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# MOBILIZE MISSOURI

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BETTY VINING

State House of Representatives Candidate Survey 2018



## HEALTHCARE

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

Access is only as good as the ability to afford it. Affordability comes by broadening the pool for insurance and making sure everyone participates. I advocate for a Medicare for All type system.

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

Most experts agree that education and treatment are of primary importance. Legislate resources towards awareness of the problem and treatment centers to help those suffering from it. Decriminalizing drugs and regulating them would be another way to help raise awareness and bring it out into the open.

*Yes or no:*

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

Yes  No

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

Yes  No

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

Yes  No



## ENVIRONMENT

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

The legislature should encourage the use of renewable energy and recycling in all its contracts, and in all its state offices. In awarding state funds for any project, sustainability should be a consideration. Tax credits for the development of a renewable energy industry in Missouri and for the use of energy efficient products should be implemented.

*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  Given the present state of the EPA, I would have to say yes

## ECONOMIC & LABOR POLICY

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

Business needs skilled labor, a solid infrastructure, an honest government, and willing customers. Our legislature has ignored all of these. They have underfunded the schools, ignored trade education, let our infrastructure deteriorate, shot down the China hub which would have brought international air traffic here, and have lowered the buying power of Missourians by killing their bargaining power. It's time for the legislature to create a more vibrant Missouri by getting back to basics.

**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?**

Studies have shown that employee-owned companies have more productive workers, better working conditions, and greater shareholder returns. It only makes sense to encourage these businesses in Missouri. In Vermont, they have established ownership centers, which provide training and technical support for programs promoting employee ownership. Such a program combined with low interest loan assistance would help encourage the growth of these businesses.

*Yes or no:*

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

Yes  No  \$  at least \$12

**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  I would have to study the proposal

**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?**

Put some resources into developing an effective community policing policy, with access to community resources to help bring children off the street and into contact with law enforcement in a less threatening environment

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

Crime decreases as opportunity to advance increases. It is important to work in marginalized communities to create educational opportunities for learning skills. Perhaps partnering with business and the community colleges to create trade programs based on need. Pass a living wage, make sure quality day care is available, and access to birth control. Develop community policing that creates better relationships between the police and the community.

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

I support legalization of marijuana, and having access at the same level as alcohol.

*Yes or no:*

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

Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_ Not unless they are trained for this

**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?**

I believe that a woman has the right to control her own body, and decisions about her health are between her and her doctor. I am against abortion personally, but I am also against the government telling me what I can or can't do with my body.

**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?**

I feel all people should be treated with respect. People who have positions of authority and power and use it to harass others are despicable and should lose those positions. The legislature and workplace should have measures in place to teach employees what is acceptable and what is not. If we do not have laws to that effect in Missouri, I will work to change that. I will also work to make sure that women and men are protected against retribution when reporting abuse.

*Yes or no:*

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

Yes  No

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

Yes  No

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

Yes  No

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

Yes  No

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

Yes  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)**

- 1. We definitely have to address the problems with our bridges and roads**
- 2. We have a considerable number of high hazard dams that need to be addressed**
- 3. Capital infrastructure for our schools is seriously lacking**

**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?**

**The electrical grid is in serious need of modernization. We have been talking about doing so for several years. Improving it will be costly but should lower rates in the long run. Raising utility rates would put an undue burden on those with fixed incomes and the poor.**

*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\_\_x\_\_ No\_\_\_

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

Yes\_\_x\_\_ No\_\_\_



## GOVERNANCE

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

When I looked up 1301, it said it dealt with distributing money from a Crime Victims Fund. However, I don't think lobbyists should give gifts to public officials. If they are banned, then there wouldn't be reporting because, theoretically, there wouldn't be any.

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

If they are legally registered, we might help them by:

1. Having early voting
2. Making election days holidays, or requiring employers to allow employees time to vote

*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?**

**I think we need more local control and less federal and state mandatory requirements. While no child left behind was well intended, it ended up creating more problems than it solved. It did help us focus on those students who need special help, but its emphasis on teaching to the test was misguided. I think public schools are already a better option. We need to maintain quality and listen to the input from our teachers.**

*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 respect the progressive values of Mobilize Missouri

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

1. Find a way for all Missourians to afford health insurance
2. Support living wage legislation and work to make medicaid requirements understandable, reasonable, and realistic.
3. Make politicians accountable to the people. Getting elected shouldn't be a pathway to a lobbying career. Let's get some tough ethics rules passed.

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

It is my hope that we can change the culture in the state legislature from one of confrontation and exclusivity to one of inclusion and cooperation. My experience in International Marketing has taught me to value cultural sensitivity. I have taught this in my classes and plan to try to live it in Jeff City

**49. Where do you stand on "clean bills" – one bill, one subject?**

I like the idea. Omnibus bills allow for compromise, but they also allow for wasteful spending and hiding projects that are unpopular. It would be easier to design a more efficient project if it didn't have a ton of other things attached to it.



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?

40 hours

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?

28,000

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

       I have the election board numbers, but have yet to sort them by elections. Since this is not a national election, I would assume a smaller turnout. I am still planning on knocking on all the doors: 13, 479 with 38, 624 people, 28,000 who are registered according to the election board.

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'm hoping to work with the Billings and McCaskill campaigns



**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:**

I have been a progressive all my life, but, as with many of us, the last few years have made me realize I couldn't be content to grumble and do nothing. If I want a better democracy for my children and grandchildren I need to be willing to put myself out there and make a difference. I say I am not running to make a new career but to make an impact, and I will. I have never run for political office before, and have just started this process in Mid-March. I worked on the phones and canvassing for several campaigns, but that is the extent of my experience. It has been a steep learning curve. I am so grateful for groups like yours who give support and encouragement to those of us who feel we need to do this.

My opponent, Justin Hill, is a family man with four lovely sons. He is the antithesis of a progressive. He voted for right to work, the guns everywhere bill, all restrictive reproductive health measures, and to nullify the St. Louis minimum wage increase. We differ on most issues. I am a widow with three wonderful children and eight grandchildren who has worked as a professor at UM-St. Louis over 25 years and taught over 8000 students. Education is my passion and priority. Business has been my professional area. I can utilize my skills to help create a stronger economy and a better future for Missouri. I appreciate your support.