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# MOBILIZE MISSOURI

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State Senate Candidate Survey 2018  
Brian Williams – District 14

## HEALTHCARE

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

I would work to have the State of Missouri expand Medicaid to support those low-income earners that have been unfairly affected by the healthcare coverage gap. Further, I would work to provide funds for more community health centers and give Missourians more access to local healthcare opportunities.

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

The Missouri legislature can work with local counties to create and maintain opioid databases to monitor and determine those that may be abusing opioids. It can also work with local health departments to ensure that we focus on treatment-based solutions for those suffering from addiction by providing local communities with the funding needed for these services.

*Yes or no:*

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

Yes

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

Yes

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

Yes

**ENVIRONMENT**

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

There is a lot of legislation that could have an impact on climate change. I believe that the Missouri legislature could pass legislation that would provide incentives for hybrid and electric vehicle purchases. It could pass legislation to provide funding and support for more green energy sources such as wind and solar power. It could incentivize the purchase of home installed solar panels and provide funds for an updated power grid to handle the extra power being put back into the grid.

*Yes or no:*

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

Yes

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

Yes

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

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?**

No

## **ECONOMIC & LABOR POLICY**

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

I think that Missouri legislature should work to have more education and training for workers in the state including trade schools because a stronger worker base will attractive employers.

**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, I would support the development of worker-owned businesses and cooperatives. I believe that the State of Missouri should offer grants and support services for workers that wish to start worker-owned businesses and cooperatives. The state should be a supportive partner in helping to establish these entities.

*Yes or no:*

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

Yes - \$15 per hour

**14. Do you support right to work legislation?**

No

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

Yes

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

No

**17. Do you support low income housing credits?**

Yes

## **POLICING/JUSTICE**

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

The state legislature can work to implement the policies and procedures put forth in the Ferguson report. It can mandate that any shootings by police are investigated by an unbiased third party and not the police department itself. It can require that police departments go through implicit bias training to ensure that officers are properly aware of any unconscious bias that they may have. Finally, the legislature can ensure that funds are available for these programs and made available to move police departments to a community policing standard across the state.

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

The most effective way to reduce crime is by investing in job creation, public schools and safe public spaces in our neighborhoods. Supporting and creating good after-school programs and working within communities to ensure a safe, fair and unbiased relationship between police and community members will also reduce crime. Lastly, we must encourage community policing and creating a non-intimidating presence within our neighborhoods.

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

I would support decriminalizing marijuana across the state. Minority communities have been devastated by our current drug policy and it needs to come to an end. We should stop hurting people over marijuana use. I would also support medical use of marijuana but only with the supervision of a trained medical professional.

**Yes or no:**

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

**No**

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

**Yes**

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

No

**24. Do you support ending the death penalty?**

Yes

## **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 women should be given the freedom and right to choose what happens with and within their bodies. Women know their own health best and any choices about their reproductive health should be made between them and their trained healthcare provider. In more liberal groups, I would state as I have already said, it is a woman’s choice. In more conservative groups, I would say that government shouldn’t be in the business of micromanaging the healthcare choices of women. Women are fully capable of making their own choices and it is not within the realm of government to choose for them. In fact, it is an overreach of government of the most egregious type.

**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 will propose legislation that ensures that all cases of sexual harassment are believed, thoroughly investigated and that police and justice officials are properly trained to help and respect victims that come forward without adding to their trauma. I will propose legislation that will add and fund a dedicated social worker to local police departments so that victims can come forward without fear of additional trauma or lack of action.

**Yes or no:**

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

Yes

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

Yes

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

Yes

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

Yes

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

Yes

## **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)**

My top three infrastructure priorities would be:

- 1) Expanding public transportation in both cities and rural areas.
- 2) Improving crumbling roads in urban and rural areas so drivers can drive safely on our roads without worrying about harm to their vehicles or themselves.
- 3) Energy infrastructure to ensure that power is delivered consistently and safely to all of our residents, including those in areas with older buildings and power grids.

**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?**

Yes, the electrical grid in the state should be improved to the benefit of all Missourians. However, I do not believe that the improvements should be done on the backs of Missourians especially since that would impact those in the state that could least afford such an increase like our low-income residents and our senior 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?**

No

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

No

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

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?**

I would support HB 1301 because lobbyists should not be able to buy our state government officials. It takes away from the power of the citizens of the state being able to have their voice heard.

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

The state should offer expanded voting hours for those that may not be able to go to vote during the current voting periods due to work or other obligations. The state should consider expanding the number of voting centers in the state to give greater access to polls and polling stations.

*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?**

No

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

Yes

## EDUCATION

*Survey:*

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

I believe that working with businesses and local leaders to create more after-school programs for kids for a variety of activities including arts and giving teachers more freedoms in their curriculum to teach important and useful information over teaching a test would improve our schools. Further, we shouldn't be cutting funding from public schools. Instead, we should be investing more in them and our children's futures.

*Yes or no:*

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

No

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

Yes

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

No

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

No

## GENERAL

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

I am seeking the endorsement of Mobilize Missouri because I believe that Mobilize Missouri represents the grassroots core of Missouri. It is the people of Missouri fighting for good schools, a clean environment, and a sound and fair government for all. I want to be accountable to the people of Missouri and their real-life interests. Getting the endorsement of Mobilize Missouri would show people how serious I am about this.



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

- 1)Improving our public education system
- 2)Working to improve access to quality healthcare with a focus on mental health and a dialogue around mental healthcare services and destigmatization
- 3)Bringing more economic opportunities to the people of Missouri

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

I would fight hard to advocate for opportunities for all minority communities in Jefferson City. I would work to ensure that LGBTQIA+ rights were protected and that members of every community knew that they had a representative for them in Jefferson City.

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

I believe that bills should focus on one specific subject. This will ensure the public can effectively follow and track what is happening in government. Constituents should be able to express their thoughts and beliefs on any bill that comes before the assembly.

*Yes or no/fill in the blank:*

**50. Do you have a committee formed?**

Yes

**51. Do you have a fundraising plan?**

Yes

**52. Have you raised money/gotten commitments already?**

Yes

**53. Do you have a campaign manager?**

Yes

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

Daily

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

Yes

**56. Do you know the size of your universe?**

Yes

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

Approximately 7000 votes to assure victory.

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

Yes

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

Unions, universities, community health groups, progressive organizations.

**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 would like constituents to know that I am a candidate that believes in impact and getting real results that positively impact their lives. I believe in showing the people that I fight for them. The health center in Ferguson is a sign of the impact for constituents that I strive for. I believe that communities are built on three pillars: education, economic development, and public health/well-being. A healthy community will benefit from each of these pillars. I will strive to ensure that every community has excellent public education, the opportunity to benefit from strong economic development and can access quality public health options so they can enjoy their lives, families, friends and neighborhoods.