



MOBILIZE MISSOURI

State House of Representatives Candidate Survey 2018
Damon Haymer – District 76

HEALTHCARE

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

Health care is a key issue on my platform. Every Missourian deserves affordable quality health care. Expanding Medicaid will insure 260,000 Missourians, who currently are unable to afford health care will be covered. Missouri's eligibility level is among the most restrictive in the nation. Working parents can only earn \$385 a month for a family of three, the lowest level allowed under federal law. Low wage adults without children do not even qualify. Expanding Medicaid will benefit the Missourians who desperately need the healthcare coverage they lack and will provide a boost in our economy as well.

On the state level we must also do more to lower the cost of prescription medication. We have countless senior citizens in the 76th District, who are forced to either pay for their medication or their basic needs. No one should have to decide between paying their power bill or the medication they need to stay healthy. We must fully fund the Missouri Rx program, so all seniors can afford the medication they need, and we aren't putting Missouri's most vulnerable citizens at risk.

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

Fully addressing the opioid epidemic means addressing the healthcare crisis and why people are getting addicted in the first place. Addressing chronic pain is part of the solution and will require coordination with medical, psychological and social aspects of healthcare, which are often not covered by our current system in Missouri.

The current approach the Missouri legislature is taking, placing time limits on opioid prescriptions currently two weeks, has been rejected by the American Medical Association. First, they state treatment decisions should be left up to the physician. Second, it leads to profits for the drug manufacturers who pushed for the bill to be pass. There is also evidence that patients will drop and not continue their care if they are forced to visit their doctor every two weeks and possibly every week as Senator Heller is set to propose.

A solution to the opioid epidemic that the legislature should propose is legalizing medical marijuana for chronic pain, which just passed the first round in the House. Two recent studies showed the following with regards to medical marijuana:

- States with medical marijuana had 2.21 million fewer daily doses of opioids prescribed per year.
- Opioid scripts under Medicaid dropped by 5.88% in states with Medical cannabis laws.
- Unlike opioids, cannabis has little to no addition potential and virtually no deaths or overdoses have been reported in the US.



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?

With the current administration doing everything to reverse the strides President Obama made to protect the planet, states must take steps to combat climate change. The Missouri Legislature has not enacted climate legislation in quite some time. Steps we should take are:

- St. Louis has set a goal of powering the city with 100% clean energy by 2035. Many states have set the goal of 2050. Missouri should follow suit and set the goal of being powered by 100% clean energy by 2050. Ameren, one of our largest power companies, has pledged to reduce their carbon footprint by 80% by 2050 by widely expanding solar and wind generation. We should encourage other companies to follow suit.
- Draft legislation that provides incentives for zero emissions vehicles (ZEV) that are sold, rented or leased making them exempt from state sales and use tax.
- Develop a solar program that benefits individuals and community entities, such as schools, that does not cap the program at a specific number of megawatts. The program should also include Virtual Net Metering as an option to allow entities to turn back their meter by generating on site electricity, already available in Missouri.

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?

Over the past year the legislature has passed legislation that benefits corporations and employers and not workers. As a representative of the 76th district I must fight for the issues that are important to my constituents. These include:

- Everyone in Missouri deserves a living wage. That is why we must fight to increase the minimum wage to \$15 over a period until 2020.
- Working to defeat right to work and keep it out of Missouri so our Unions remain strong.
- Investing in job programs for our state, particularly youth programs and programs in underserved communities. I have partnered with the Painters Union to develop an apprenticeship program for members of HD76 with a starting salary of \$48K. The average annual income in HD76 is \$28K making this program a major economic boost for the members of my district.

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?

Worker-owned businesses and cooperatives are something I would support. The legislation and incentives would benefit minority and women focused businesses in disadvantaged communities. Working with the Department of Economic Development it would be possible to identify what incentives could best benefit the employees. Tax credits, grants, and mentoring programs are all options for incentives.

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?

St. Louis has been at the epicenter of racial injustice for decades and in the national spotlight since Michael Brown. Representing one of, if not the most disenfranchised district in the state I firmly believe it is time for the state legislature to do our part to foster better relationships between law enforcement and these communities BEFORE conflicts arise. We can do this in several ways:

- Establish a permanent Special Prosecutors Office at the state level to automatically handle all officer involved shootings of civilians. This removes the investigation from the jurisdiction where the crime is committed and restores confidence. The Special Prosecutor should be appointed from a bipartisan group with community input.
- To further bolster the Officer of the Special Prosecutor, HB NO773 should be amended: 590.255 1.
- Pass SB, the racial profiling bill; This bill is different in that it requires accountability of law enforcement agencies when they report back to the community yearly with their collected data of vehicle stops. Officers who police unfairly not only face discipline but also counseling and training.

