



MOBILIZE MISSOURI

State House of Representatives Candidate Survey 2018
Michela Skelton – District 50



HEALTHCARE

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

Expand Medicaid and create a public option in the healthcare exchange by opening the state employee health insurance plan (Missouri Consolidated Health Care Plan) to all Missourians.

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

Expand Medicaid, fund public mental health clinics, implement housing first homeless care initiatives, join the rest of the United States and implement a prescription drug monitoring program, legalize medical marijuana, and pass living wage laws.

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?

Tax credits for rooftop solar panels, subsidies for low income households to obtain solar panels, mandates for certain percentages of capital investment for regulated utilities to be in renewable energy, and funding for municipal utilities to transition to renewables at a faster pace than regulated utilities.

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 **X**_

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___ It depends on the local municipalities. In my experience the local municipalities have been hesitant to institute stricter regulations on CAFOs because of threats of lawsuits by the CAFO operators and industry groups. I think local municipalities should be given strong authority to institute more stringent regulations but the state and national level regulations should still be robust.

ECONOMIC & LABOR POLICY

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

Missouri state legislature can play a large part in attracting and retaining jobs in Missouri by funding programs that make our communities great places to live (living wages, affordable childcare, strong public school systems, robust healthcare systems, innovative infrastructure (roads, ports, public transit, water, sewer, renewable electric, and municipal high speed internet).

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. A state bank that could provide low interest or no interest loans for worker-owned businesses and cooperatives. The state could also provide trainings, workshops, or other skills building opportunities to assist cooperatives with set-up, business plans, and management strategies.

Yes or no:

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

Yes **X**_ No ___ \$ **15**___

14. Do you support right to work legislation?

Yes___ No **X**_

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

Yes **X**_ No ___

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

Yes___ No__X__

17. Do you support low income housing credits?

Yes__X__ No___

POLICING/JUSTICE

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

Expunge all minor drug related crimes from records, focus on community based solutions like youth jobs programs, after school activities and summer camps, community beautification funding, and jobs programs. State law must also be changed to require courts to take into account the full circumstances of a situation when determining the reasonable fear in excessive use of force actions and not just the moments prior. De-escalation techniques must also be required for police officers.

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

Focus on community based solutions like youth jobs programs, after school activities and summer camps, community beautification funding, and jobs programs. Finally, homelessness must be decriminalized and addressed through social programs.

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

Yes. Medical marijuana and decriminalization of possession must be passed immediately. Recreational must also be passed and regulated similarly to alcohol and tobacco with provisions to ensure that those who had been previously prosecuted for possessing or selling marijuana are not excluded from the new markets.

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 view myself as prolife and prochoice because there is more to life than being born. The best way to reduce the number of abortions is by preventing unwanted pregnancies through free and accessible birth control for all and comprehensive health education in school that includes reproduction and contraception. And I want women to have a real choice about bringing a child into the world instead of having to choose between having a child and being condemned to a life of poverty by increasing the minimum wage to a living wage, strengthening equal pay laws, universal healthcare, affordable childcare, and affordable housing. A woman's bodily autonomy cannot and should not ever be infringed because it is a matter of human rights and economic justice.

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?

Repeal SB 43, make any settlements for sexual harassment suits on behalf of government employees or elected officials available via sunshine requests (with the victim's name redacted), require dismissal of employees from government service for whom settlement payments are required, make it illegal for police officers to have sexual relations of any kind with persons in their custody, immediately processing the backlog of rape kits and any new kits collected, and foster a general environment of believing women when they report.

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. Expanding light rail service in St. Louis and Kansas City.
2. Address unsafe and functionally obsolete bridges around the state but particularly in rural communities.
3. Invest in a bullet train network with lines between St. Louis, Columbia and Kansas city and Columbia, Springfield, and Joplin.

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, and partially funded through an increase in utility rates on large scale and commercial consumers.

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 ___ No X

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 a ban on certain lobbyist expenditures to state public officials but I would not support removing any reporting requirements. I'm not sure which year that bill was filed so I can't be sure that I'm looking at the correct bill. HB 1301 (2018) has to do with the Crime Victims Compensation Fund and not lobbyists.

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

Expand the list of acceptable ID for voting to include non-photo ID options. Additionally, the local clerks offices could be empowered to issue a photo ID specifically for voting upon registration. Additionally, early voting should be expanded and same day registration should be permitted. Finally, election day should be a state holiday.

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

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

Yes No

EDUCATION

Survey:

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

Dramatically increase funding and decouple funding from local property values so equitable funding can be provided to all districts. That additional funding should be used for higher teacher salaries, smaller class sizes, art and music instruction, after school programming for students (both enrichment and academic support), and better and healthier food options for students.

Yes or no:

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

Yes No

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

Yes No

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

Yes No

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

Yes No

GENERAL

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

As a former Bernie Sanders delegate and supporter I believe that the future of Missouri is progressive and I'm hoping that endorsements from progressive organizations in urban areas will bring attention to my race and other rural progressive races like it.

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

1. Living wages
2. Increased education funding (funded by a roll back on corporate tax cuts)
3. Public option for health insurance by opening the Missouri Consolidated Health Care Plan (state employee health insurance) up to all Missourians on the healthcare exchanges (with the ideal being Medicare for All on the federal level).

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

Cultivate relationships with organizations that advocate for minority viewpoints and create a fund like the jury duty pay system to subsidize low income people to come and testify in public hearings on bills that would directly affect them (work requirements for food stamps, medicaid expansion, etc.)

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

The Hammerschmidt rule should be respected and current practice of omnibus bills that pull in all manner of tangentially related items should be stopped. One bill, one subject makes it easier for the public to both understand the meaning and implications of bills, and also to hold elected officials accountable for votes on bad policy when it isn't coupled with other issues.

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?

~12,000

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

~9,000

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.

Our Revolution-Mid-Missouri, Opponents of Cooper County CAFOs, student groups, and teachers.

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:

My opponent has voted this session more than 90% of the time with the Republican majority and where she has not it has been on bills like child marriage prevention, medical marijuana, and industrial hemp. I support respecting the human dignity of all people and creating a society where we invest in our communities instead of big business and the power of government is in the hands of the people and not big money lobbyists.