



MOBILIZE MISSOURI

State House of Representatives Candidate Survey 2018
Scott Cernicek – District 105



HEALTHCARE

1. How would you protect and/or expand health care access for Missourians?

Short term, we need to reverse the harmful cuts to seniors’ healthcare and in-home care that we’ve seen over the past year. Beyond that, I support Medicaid expansion and policy changes that would fight the “cliff effect” where lower income Missourians see a steep reduction of benefits as their income rises.

2. What can the Missouri legislature can do to combat the opioid crisis?

I am a strong proponent for the legalization of medical cannabis. States that have legalized it have seen a 25% drop in opioid deaths, as people suffering from chronic pain have options for their care that don’t involve dangerous, addictive pharmaceuticals.

Yes or no:

3. Do you support using state funds for addiction and recovery resources?

Yes__X__ No____

4. Would you support a bill to apply for an Affordable Care Act Reinsurance waiver?

Yes__X__ No____

5. Do you support Medicare for All legislation (public health insurance)?

Yes__X__ No____

ENVIRONMENT

6. What type of legislation do you believe the Missouri legislature could pass to have a significant impact on combating climate change?

In our state, with currently leans strongly Republican, I feel our best bet is to pass laws incentivizing companies to adopt green initiatives. We need to finance clean energy projects, update our existing grids to better accommodate renewable energy sources, and join the 16 states currently working together in the US Climate Alliance.

Yes or no:

7. Do you support states tax credits and or/exemptions for businesses and private citizens investing in renewable energy?

Yes No

8. Do you support a state buyout for residents near the West Lake Landfill?

Yes No

9. Do you support selling state park land to private entities for economic development?

Yes No

10. Do you believe local municipalities should have more say over regulating Concentration Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) and agriculture growing near state waterways than the EPA?

Yes No

ECONOMIC & LABOR POLICY

11. In your view, what role can the state legislature play in attracting and retaining jobs in Missouri?

Contrary to our Republican legislature, I don't believe the solution is to make Missouri "attractive to business" with hand outs and tax breaks. If we want to grow Missouri's economy, we need to invest in infrastructure and education, in order to make our state a place that people want to live. We need to fix our reputation through criminal justice reform, and make our state a place people will be proud to call home.

12. Would you support the development of worker-owned businesses and cooperatives, where business decisions and distribution of profits can be democratically decided by their employees? If so, what kinds of incentives and/or legislation would ideally aid these businesses?

Yes. Co-Ops are a perfect solution to the top heavy distribution of profits we see in many corporations today.

Yes or no:

13. Do you support an increase to the state minimum wage? If so, what dollar amount?

Yes No \$15

14. Do you support right to work legislation?

Yes No

15. Will you vote for the state to commit to using union businesses to fulfill state contracts?

Yes No

16. Would you vote to consolidate the current state tax brackets into 2 brackets?

Yes No

17. Do you support low income housing credits?

Yes No

POLICING/JUSTICE

18. What can the state legislature do to improve law enforcement relationships with disenfranchised communities?

We need to fund research into new training and recruitment processes. We need to make sure our police are educated and prepared for the situations they encounter, and not reacting emotionally or with prejudice. Then once we have new procedures and training in place, we need to have clear guidelines on enforcement and accountability, so that every community has officers they can trust.

19. What do you see as the most effective way to reduce crime?

Fund education. It's not a quick, easy answer, but it is the one that works. Neglected communities turn to crime when other economic opportunities disappear. We need to invest in these communities, and in these kids, in order to make a better, safer future.

20. Do you support marijuana legalization? If so, what level of access would you propose?

I support full recreational cannabis legalization. However, every state that legalizes cannabis goes through a medical "trial period" first, and I don't suspect Missouri will be any different. I want to see the communities harmed by the drug war to have a fair share of the business once it is legalized. It is not right to lock people of color up for 50 years for smoking, and then deny them a share of the market.

Yes or no:

21. Are you in favor of involving state troopers in crime prevention/hot spot policing beyond traffic violations ?

Yes___ No__X__

22. Do you support appointing a special prosecutor for officer involved shootings?

Yes__X__ No___

23. Do you support "Blue Lives Matter" legislation proposing an increase in penalties for crimes against police officers?

Yes___ No__X__

24. Do you support ending the death penalty?

Yes__X__ No___

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS & GENDER ISSUES

25. How would you explain your views on reproductive issues? How do you explain these views to groups with differing opinions in Missouri?

My views are not complicated. Women have the right to make their own reproductive choices. When I discuss this with people who feel differently, I try to explain that the Supreme Court has made it clear where the law stands on this issue. The last thing I want to do is to waste tax payer money and legislative time voting on laws that are consistently overturned and thrown out.

26. What measures will you take to ensure that perpetrators of sexual harassment, including those in elected positions, are held accountable for their actions? What will you do to ensure women feel safe reporting these?

The legislature has tools, from censure up to full impeachment, to hold its membership accountable for their actions. I promise not to play politics with this process, and condemn any perpetrators for their actions, regardless of party. We need to protect victims that come forth by ensuring their anonymity and tightening our whistle-blower laws in Missouri (Undo 2107s SB43).

Yes or no:

27. Will you protect access to contraception and support mandated insurance coverage, state or private?

Yes__X_ No____

28. Do you support repealing restrictions against abortion providers and hospitals, including doctor/hospital privileges and the 72 hour waiting period?

