

Senate Commerce Committee Nominee Questionnaire, **118th** Congress

Instructions for the nominees: The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation (the “Committee”) asks you to provide typed answers to each of the following questions. It is requested that the nominee type the question in full before each response. Do not leave any questions blank. Type “None” or “Not Applicable” if a question does not apply to the nominee. Begin each section (i.e., “A”, “B”, etc.) on a new sheet of paper. Electronically submit your completed questionnaire to the Committee in PDF format and ensure that sections A through E of the completed questionnaire are in a text searchable and that any hyperlinks can be clicked. Section F may be scanned for electronic submission and need not be searchable.

**A. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION AND QUALIFICATIONS**

1. Name (Include any former names or nicknames used):

Christopher C. Koos  
Chris Koos

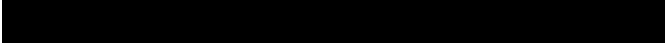
2. Position to which nominated:

Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors

3. Date of Nomination:

4/29/2022

4. Address (List current place of residence and office addresses):

  
206 South Linden Street, Normal, IL 61761 – work  
11 Uptown Circle, Normal, IL 61761 – Mayor, City Hall address

5. Date and Place of Birth:

07/06/1948, Bloomington, IL

6. Provide the name, position, and place of employment for your spouse (if married)

N/A

and the names and ages of your children (including stepchildren and children by a previous marriage).

Josh Favus (53)

7. List all college and graduate schools attended, whether or not you were granted a degree by the institution. Provide the name of the institution, the dates attended, the degree received, and the date of the degree.

No degree, Illinois State University, 1972

8. List all post-undergraduate employment, including the job title, name of employer, and inclusive dates of employment, and highlight all management-level jobs held and any non-managerial jobs that relate to the position for which you are nominated.

Owner – Draisine Limited, which is a Sub S corporation that owns and operates 2 retail sporting goods stores (1976-present)

Mayor – Town of Normal, Illinois (2003-present)

9. Attach a copy of your resume.

Attached

10. List any advisory, consultative, honorary, or other part-time service or positions with Federal, State, or local governments, other than those listed above after 18 years of age.

N/A

11. List all positions held as an officer, director, trustee, partner, proprietor, agent, representative, or consultant of any corporation, company, firm, partnership, or other business, enterprise, educational, or other institution.

N/A

12. Please list each membership you have had after 18 years of age or currently hold with any civic, social, charitable, educational, political, professional, fraternal, benevolent or religiously affiliated organization, private club, or other membership organization. (For this question, you do not have to list your religious affiliation or membership in a religious house of worship or institution.). Include dates of membership and any positions you have held with any organization. Please note whether any such club or organization restricts membership on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, age, or disability.

Illinois Municipal League – Board Member (2016 – present)

US Conference of Mayors – Vice Chair of Membership (2014 – present)

13. Have you ever been a candidate for and/or held a public office (elected, non-elected, or appointed)? If so, indicate whether any campaign has any outstanding debt, the amount, and whether you are personally liable for that debt.

Mayor – Town of Normal, Illinois, elected, no outstanding campaign debt

14. List all memberships and offices held with and services rendered to, whether compensated or not, any political party or election committee within the past ten years. If you have held a paid position or served in a formal or official advisory position (whether compensated or not) in a political campaign within the past ten years, identify the particulars of the campaign, including the candidate, year of the campaign, and your title and responsibilities.

N/A

15. Itemize all political contributions to any individual, campaign organization, political party, political action committee, or similar entity of \$200 or more for the past ten years.

2021 Senator Richard Durbin - \$250.00

2021 Responsible Cities PAC - \$500.00

16. List all scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, honorary society memberships, military medals, and any other special recognition for outstanding service or achievements.

N/A

17. List each book, article, column, letter to the editor, Internet blog posting, or other publication you have authored, individually or with others. Include a link to each publication when possible. If a link is not available, provide a digital copy of the publication when available.

N/A

18. List all speeches, panel discussions, and presentations (e.g., PowerPoint) that you have given on topics relevant to the position for which you have been nominated. Include a link to each publication when possible. If a link is not available, provide a digital copy of the speech or presentation when available.

March 2006 – Congress for the New Urbanism Presentation

November 2021 – Transportation 4 America presentation

September 16, 2022 – 109<sup>th</sup> Illinois Municipal League Annual Conference, Amtrak Connects Illinois to the Nation Presentation

January 20, 2023 – US Conference of Mayors Expanding America’s Intercity Passenger Rail System Forum

\*There may be more presentations that are not listed above but have provided what is available in search of files

19. List all public statements you have made during the past ten years, including statements in news articles and radio and television appearances, which are on topics relevant to the position for which you have been nominated, including dates. Include a link to each statement when possible. If a link is not available, provide a digital copy of the statement when available.

