



MOBILIZE MISSOURI

State House of Representatives Candidate Survey 2018
Reign Harris – District 79



HEALTHCARE

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

I would support the effort to expand Medicaid in Missouri. 25 other states already have. Also, supporting bills like SB 982 which was passed in the Missouri Senate and protects Missouri health care consumers from unfair practices. I am all for consumers have more options, increased access to healthcare, and lower prescription drug costs.

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

The Missouri House is advancing a bill that is fighting the opioid crisis with drug take-back programs and limits on prescriptions. This proposal limits initial painkiller prescriptions to seven-day supplies for acute pain. Cancer and hospice patients are exempt. The Missouri legislature can support this bill and others to ensure we continue to fight the opioid crisis. By limiting the initial painkiller prescriptions, it will hopefully reduce the number of people who transition from painkillers to opioids in Missouri. We can continue to work towards the creation of a comprehensive Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) to stop "doctor shopping".

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?

Missouri could pass pro-environmental legislation. Missouri legislature also must fight bills like Missouri House Bill 1444 which repeals the requirement that all motor vehicles must obtain an inspection before the vehicle may be licensed. Missouri legislature could work to reduce ozone concentrations.

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?

Missouri legislature plays a huge role in attracting and retaining jobs. The legislature can support unions and fight about "right to work" legislation. Right to work lowers wages by reducing bargaining power. Another consideration is making St. Louis a choice place to live for millennials. Amazon stated one of the reasons it did not choose the St. Louis region for its new headquarters was the lack of a "blueprint for talent". The St. Louis region and the state of Missouri needs to develop a stronger base of high-skilled workers. By offering programs and solutions to help develop the current youth population with job readiness programs, the state of Missouri would benefit.

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 the development of worker-owned businesses and cooperatives where business decisions and distribution of profits can be democratically decided by their employees. Worker-owned businesses can help create jobs and opportunities for workers to get paid better wages and share in the profits of the business growth. Legislation to provide funding to Missouri to establish and expand employee ownership centers. Centers that could provide support and training and educate workers about the benefits of worker ownership. Worker-Owned businesses could help the middle class and help with job creation.

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?

The state legislature can hold law enforcement responsible for any blatant crimes they commit and mandate body cameras with the emphasis on the cameras never being turned off. There should be no gray areas or questions about what happened in any situation. Body cameras can protect the public and the officers.

Law enforcement can also work to build relationships with the community. When possible, the officers should be from the community. I think officers taking part in community events and not just showing up when there is trouble but officers being in the community, smiling, greeting, interacting and developing relationships can help relationships with disenfranchised communities.

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

The most effective way is to stiffen the consequences for violent crimes. My son was killed a few months ago during a carjacking in St. Louis City. I think dealing with juvenile criminals by getting them early and trying to break the cycle by offering interventions before criminal behavior escalates.

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

Yes, I support marijuana legalization. I would support laws that prohibit the enforcement of laws that permit the civil or criminal punishment for the use or possession of marijuana or marijuana paraphernalia against any individual or entity with exceptions such as people under the age of 21. A couple of days ago, the Missouri House voted to legalize medical marijuana (House Bill 1554) and the bill is headed to the Senate.

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___ No_x___

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

Yes_x___ No___

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 support efforts to provide, protect, and support reproductive and sexual health, services, access, and rights. I explain these views to groups with differing opinions by citing that according to Guttmacher Institute , 94% of Missouri women live in counties with no abortion clinic and reproductive rights is not solely about pro-choice vs pro-life, it also includes conversations around paid family leave (SB69 and HB659) that allows 6 weeks of paid leave to workers to care for a new child, sick or injured family member, or to deal with personal medical issue.

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 take measures to ensure perpetrations of sexual harassment including those in elected positions are held accountable for their actions by fighting against laws such as Missouri Senate Bill 43, which made it more difficult for fired employees to win discrimination cases. Passing of such bills can make women feel less safe reporting discrimination because it increased the standard to prove bias.

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)

My top three priorities would be repairing roads and bridges, rebuilding schools, and modernizing water and sewer systems. I would focus on expanding transportation in cities and rural.

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 I support electrical grid modernization with the use of modern technology. I believe as we invest substantially into power lines, electric vehicles, and diverse portfolio of electricity resources including wind and solar, we should seek how those in that diverse portfolio can offset the costs before passing them on the 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 ___

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

Yes___ No ___

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

Yes ___ 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?

No, I would not support HB 1301 I believe reporting requirements inform the public of special interest groups and voters have a right to know.

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

The state could do more to inform those individuals who may have their voting rights restored of the process. It should be part of the process as individuals come off.

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?

I believe ensuring the Missouri public schools are allocated the proper funding to function properly would make them a better option. Residents of the city should not feel like they have to pay for a private education in order for their children to be academically successful.

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 have an experienced public servant and lifelong Democrat. It is very important to me to seek the support of Mobilize Missouri. Recently, I lost my son to gun violence in the city of Saint Louis. I believe we need to tackle tough issues by tackling some of the outdated laws surrounding crime in our city. That tragedy emboldened me to be a part of the change by running for State Representative for the 79th district.

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

Reducing crime, education, and job/business creation are the three most important issues to me and my candidacy.

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

I look for opportunities to hear from everyone. Everyone has a story. Most people have issues that are near and dear to their hearts. By being open, accessible, and not cemented in a certain way of doing things I will ensure voices are heard. Honestly, the Democrats refusal to listen to younger voices in the past has caused the party to suffer some heart-wrenching defeats. We must learn be more flexible and accommodate voices of all generations, demographics, and background experiences. Diversity makes us stronger. We are stronger together so the more inclusive, my campaign is I feel like the better it will represent the 79th district and the state of Missouri, if I am elected into the state legislature.

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

I support transparency and clarity in the legislative process so I 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?

24 hours and more hours closer to the election

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

Yes No I don't have access at the moment but I am working on acquiring it.

56. Do you know the size of your universe?

yes

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

Between 7,500 and 10,000 votes

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.

I am an active part of my community, I have relationships with all of my elective officials, and have worked on candidates' campaigns in the past. I reach out to constituents in person at community meetings and online using social media. I have gotten a lot of support after the tragedy that struck my family and with the outpouring of concern, I have been promoting engagement and activism so fewer and fewer mothers have to suffer such devastating losses.

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 grew up in the 5th ward neighborhood of Carr Square Village. I am a devoted wife and mother of 4.

I am an experienced public servant. I worked for more than 20 years in service to the city of St. Louis. Now she has turned her focus on the residents of the 79th district. Reign has a personal reason seeking office. I want to tackle some of the tough issues plaguing the city of St. Louis and change outdated laws surrounding crime in our city.



I plan to increase police presence and install more cameras to reduce crime. I plan to improve the look of the district by helping seniors with the upkeep of their homes and addressing conditions of the abandoned buildings through restoration or demolition.

Finally, I want to help be the voice for residents who feel they have had no say in what goes on in their district.