America to this disastrous moment in history. Within the first 100 days of my term, I will introduce the **Financial Services Middle Class Restoration Act of 2021** that will resurrect the major provisions of the United States Banking Act of 1933 which separated commercial and investment banking functions.

Since 1999, while a few have profited highly, the major banks and the Federal Reserve has proven Debt based monetary policy is a house of cards not a stable financial foundation for national economic progress for all of the American people. I would be open to the discussion of temporarily nationalizing the Financial System in an effort to move from Debt based monetary policy.

B. In these remaining months of 2020 and into the new Congress, America must use the FEMA direct assistance model to assist unemployed Americans be they Small Business personnel or large corporate employees. I would also advocate for a **permanent reduction of individual debt** by a negotiated number of 50% to 75%. In this **2021 Debt Jubilee**, America will be able to kick start our economy with consumers who will be able to purchase large items and secured home loans which will spur the American economic engine for businesses large and small.

C. Washington must immediately pass the **Fair Access to Funding Act** to let Small Businesses borrow directly from the Federal Reserve and to have a real Congressional audit of the Federal Reserve Banking System. Washington needs to bring jobs back from Asia. I will be introducing within the first 100 days of my term the **Returning Middle Class Jobs to America Act of 2021** which would reward American corporations in returning supply chain, manufacturing, and all military and intelligence equipment manufacturing jobs to our nation.

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

A. Health insurance coverage is not a RIGHT for the elite, wealthy or Congress, it is a human right. A free market should not be able to dictate who is more worthy of living or dying due to lack of needed treatment and care. Quality care, required medication and medical services (including preventative care, dental health, prenatal/maternal care and mental health care) must be available to every person in this country regardless of status, past medical history or income level. Due to the National Emergency for Some Americans when it comes to Health Insurance, I will sponsor the **Middle Class Health Coverage Act of 2021** that will state: beginning July 1, 2021 all citizens earning a household income of \$99,999 or less will have immediate access if they wish to the Congressional Health Insurance. I believe this enacted legislation will motivate all Representatives and Senators to ACT on this issue immediately in the new Congress.

B. School children, country music fans, the LGBTQ community, college students, worshipers at Church...have been victims of the mindless menace of violence which affects us ALL and it ought to bring us together across partisan lines for common sense reforms. More than half of Americans - both Democrats and Republicans - support firearm safety by keeping guns out of the hands of the mentally ill and broader background checks without gun show loopholes. Please know I am for the People keeping their firearms and that includes hand guns and long barreled weapons.

C. I will strongly support:

1. Immediate Action to create the United States Department of the Environment.
2. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
3. Protecting our forests, national parks and arctic regions worldwide by investing in environmentally compassionate technology and jobs.
4. Humane treatment of animals, a national animal rights ethics code.
5. Reinstating the restrictions against ivory, puppy mills and hunting.