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# MOBILIZE MISSOURI

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State House of Representatives Candidate Survey 2018  
Doug Clemens – District 72



## HEALTHCARE

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

Health care is an important issue to me and our campaign. My close high school friend and brother-in-law was paralyzed during a surgery a year and a half ago. My campaign manager, Zach Goldford, nearly died from the rapid onset of an autoimmune disease. The existing ACA allowed them both to receive the care they needed without loss of coverage and bankruptcy.

The failure of the Missouri legislature to expand Medicare coverage under the ACA is a travesty. I will continue to push for the expansion of Medicaid for the people of Missouri. We also need to consider a state level system which fixes our broken health care system and ensures access to every Missourian. Systems to expand coverage like those being used in Iowa or a health care overhaul like that proposed in California are viable options.

I am committed to a system which provides access to health care for all.

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

Missouri is the only state without a prescription monitoring system in place. The only exception to this is the St. Louis area. Dr. Kahn with the St. Louis County Health Department recently warned that Missouri will soon become a market place for the illegal pill trade. Our first priority is to participate in the prescription drug registry.

We also need to treat mental illness and addiction with the same thoroughness which we treat other ailments. I support requiring insurance companies to pay for treatment of mental illness and addiction in the same manor they do heart disease.

*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?

The biggest two things Missouri can do to help our environment and combat climate change, are utility based. A strong push toward wind and solar based energy as opposed to coal will have a lasting impact on our energy costs and environmental impact. We also need to update our power distribution grid. Our system is wasting the energy we do produce at an enormous rate. This waste increases our need to raise production beyond our needs.

I also believe our lack of effective public transportation in the metropolitan centers is not only a source of greenhouse gases but a detractor from our future economic prosperity. I fully support investments in mass public transportation.

*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

**Note:** I have been working on the West Lake issue for many years, including being Chair of the West Lake Community Advisory Group for 5 years.

### 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?

Yes

**Note:** This is not a simple answer. EPA standardly defaults to local authority for enforcement of regulations. Many EPA regulations in regard to CAFOs are lax at best. Many municipalities have more stringent regulations because they are faced directly with the environmental harm posed by CAFOs.



## **ECONOMIC & LABOR POLICY**

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

Jobs must pay a living wage, offer the right to organize, provide fair pay, have benefits, and adhere to safety on the job.

The things Missouri needs to attract jobs are not so much in the realm of tax incentives and low wages. In order to attract good jobs to Missouri we need to improve and continue to improve the social issues and infrastructure of the state. The areas we need to focus on are our educational system, health care, urban housing, transportation (including mass transportation in the metro areas), and the utility grid. Companies pass by Missouri because they can't trust the future of educational or health care systems; they can't readily find the infrastructure needed to serve the needs of their industry; and even worse, Missouri has a stigma left from our history of racial segregation and a historically underfunded educational system.

### **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?**

Cooperatives have often been a source for innovation and efficiency. These models vary from employee owned to community owned and work well across a number of industries. In order for these types of businesses to succeed Missouri must be prepared to create a more welcoming environment. We should create an environment which makes worker organization easier instead of harder. The process of incorporating such a business should be streamlined. Not only for cooperative type businesses, but all startups need easier and lower cost access to capital which can be provided by state sponsored business loans and grants. We should support partnerships with cooperative and our state university system to help reduce the cost of research and development and create a more streamlined transfer from school to work.

*Yes or no:*

### **13. Do you support an increase to the state minimum wage? If so, what dollar amount?** Yes - \$15

### **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?**

Require that a law enforcement officer complete certification training by an accredited institution. Institute community based oversight committees with authority to conduct investigation and turn findings over to a prosecutor's office. Investigations of accusations against police officers and officer involved shootings should be conducted by an independent investigative body.

I think it is a good idea to mandate regular rotating shifts where police officers are out of their cars walking or cycling a beat and interacting with the community on a more personal level.

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

Crime is a factor of poverty and desperation. If we truly want to reduce crime we need to work on our educational system, access to housing, and jobs which pay a living wage.

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

Legalization of marijuana for medical use is long overdue. While the debate is open for legalizing mind altering substances like alcohol, keeping the benefits of marijuana from those in pain or discomfort is simply wrong. While I am of the belief that recreational use of marijuana should be legal and become a source of revenue for the state, I also feel that a decision should not be left to the legislature but the people.

*Yes or no:*

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

Yes The state patrol can bring in policing power that is not tied to local influence or disputes.

**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 support a woman’s right to make decisions about her own body. I don’t condone the interference of the state in the relationship between an individual and the medical professional treating them. I do not condone laws which blur the line between separation of church and state.

When speaking with those with differing opinions, I default to the idea that no one likes the idea of abortion but they are going to happen, so they should be rare, safe, and legal.

**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?**

Accusations of any illegal act need to be taken seriously. Our current environment does not demonstrate consistency in enforcement. Action should be taken against those who refuse to process charges in these circumstances. The history of prosecuting the accuser in our system has gone on too long. It is in everyone’s best interest to seal the accuser’s identity away from the public until such time as a trial or hearing on the matter. Breech of keeping the anonymity of the accuser should be punishable civilly and criminally.