May 11, 2013 – Train Day Speech, Normal, IL

February 2014 – Presentation to the House Committee on Ways and Means

May 11, 2014 – Amtrak Blog <https://blog.amtrak.com/2013/05/normal-national-train-day/>

May 19, 2014 – Streets Blog USA <https://usa.streetsblog.org/2014/05/19/mayor-chris-koos-of-normal-illinois-gutting-tiger-hurts-small-towns/>

May 8, 2015 – Testimony Re: Governor Rauner’s proposal to reduce support for Amtrak passenger rail service

July 14, 2016 – Hearing Before Subcommittee on Transportation and Public Assets of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform House of Representatives  
<https://t4america.org/2016/07/19/t4a-advisory-board-member-testifies-before-congress-on-the-power-of-passenger-rail-as-an-economic-catalyst/>

April 29, 2022 – The Trains Interview: Chris Koos <https://www.trains.com/trn/news-reviews/news-wire/the-trains-interview-chris-koos/>

May 17, 2022 - Mayor of Normal looks forward to service on Amtrak board  
<https://www.wcbu.org/state-news/2022-05-17/mayor-of-normal-looks-forward-to-service-on-amtrak-board>

August 2, 2022 – WGLT article Normal mayor advocates for Amtrak, Uptown, and industrial park <https://www.wglt.org/local-news/2022-08-02/normal-mayor-advocates-for-amtrak-uptown-and-industrial-park>

September 8, 2022 – WGLT article Normal Mayor Koos pushes more long-distance routes in his bid for Amtrak's board <https://www.wglt.org/local-news/2022-09-08/normal-mayor-koos-pushes-more-long-distance-routes-in-his-bid-for-amtraks-board>

\*There may be more statements that are not listed above but have provided what is available in search of files

20. List all digital platforms (including social media and other digital content sites) on which you currently or have formerly operated an account, regardless of whether or not the account was held in your name or an alias. Include the full name of an “alias” or “handle”, including the complete URL and username with hyperlinks, you have used on each of the named platforms. Indicate whether the account is active, deleted, or dormant. Include a link to each account if possible.

Active: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/chris-koos-45463a50>

Active: <https://www.instagram.com/chriskoos/?hl=en>

Active: <https://www.facebook.com/chris.koos.5/>

Active: <https://www.facebook.com/mayorchriskoos>

Deleted: <https://www.facebook.com/votemayorkoos/>

21. Please identify each instance in which you have testified orally or in writing before Congress in a governmental or non-governmental capacity and specify the date and subject matter of each testimony.

July 14, 2016, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Subcommittee on Transportation and Public Assets held a hearing entitled “Lagging Behind: The State of High-Speed Rail in the United States.”

September 9, 2022, confirmation hearing before this Committee in connection with prior nomination to Amtrak’s Board of Directors.

22. Given the current mission, major programs, and major operational objectives of the department/agency to which you have been nominated, what in your background or employment experience do you believe affirmatively qualifies you for appointment to the position for which you have been nominated, and why do you wish to serve in that position?

As Mayor, I assisted with the construction of a multimodal transportation center as part of a Transit Oriented Development of our central business district. This project took significant coordination at the local, state, and federal level.

Given current funding opportunities, I wish to serve in this position to work towards engaging in significantly needed infrastructure upgrades (especially the Northeast corridor) as well working with the preliminary plans to expand service to major cities either not served or underserved by Amtrak.

23. What do you believe are your responsibilities, if confirmed, to ensure that the department/agency has proper management and accounting controls, and what experience do you have in managing a large organization?

If confirmed, I want to make sure my vision for the rail service aligns with those of fellow board members. If confirmed, I will bring to the table 44 years of retail experience as a business owner and 19 years of leadership experience as Mayor of a town with a population of over 50,000 residents.

24. What do you believe to be the top three challenges facing the department/agency, and why?

Funding – Amtrak has been given significant funding to broaden and strengthen the national system. Managing and budgeting these dollars will require significant effort and oversight. Personnel. As most organizations, Amtrak will likely struggle to return to pre-COVID employment levels. In addition, with expanded funding, more people will be needed to effectively implement an expanded Amtrak

Ridership – On time performance continues to be a problem. It is difficult to accommodate the business traveler without reliable and dependable performance. Also, the customer experience must improve, be it newer coaches, better meal options and amenities.

## B. POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

1. Describe all financial arrangements, deferred compensation agreements, and other continuing dealings with business associates, clients, or customers. Please include information related to retirement accounts, such as a 401(k) or pension plan.