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

In 2017 both St. Louis and Kansas City ranked in the top ten cities with the highest murder rates. Yet our gun laws are some of the least restrictive in the nation. In 2017, there were 201 murders in the St. Louis area, 138 of those were in the 76th District. In both cities the murders are concentrated in specific areas creating a situation of murder inequality not unlike income inequality. Yet much of our legislature is out of touch with the reality of the crime that plagues my district and these cities. Reducing gun violence MUST be our first step in reducing crime. To do this, I will relentlessly fight for common sense gun control by taking the following steps:

- File common sense gun legislation that will require a background check on all gun sales.
- File legislation requiring all gun owners are accountable for their firearm and in the event, it is stolen, a report must be filed.

Education and keeping kids in school statewide must also be part of the plan to reduce crime. The following are education-based ideas to reduce crime:

- Missouri suspends black elementary students at a higher rate compared to white students than the rest of the country. 20 St. Louis area schools have pledged to ban or reduce suspensions of early elementary grades, the state legislature must introduce a bill and make this statewide.
- Fully funding universal Pre-K statewide has unequivocally proven to reduce the prison population, thus reducing crime. In addition, students are exposed to diverse populations, academically prepared and all families benefit regardless of socioeconomic background.

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

I support full legalization of marijuana; however, it must be fair and equitable and must address past disproportionate harms to communities of color. Legalizing and regulating marijuana will create jobs and build tax revenue into our economy instead of the illicit market. Law enforcement resources will be able to focus on public safety. With legalization, it is paramount that anyone serving a sentence for possession be released as they did in California. Our prison system is overcrowded with low level drug offenders and people of color are affected at a much higher rate.

Yes or no:

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

Yes X No

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 we must protect women's reproductive rights. Women should have the ability to say when and if they want to reproduce and the government shouldn't have a say. We must lift the restrictions on access to abortions including parental consent, notification and mandatory waiting periods. Republicans continue to attack women's reproductive rights and it's time to elect leaders who will fight for women.

We must also protect women's access to contraceptive counseling coverage and keep contraceptive methods at no out-of-pocket cost as well. We must protect Planned Parenthood funding because many women use their facility for more than abortion services. We must stop public funding for fake crisis pregnancy centers. Women deserve the right to education and access to make free and informed reproductive health choices.

When speaking to those with differing opinions, I have found it's best to maintain a cool head but to always be honest. I stand firm in my beliefs that a woman's choice is hers and hers alone.

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?

In October 2015 House Speaker Todd Richardson worked closely with the Women's Foundation of Kansas City to draft new sexual harassment policies for the House. These policies were adopted by the House and are currently in place. The one addition to the policy I would make is the option of an anonymous phone line for the women or men who have been victims of sexual harassment and do not want to speak with a mandatory reporter. The current policy makes almost everyone a mandatory reporter which could force some into silence.

To ensure perpetrators of sexual assault are held accountable I will follow the lead of our democrats currently in office that have put pressure on republicans to hold Governor Greitens accountable. No one is exempt from sexual assault, even those that hold the highest office in the state.

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 X No

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

Yes X 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)

The biggest challenge we face when it comes to infrastructure is bringing our state-level investment up, so we do not lose out on federal funds. The three areas I would choose to invest in would first be our dams. Missouri has approximately 5,500 dams and 84% of them are unregulated placing many at high or significant hazard. Along the same line, Missouri must develop a plan to prevent future systemic flooding. We must plan to protect the areas that are consistently facing damage and millions of dollars' worth of damage. Finally, I would invest in a robust public transportation system for both St. Louis and Kansas City. If we are to compete with other cities, we must invest in public transportation.

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?

Since 2007, Missourians have seen a 46.7% increase in their energy rates, while the nation's rates have only increased 11.2%. Our aging power grid coupled with a century old regulatory policy has caused this spike. If we are to stop the rising energy rates, be prepared for cyber threats, optimize our grid for clean energy sources and quickly prepare in the event of storms we must modernize our electric grid.