*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)**

### **Maintenance**

Our state first needs to tend to maintenance of our infrastructure. In a recent conversation with a mayor in my district the subject of bridge repair came up. The mayor has no idea where the resources are going to come from to provide needed repairs to bridges in his city. With safety and an effective transportation system in mind we must allocate resources to repair our failing roads and bridges.

### **Transportation Planning**

As mentioned before our lack of updated infrastructure is costing us jobs from growing industries. Our system needs to be planned on a regional basis. We need to have an infrastructure friendly to businesses and working families. Currently we have a wasteful energy grid and outdated road and rail systems. Our current system is pieced together and is centered on roads and highways. Borrowing from ideas used in Germany we can create a blend of effective public transit meeting with roads and rail.

### **Rail**

Public transportation is necessary in urban areas. An effective mass transit system attracts residents, tourists, and jobs. It also reduces pollution and wasted time of traffic jams. While we need to provide an effective rail based mass transit system in our urban areas we also need to have a high-speed rail system working in the outstate which moves people and cargo effectively and cheaply.



**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 update of electrical grid is critical to many things. (I actually mentioned this topic earlier in this questionnaire.) Our grid is extremely outdated and we are losing the power generated as a result of this situation.

Utility companies should be budgeting for these upgrades. I was opposed to Construction Work in Progress when they tried to take out money for work on a power plant as yet unbuilt. Time and time again utilities use measures like this as a blank check for a never ending project. The Kentucky power plant which took over 15 years to complete comes to mind.

*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?**

Yes

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

Yes Only if the tolls are run by the state not a private entity.

## GOVERNANCE

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

Yes. I think I should have the same access to my elected officials as the Bank of America or a Billionaire. I am committed to ethics reform and have been collecting signatures on the CLEAN initiative since September, which I just turned in last week.



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

We should extend elections to cover a multiple days. We should also have a weekend day where polling places are open. In our current world where folks work odd hours and many jobs to make ends meet we must be flexible.

We need to reverse our current voter ID law. This law ultimately disenfranchises voters from our system.

*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?**

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?**

Public education is a better option than private schools. For-profit institutions are looking after investors not the welfare of children.

To make our public educational system the best it can be we must increase funding for both capital improvements and staff. For many years we have failed to fully fund our educational formula. Finally last session we changed the formula not the funding.

We need to listen to our educators. To become a teacher in the state of Missouri requires a great deal of work and expertise. Having teachers in local schools have representation on the local board would benefit us all.

We need to let our locally elected school boards have more control over their own districts. Missouri is vastly different in its geography, population dispersal, and demographics. Decisions about things that seem as simple as transportation are never one size fits all. Jefferson City can’t be left to dictate how each district should best meet its needs.



**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 a lifelong activist and believe the world is changed by doing the work. Mobilize not only shares my beliefs about what changes need to be brought about but the organization also shares my commitment to a grassroots effort.

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

To help create a system which ensures health care access to every Missourian.

To strengthen the rights of organized labor which is the best institution we have for protecting working families.

To ensure equal access to quality public education.

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

I am eager to provide opportunities for interaction to all other elected officials in Jefferson City. Regardless of party or background, every elected official (including me) needs to have exposure to Missourians from different demographics. My pipedream would be to host trips and events which allow conversations, not lectures amongst folks from different backgrounds and beliefs. We must quite thinking in terms of us and them on both sides of every issue. The only way to start to breakdown our stringent preconceptions is through interaction and conversation.



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

I actually think bills should stick to the subject and usually fall on the side of amendments being topical to the title of the bill.

*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?**

Presently about 38hrs and work a full time job

**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. I’m happy to discuss this in person

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

Our campaign is targeted to get more than the necessary amount needed in a 5 way primary. I am happy to discuss this in person also.

**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.**

I am happy to discuss this in person also. Suffice to say that I have extensive networks in organized labor, professional organizations, and issue based organizations. There is also friends and family.

Our campaign has been utilizing these networks and is now focused on creating a network of motivated voters in-district. Our first in home voter coffee is on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May at a voter's residence. Our next is being scheduled.

**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 was born and raised with a strong work ethic in the district in which I will serve. I've been working since I was 13 years old and still worked on the issues facing our community. Most recently I was Chairman of the West Lake/Bridgeton Community Advisory Group.

I believe you have to work hard to achieve goals for the community. At present I am still an executive board member of the West Lake CAG, been collecting signatures for CLEAN and Minimum Wage ballot initiatives, work on our campaign for State Representative, and work a full time job. I am dedicated to doing the hard work.

**From my canvassing literature**

**Iron-Willed**

I have never wavered in my pursuit for social, economic, and environmental justice. Whether it's fighting to have Radioactive waste removed or stopping discriminatory policing practices in our neighborhoods, I have never let the politics of convenience enter into my mission towards protecting the wellbeing of this community.

**Community Watchdog**

I have been a Watchdog for this community, fighting against corruption. As the head of the Community Advisory Group for the West Lake Landfill, I have worked tirelessly to reduce the influence of Multi-Billion Dollar Corporations that continuously harm our citizens. I have collected signatures for CLEAN Missouri, in order to fight the lobbyists that swarm our state government.

**Results Driven**

Every day, I get things done. As an activist, I have stood in support for workers on the picket line. When workers need help fighting for their rights, I show up! As a consultant, I have represented small, independent worker-owned taxi companies to the taxi commission, the City of St. Louis, and the State of Missouri against the interests of large companies.