

**Trey Hollingsworth, Republican Candidate for U.S. House of Representatives District 9
Responses to questions from the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce
For the Nov. 3, 2020 General Election**

- 1. As the nation continues to struggle from the COVID-19 pandemic, government at all levels is balancing public health concerns with economic recovery. What guidance would you provide as a federal legislator to navigate recovery while keeping COVID-19 under control?**

Our Hoosier communities have done an incredible job of both keeping people safe and helping us get back to work and make a living. From the beginning of this pandemic, I have said that we cannot shut our country down in hopes of achieving zero coronavirus risk. Our government should also not promise such an outcome; otherwise, we would be sitting in our basements for a very long time.

What we must focus on is balancing the return to life, work, school, and church while mitigating health risks as carefully as possible. As I travel around our District talking to Hoosiers, I see this happening every day: business caring for their customers and employees; churches staggering worship schedules; and nonprofits finding ways to help virtually.

Our country has the best scientists in the world, both in the biological sciences and the social sciences. Listening to the biological scientists about health risks, testing, plasma donation opportunities, and vaccines is absolutely crucial to beating this pandemic. But, we need to balance that with social sciences and how shutdowns are effecting our mental health, our employment and economic futures, and our lives. As a country, we need to balance these two sides as we navigate towards our brighter American future.

- 2. Many local businesses continue to struggle 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?**

At the start of the pandemic and during the height of uncertainty and stress for businesses, families, and Americans alike, I supported the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act in Congress. This legislation, among a multitude of other programs, created the Paycheck Protection Program to assist our local small businesses during the shutdowns. As of August 8, the Paycheck Protection Program provided 83,246 small business loans right here in the Hoosier state and, across the country, saved 2.3 million jobs.

Having been in business myself, I understand what it means to run a business during a difficult economic environment. I've met with so many Hoosier business owners,

managers, and employees, including members of the Monroe/Bloomington Chamber, who have put everything they have into their businesses. They have provided new products and promising opportunities to employees. I will continue to advocate for recovery while also keeping my fiscal conservative promise to ensure our tax dollars are being used carefully and effectively for these programs.

3. What will be your top 3 priorities in Congress that relate to the business sector and tie directly to your district?

In Congress, I serve as a member of the House Financial Services Committee, so I'm always focused on economic policy and regulations related to businesses here at home. Every week as I talk to Hoosier business owners and employees, I carry their messages, opportunities, and challenges back to DC to ensure our voices are heard and our future is taken into consideration.

What I hear every day as one of the biggest concerns from Hoosiers is our country's laws should not stand in the way of working toward the American Dream. To that end, I am a strong supporter of a pro-growth, flexible tax code and a regulatory framework allowing businesses to grow from the ground up, hire local Hoosiers, and bring excitement to our local economies. Having been in business, I was so frustrated with the duplicative, onerous regulations in place from our own federal government that were hindering growth due to cost and confusion. We should be encouraging innovation and success right here at home, not preventing it.

I also believe we should create opportunities for Hoosiers to get ahead in their careers by enabling more workforce education, technical training, and education access. By promoting and providing resources for schools and employers to train the workforce we need in the 21st century, we are setting Hoosiers up for success in their careers and empowering economic growth.