My arrangements are fully described in Part III of my Executive Branch Confidential Financial Disclosure Report (OGE Form 450). In connection with the nomination process, I have consulted with the designated Amtrak ethics representative to identify potential conflicts of interest. Any potential conflicts of interest will be resolved in accordance with the Amtrak Board of Directors' Code of Business Conduct and Ethics and the terms of Amtrak's Ethics Opinion Letter which has been provided to this Committee. I am not aware of any other potential conflicts of interest.

2. Do you have any commitments or agreements, formal or informal, to maintain employment, affiliation, or practice with any business, association, or other organization during your appointment? If so, please explain.

Yes. My arrangements are fully described in Part III of my Executive Branch Confidential Financial Disclosure Report (OGE Form 450). In connection with the nomination process, I have consulted with the designated Amtrak ethics representative to identify potential conflicts of interest. Any potential conflicts of interest will be resolved in accordance with the Amtrak Board of Directors' Code of Business Conduct and Ethics and the terms of Amtrak's Ethics Opinion Letter which has been provided to this Committee. I am not aware of any other potential conflicts of interest.

3. Indicate any investments, obligations, liabilities, or other relationships which could involve potential conflicts of interest in the position to which you have been nominated. Explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest.

In connection with the nomination process, I have consulted with the designated Amtrak ethics representative to identify potential conflicts of interest. Any potential conflicts of interest will be resolved in accordance with the Amtrak Board of Directors' Code of Business Conduct and Ethics and the terms of Amtrak's Ethics Opinion Letter which has been provided to this Committee. I am not aware of any other potential conflicts of interest.

4. Describe any business relationship, dealing, or financial transaction which you have had during the last ten years, whether for yourself, on behalf of a client, or acting as an agent, that could in any way constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest in the position to which you have been nominated. Explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest.

In connection with the nomination process, I have consulted with the designated Amtrak ethics representative to identify potential conflicts of interest. Any potential conflicts of interest will be resolved in accordance with the Amtrak Board of Directors' Code of Business Conduct and Ethics and the terms of Amtrak's Ethics Opinion Letter which has been provided to this Committee. I am not aware of any other potential conflicts of interest.

5. Identify any other potential conflicts of interest and explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest.

In connection with the nomination process, I have consulted with the designated Amtrak ethics representative to identify potential conflicts of interest. Any potential conflicts of interest will be resolved in accordance with the Amtrak Board of Directors' Code of Business Conduct and Ethics and the terms of Amtrak's Ethics Opinion Letter which has been provided to this Committee. I am not aware of any other potential conflicts of interest.

6. Describe any activity during the past ten years, including the names of clients represented, in which you have been engaged for the purpose of directly or indirectly influencing the passage, defeat, or modification of any legislation or affecting the administration and execution of law or public policy.

None

### C. LEGAL MATTERS

1. Have you ever been disciplined or cited for a breach of ethics, professional misconduct, or retaliation by, or been the subject of a complaint to, any court, administrative agency, the Office of Special Counsel, an Inspector General, professional association, disciplinary committee, or other professional group? If yes:

No

- a. Provide the name of court, agency, association, committee, or group;
- b. Provide the date the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action was issued or initiated;
- c. Describe the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action;
- d. Provide the results of the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action.

2. Have you ever been investigated, arrested, charged, or held by any Federal, State, or other law enforcement authority of any Federal, State, county, or municipal entity, other than for a minor traffic offense? If so, please explain.

No

3. Have you or any business or nonprofit of which you are or were an officer ever been involved as a party in an administrative agency proceeding, criminal proceeding, or civil litigation? If so, please explain.

Lawsuit filed against me as mayor regarding a real estate transaction – dismissed. An LLC in a failed attempt to get a zoning change on a property sued the Town of Normal Illinois and me in my official capacity as mayor. The suit was dismissed in Federal Court (Central District of Illinois).

Lawsuit as mayor/liquor commissioner (the mayor automatically serves, ex officio, as liquor commissioner), tortious interference. As Liquor Commissioner for the Town of Normal, Illinois, I would not issue a liquor license to the buyer of an existing store until the contract for sale was executed. The contract was not executed by a drop-dead date between the parties. The lawsuit was dismissed by the Illinois Eleventh Circuit Judicial Court.

Two suits in the late 1980's against the Sub S Corporation (Draisine), which I own and operate, for personal injury liability. These were lawsuits in which I and my business were named as were promoters and sponsors of these bike races. These suits were dismissed by the Illinois Tenth Circuit Judicial Court.

4. Have you ever been convicted (including pleas of guilty or nolo contendere) of any criminal violation other than a minor traffic offense? If so, please explain.

No

5. Have you ever been accused, formally or informally, of sexual harassment or discrimination on the basis of sex, race, religion, or any other basis? If so, please explain.