I support SB 564 that is currently before the Senate. The bipartisan bill would immediately reduce rates by 3% to 4% and then cap the amount they can be increased by 2.85% annually. The bill gives us a smart grid we need and slows the rate increases we have historically been dealing with in years past.

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 X No

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?

Yes, I would support it because it is better than what currently stands. However, I believe removing the reporting requirement seems like intentionally hiding gifts. In addition, no mention of the word “gifts” and instead using expenditures seems disingenuous, but again this is better than current policy.

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

The state should be making it easier for residents to vote, not harder. We should take the following steps:

- Pass legislation for a Motor Voter program. Twelve states and the District of Columbia have passed automatic voter registration, and 20 states have introduced legislation in 2018. It is time for Missouri to do the same and increase voter participation.
- Currently Missouri is being sued by the League of Women Voters ACLU and DEMOS for failing to provide voter registration, particularly through the Department of Revenue, as required by the National Voting Rights Act. The Secretary of State should be held accountable and Missouri must immediately rectify this problem.
- Repealing HD 1631, Missouri’s Voter ID Law must be a priority. Until that is accomplished, we must fully fund the ShowIt2Vote program every budget cycle and free ID’s for every citizen. In addition, we must work year-round to educate the electorate about the program, democracy doesn’t sleep.

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?

For our public schools to be successful we must pay our teachers a competitive wage. Missouri teachers earn below the national average and that is not acceptable. First and foremost, we must increase the salary of every teacher in the state. Second, we must fully fund the K-12 formula. Missouri consistently cuts funding for education and that is not how we improve our public schools. The state has a plan to be a top 10 school by 2020, however it includes charter schools. That is counterproductive. Promoting charter schools while trying to improve public schools doesn't make sense. We must fully invest in public schools! We also need to invest in transportation. We have districts taking out loans to pay for transportation for their students. That is unacceptable. If kids cannot get to school, they cannot learn. Finally, we must invest in universal Pre-K for the entire state. For every dollar invested in Pre-K it saves tax payers five-dollars. Pre-K has also proven to reduce crime, improve graduation rates and leads to more productive adults. That is a win for the community.

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'm seeking the endorsement of Mobilize Missouri, because I feel my values and platform are in line with the values of Mobilize Missouri. This campaign has a progressive agenda and we are fighting to bring progress and change within our community and on the state level.

I'm proud to be a member of Mobilize Missouri and have supported the other candidates we have endorsed. It's an honor to seek the endorsement of Mobilize Missouri for my own campaign.

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

My three legislative priorities are as follows:

1. File Common Sense Gun legislation requiring background checks on gun sales in Missouri. I also plan to file legislation requiring gun owners to file a report if their firearm is stolen. We must do more to reduce the number of illegal guns in the streets in the 76th District.
2. Fight to improve education in the state. File legislation to raise the salaries of teachers in the state. Our teachers make well below the national average. I will sponsor legislation to raise the wage to the national level. I will fight to provide every child with Early Education, so our kids can build a foundation of learning that will benefit them throughout their education journey. Lead the fight to examine the school funding formula and ensure our level of funding is adequate compared to other states.
3. Become a member of the Missouri Black Legislative Caucus broadening my reach and allowing me to fight for my constituents in every way possible.

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

In the state legislature we must respect and allow the viewpoints of everyone no matter their race, gender, ethnicity, religion or sexual orientation. I will speak out when someone's views are not being heard or when someone's view and speech have discriminated against others.

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

I fully support clean bills. Bills should only cover one subject and not contain something within the fine print. We must do away with that and focus on one bill, one subject.

Yes or no/fill in the blank:

50. Do you have a committee formed?

Yes X 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?

40/12

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?

2703

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.

[Mom's Demand Action](#), [NARAL](#), [Brown Black Leadership](#), [Mobilize MO](#)

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 spent the past two years listening to the people of my district through listening sessions, church visits and on porches finding out what matters to them and what issues they care about the most. What sets me apart from my opponents is that this campaign is not about what I think is important, it is about the issues the people of the 76th district care about the most. I will be the leader that is present in Jefferson City and at home for them and tirelessly fight to get them the resources they need to revitalize our community. In addition, I have a proven record as a progressive and am ready to stand with other progressives and fight in Jefferson City.