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# MOBILIZE MISSOURI

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PATRICE BILLINGS  
State Senate Candidate Survey 2018



## HEALTHCARE

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

**\*We must fully expand Medicaid in Missouri! Doing so will not only help approximately 300,000 additional Missouri residents access affordable healthcare that they desperately need, but the expansion would help balance the state budget as well as help boost economic growth by, in part, keeping rural hospitals open.**

**\*We must fight to lower prescription drug costs by holding pharmaceutical companies accountable in transparency and eliminate the practice of doling out physician gifts.**

**\*Allow Missouri residents to buy into Medicaid at actual cost giving more options to compete with private insurance companies.**

**\*Increase and protect women’s access to contraception.**

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

**\*We are the only state in the Union which does NOT have a true Prescription Drug Monitoring Program. Enacting such a program will save lives and reduce healthcare costs. I have spoken with many physicians who have called for such a program which would allow them access to opioid prescription data on patients to ensure they are not being over-prescribed or “doctor shopping”. At present, only pharmacists have limited access to such information.**

**\*We should also provide better access to treatment centers specializing in opiate addiction.**

*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?

**\*While it could be difficult because of a large proportion of MO legislators who are climate deniers or simply uncaring, I would propose a state carbon tax or pollution levy based on every ton of carbon produced by energy, industrial and/or manufacturing plants.**

**\*A ban on plastic grocery bags**



**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?**

*\*This is a complex issue. I have heard firsthand from some of our current state legislators who continue to be baffled by why our state’s population is stagnant or declining. They believe the only solution is to offer additional tax incentives, TIFs, deregulation and/or other incentives to attract new residents, jobs and industry to Missouri. I am a firm believer that first we need to address the hateful, discriminatory attitudes and legislation that permeate our state government and in turn precipitate population loss of many of our best and brightest. They continue to disenfranchise entire groups of our citizens, including women, persons of color, our LGBTQ community and other minorities by enacting laws specifically intended to discriminate. We cannot expect to attract people and/or industry to this state unless and until we begin to overturn some of these discriminatory laws and enact new laws which guarantee equal protections for ALL of our citizens.*

*\*We must repeal “Right to Work” and ensure that Missouri’s Prevailing Wage Law is not abolished.*

**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 support employee ownership of businesses as they have proven to keep people employed during economic downturns, are greener, more productive and provide stability upon retirement. We should support legislation that makes it easier for typical corporations to convert or transition to employee-owned entities by offering loan guarantees and capital gains tax relief or exemptions for those owners converting to an employee owned business.**

*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?**

**First, they can meet with each of their police department officials and a cross section of patrol officers to find out the specific needs of citizens and the unique, distinctive problems that affect relationships with these citizens, individually and as groups of people. Only after understanding those perspectives and those of the citizens covered by these police agencies can they make informed decisions.**

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

**Communities must study other regions whose innovative and progressive ideas have led to a significant reduction in crimes against persons, property crimes and juvenile crimes. Community leaders and citizen groups must work together with local law enforcement to adapt and integrate best practices from these studies to their own communities. Assessing what works and what is sustainable practice going forward should guide future implementation of additional innovative police-community relations ideas.**



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

Yes, medical marijuana only at this time. I would like to study statistics and consequences (good and bad) of other state’s legalized recreational marijuana programs to make some informed decisions about whether to back full legalization.

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?

\*I am pro-choice (received NARAL – Pro Choice Missouri endorsement) and believe every woman has the right to make her own decision about her healthcare and reproductive rights and have easy and safe access to healthcare facilities. I believe every woman has the right to contraception and to have that paid for by her insurance plan regardless of her employer’s objections. I am strongly opposed to required waiting periods for abortions and required parental consent laws. I oppose any further erosion of reproductive rights and restrictions on abortion clinics by our state legislature.

\*Every woman’s situation is different and I cannot put myself in her shoes. Her decision should be between herself, her family and/or clergy and healthcare professionals. Should she make the decision to end a pregnancy she has the constitutional right to a safe and legal procedure.