Yes_X_ No____

29. Will you support removing state tax credits for crisis pregnancy centers?

Yes_X_ No____

30. Do you support mandating that medically accurate sex education be taught in every public school district?

Yes__X_ No____

31. Will you support legislation that specifically protects the rights and safety of transgender individuals?

Yes_X_ No____

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

32. Outline your top three priorities for infrastructure expansion or improvement in the state. (Expanding public transportation in cities or rural areas, maintaining state highways and bridges, etc)

33. Do you support electrical grid modernization? If yes, do you believe funding for these projects should be partially funded through an increase in utility billing rates?

Our electrical grid needs significant modernization, especially as we shift towards renewable energy sources. I have concerns about offloading the costs onto individual customers, as many households, particularly fixed income seniors, cannot afford to pay more for a service they cannot avoid purchasing. Any utility billing increase needs to be coupled with a tax rebate for these individuals to avoid an outsized impact on our most vulnerable citizens.

Yes or no:

34. Do you support transferring funding, upkeep, and control from the state to counties on secondary state highways? Should any funding or responsibility for state highways be shifted from the state to the county level?

Yes___ No__X_

35. Do you support an increase in the fuel tax in order to enable more infrastructure investment?

Yes___ No_X_ (Although I support a diesel tax increase)

36. Do you support the addition of tolls to increase infrastructure spending?

Yes_X__ No___ (As long as local travelers are exempted, as is this case in other states)



GOVERNANCE

37. Would you support HB 1301, which bans certain lobbyist expenditures to state public officials and removes reporting requirements? Why or why not?

(This is actually HB 1303) No. This bill is a wolf in sheeps clothing. While it bans lobbyist expenditures over \$40, it also makes it harder to catch when these violations take place. In addition, it allows the offending party, when caught, 30 days to repay the lobbyist and avoid any actual consequence. I believe the language in the Clean Missouri ballot initiative is a much better solution.

38. What should the state do to help enable legally registered voters to participate in elections?

I am a strong proponent of the Vote-By-Mail system utilized in Oregon, Washington and Colorado. Many people push for voting day to be a holiday, which I'm concerned would only help middle class white collar turnout, while leaving behind the poorer voters in service and retail jobs that typically remain open on holidays.

Yes or no:

39. Do you support state intervention to make a decision on a the possible merger of St. Louis City and St. Louis County?

Yes___ No_X_

40. Do you support repealing Missouri's voter ID law?

Yes_X_ No___

EDUCATION

Survey:

41. What do you believe would improve Missouri public schools, to make them a better option than private schools?

Protecting and guaranteeing their funding at a state level, so that they aren't reliant on local property taxes to fund operations. We need to end the Rich-Get-Richer cycle of affluent areas improving their schools while struggling areas are forced to close campuses and bus kids away.

Yes or no:

42. Do you support public funding for school vouchers for private and charter schools?

Yes___ No__X__

43. Do you support the election of school boards by voters of the local school district?

Yes__X_ No___

44. Do you approve of the process Governor Greitens used to appoint state education board members?

Yes___ No__X__

45. Should teachers be allowed to carry firearms in public schools?

Yes___ No__X__



GENERAL

46. Why are you seeking the endorsement of Mobilize Missouri?

I have a chance to replace one of the worst members of the Missouri House this year, but I cannot do it alone. It’s going to take a coalition of progressive minded people from across the area to knock the doors, make the calls, and help spread the word that it’s time for a change in St. Charles County.

47. What are your top three legislative goals when elected?

- 1) End the corporate tax cuts and hold them responsible for their share of the Missouri Budget.
- 2) Push for Automatic Voter Registration and Vote-By-Mail
- 3) Reassess the Foundation Formula and ensure all children in Missouri have access to a quality education.

48. If elected, how would you foster inclusivity of viewpoints based on race, gender, ethnicity, religion, and sexual orientation in the state legislature?

By listening. Not just to people that voted for me or agree with me, but to every phone call and letter that comes across my desk. By reaching out to communities that would be affected by a bill when I don’t know or understand the impact.

49. Where do you stand on “clean bills” – one bill, one subject?

We need to end the era of “Omnibus Bills” that no one can possibly read, and “Christmas Trees” that only exist to hang amendments on. We’re especially seeing this right now, in the last few weeks of session, as everyone attempts to attach their pet-project amendment to any bill that they can.

Yes or no/fill in the blank:

50. Do you have a committee formed?

Yes No

51. Do you have a fundraising plan?

Yes No

52. Have you raised money/gotten commitments already?

Yes No

53. Do you have a campaign manager?

Yes No

54. What amount of time per week do you envision dedicating to campaigning and call time?

All of it. I quit my job in order to split my time between raising my son and running this campaign.

55. Do you have access to or plan to access VAN or some other voter information/address list?

Yes No

56. Do you know the size of your universe?

Yes

57. What is your goal number of votes needed to win?

6850

58. Do you have someone organizing volunteers for your campaign?

Yes No

59. List any relevant networks are you a part of or targeting in order to broaden your reach.

I am casting a very broad net with this campaign. I'm reaching out to everyone from labor organizations, to the New Approach ballot initiative campaign, to the St. Louis Young Democrats to find as much help as possible to make this campaign a success. We're all in this together!

60. Please use this last opportunity to discuss anything else about your issues, principles, or differentiating factors from opponents that you want your constituents to know:

Your questionnaire is exceptionally thorough, and has even pushed me to become more educated about issues I previously knew little about. Thank you for the opportunity to earn your endorsement, and I look forward to working together towards progress in Missouri!