No

6. Please advise the Committee of any additional information, favorable or unfavorable, which you feel should be disclosed in connection with your nomination.

None

#### **D. RELATIONSHIP WITH COMMITTEE**

1. Will you ensure that your department/agency complies with deadlines for information set by congressional committees, and that your department/agency endeavors to timely comply with requests for information from individual Members of Congress, including requests from members in the minority?

Yes



2. Will you ensure that your department/agency does whatever it can to protect congressional witnesses and whistleblowers from reprisal for their testimony and disclosures?

Yes

3. Will you cooperate in providing the Committee with requested witnesses, including technical experts and career employees, with firsthand knowledge of matters of interest to the Committee?

Yes

4. Are you willing to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Congress on such occasions as you may be reasonably requested to do so?

Yes

---

(Nominee is to include this signed affidavit along with answers to the above questions.)

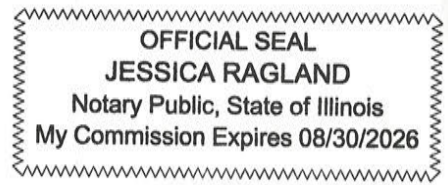
**F. AFFIDAVIT**

Christopher Koos being duly sworn, hereby states that he/she has read and signed the foregoing Statement on Biographical and Financial Information and that the information provided therein is, to the best of his/her knowledge, current, accurate, and complete.

Christopher Koos  
Signature of Nominee

Subscribed and sworn before me this 3 day of Feb., 2023.

Jessica Ragland  
Notary Public



# Christopher C. Koos

---

## COMMUNITY ADVOCACY AND GOVERNANCE:

Town of Normal, Normal, IL

Council Member

April 2001 – February 2003

Mayor

February 2003 – Present

- Drive economic and quality of life development, including construction of the Marriott Hotel and Conference Center, the Hyatt Place Hotel, the Children’s Discovery Museum, and major multi-use construction
- Create and enact policies with a meaningful emphasis on innovation, energy efficiency, and environmental sensitivity
- Pursue partnerships with community stakeholders, including private businesses and governmental partners at the state, local, and federal level to enhance the quality of life for all residents of the community
- Promote recreational opportunities in the community through the construction of new recreation facilities, the preservation of open space, and the expansion of the existing walking/biking trail system.

### *Selected Projects and Leadership:*

- Development and construction of multi-modal Uptown Station (dedicated July 2012), servicing the highest Amtrak ridership in Downstate Illinois on *Lincoln Service/Texas Eagle* trains
  - \$45.9 million total project cost; recipient of \$22 million TIGER program funds, \$10.6 million additional federal funding, over \$13 million state and local contributions
- Redevelopment of the Uptown Normal business district, focusing on transportation-oriented design to highlight Normal’s position on the Chicago/St. Louis high-speed rail corridor
  - \$90 million of public investment generated \$192 million in private investment and economic development
- Expert testimony regarding urban development and transportation:
  - House Ways & Means Committee, 2014
  - House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Subcommittee on Transportation & Public Assets, 2016
- Town of Normal Representative: Transportation for America Advisory Board; Economic Development Council; Illinois Municipal League

## BUSINESS EXPERIENCE:

Vitesse Cycle Shop, Normal, IL

1978 – Present

Often Running, Normal, IL

1995 – Present

Owner & Operator

- Lead the management of specialty retail stores serving cycling and running enthusiasts through sustainable sales and service practices
- Drive ongoing needs analyses, workforce design, marketing development, and evaluation of local sales environment to ensure alignment with business strategies
- Coach and enable management staff to effectively deliver sales and customer service solutions to the organization
- Design programs and processes to elevate the customer experience, focusing on health, wellness, and sustainability
- Model corporate philanthropy values by establishing partnerships and providing services to nonprofit and public organizations, including the Illinois Heart and Lung Association, the Illinois Farm Bureau, and Illinois State University

### *Selected Highlights:*

- Recipient of 2013 “America’s Best Bike Shops” recognition from the National Bicycle Dealers Association
- Recipient of 2013 Green Business Certification from the Illinois Green Business Association

## PUBLIC SERVICE:

- Infantry Platoon Leader with the Army 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne/Airmobile Division, Vietnam: United States Army, 1968 - 1971
- Selective Service Board of Appeals Vice Chair from 1983 to 2003
- Urban Revitalization/Historic Preservation Subcommittee Chair of the McLean Co. Comprehensive Plan Committee
- Town of Normal Historic Preservation Commission Chairman, spearheading \$1 million restoration of the Normal Theater, which was named the 1996 “Preservation Project of the Year” by Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois

## EDUCATION:

Illinois State University, Normal, IL

Area of Study: Political Science

1966 - 1968; 1971 - 1972