**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 would help strengthen the means to hold perpetrators accountable by instituting well thought out policies which include meaningful training, cultural change and knowledge of what harassment and predation is, accountability and strong tools for prevention.*

*\*Victims must be supported through on-going training programs which teach that reporting will be met with empathy, sensitivity and the right to be believed. They must also be provided with information that reporting such instances of abuse/harassment should have mitigated psychological or financial repercussions.*

*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)**

*\*Alleviation of traffic congestion on I70 corridor in western St. Charles County due to annual increase of population to Wentzville and O’Fallon cities by east and west-bound lane additions and improved flow on exit/entry ramps.*

*\*Study and remedies for secondary and arterial two-lane roadway congestion in western St. Charles County.*

*\*Exploring viable, innovative mass/public transportation options for commuters to and from St. Charles and St. Louis counties.*



**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. We cannot address climate change without updating our electricity grid.  
\*Since the utilities must adhere to rules laid out by the Public Service Commission we can't expect them to absorb all the cost to updating so reasonable billing rate increases are necessary.*

*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\_\_

**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?**

*\*This is actually HB 1303 (not 1301). This is somewhat of a Catch22. While I'm in favor of limiting or banning certain gifts and/or expenditures from lobbyists to state public officials (and this would be better than what we currently have in place) I believe that it would push these kinds of gifts, etc. under the table. In essence, lobbyists and those in government who would take such gifts could find a way around the ban with transparency removed.*

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

*\*Mail-in ballots, \*Extended/early voting periods, \*Election day/same day voter registration, \*Repeal voter ID law*

*Yes or no:*



39. Do you support state intervention to make a decision on 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?

- \*Giving all children access to early childhood development opportunities and early identification of learning disabilities before K-12.
- \*Supplemental focus on labor force and career ready school courses/training programs in addition to higher education curriculum.
- \*Evaluating student achievement on more than just test scores; attendance, participation, leadership/mentoring skills, ingenuity, physical fitness, etc.
- \*Support and accountability (financial, community) to high-poverty schools and those that need more help.
- \*Attracting and retaining quality teachers and rewarding teachers with career path and advancement options that keep them in the classrooms.
- \*Improving parent/family participation in their child’s school and accountability for student’s benchmarks.

*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 feel that Mobilize Missouri aligns closely with my ethical, moral, and progressive values regarding all of our citizens and their rights and which, subsequently are reflected by its actions and its membership. There are a great number of people who are ready for us to take back our state from the right-wing extremists who feel it is their moral obligation to discriminate and disenfranchise many Missourians. I believe Mobilize Missouri is committed to making Missouri a better place for everyone to live!

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

\*Restoration/increase of funding for public schools K-12 and state colleges and universities.

\*Inclusion of LGBTQ on Missouri's Non-Discrimination Act.

\*Ensuring the continuation of Missouri's Prevailing Wage law.

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

\*As an out, gay candidate I would start letting others get to know me as a person and then by telling my personal story about the challenges I've encountered as a result of discriminatory and harmful legislation and attitudes. I would also share the stories of constituents who have experienced effects of bias in any of the categories mentioned. I would also encourage hearings be held in an effort to begin changing the culture of bias and to have citizen's voices and viewpoints heard as well as proposing common sense legislation to counteract bad laws and/or advance inclusion as needed.

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

\*Too often harmful, detrimental and discriminatory laws are put into place because they have been added to unrelated bills which, in an effort to get the 'good' bill pushed through at the expense of the 'bad' portion, are passed because there is no alternative in the current legislative session. I am against this practice and support clean bills.



*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?

**Minimum 15 hours per week call time, 25 to 35 hours per week canvassing**

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?

37,371

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

Yes  No

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

**\*Greater St. Charles County Chamber of Commerce, Zonta International, St. Charles Dem Club, St. Charles Progressive Dems, Labor groups, Law enforcement groups, Local Rotary, Small business groups, Physicians & ObGyn’s, Retired Teachers, PROMO, Pride St. Charles, St. Charles Equallity Coalition**

**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 always believed in inclusion, compassion and celebrating differences in others. I am about listening and discussion of common sense solutions that benefit all people. As a small business owner, I understand the economic challenges that face the vast majority of our population, including the struggles to find affordable healthcare and insurance options. I abhor disenfranchising entire groups of citizens and limiting or making it more difficult for people to exercise their right to vote, access to women’s healthcare facilities, suing employers for discriminatory practices and/or obtaining affordable health insurance among just a few injustices. I also believe we must make it illegal to discriminate against our LGBTQ community in housing and employment. I will strive to limit the influences that big business, big pharma and big agriculture have on many in our legislature today which ultimately leads to detrimental effects on the citizens of this state. I also wish to ensure that our brothers and sisters in labor and the trades continue to have the right to collective bargaining and to remain strong union members without the interference of state government.**

**My opponent in the general election has shown by his words and legislative actions that he is a bigot, a racist, a political and religious extremist, uncompromising and above all, an out-of-touch elected official who must be fired.**