



MOBILIZE MISSOURI

State House of Representatives Candidate Survey 2018
JP Johnson – District 79



HEALTHCARE

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

Expanding Medicaid under the authority of the Affordable Care Act would be a significant boost for the residents of Missouri. While it's proved difficult to accomplish this task in the State Assembly, we do have the ability to push an initiative petition that would accomplish this goal. The only true solution in expanding and protecting healthcare for our residents however is to move to a Medicare for all plan, where everyone is equitably cared for, while only paying three-to-five percent in administrative cost. The savings could allow for investments in medical care that further enhances our collective quality of life. Using our roles as elected officials to push those in leadership roles in Washington D.C. to address should be a main priority, especially since healthcare is one-sixth of our economy.

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

Missouri should join the rest of the forty-nine states that have a functioning Prescription Drug Monitoring Program. St. Louis County deserves a lot of credit for operating the only PDMP program in the state that covers seventy-five percent of state residents that have joined. As a special assistant to Mayor Slay at the time, we as a municipality joined the county in this effort. If I were fortunate enough to be elected, I would use my role and experience to help push us to achieve what every other state in the union has. In addition to this effort, we should also expend resources for social services that don't treat this continuing crisis as criminal, but an epidemic.

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?

Adopting the principles of the Paris Climate Accord would be a great first step. The goals work efficiently the more partners you have committed to the reductions in emissions. Part of this means fundamentally transforming one's economy to reflect the shifting market. Missouri has vast landmass where wind turbines could be deployed. We have plenty of brick and mortar that can be retrofitted for more building efficiency, beyond solar panels. As Liaison to BOA, one of my roles was to help pass an energy efficiency bill that tabulated and databased the energy emissions from our buildings, specifically commercial building. Tracking our usage can lead to better policies that lessen our output. We are a major agricultural state, where better farming standards could also combat climate related byproducts. To that end, we should also offer tax credits to entities that effectuate standards that are pro climate.

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?

Part of job attainment and retention is having an attractive package that will illicit folks coming to our state. Our cost of living is prime because of how low it is, as is our central location that touches three rivers, one being a major trade vehicle. We also have a diversity of resources and capital. Our politics however continues to hold us back. People come where they are welcome. People stay where they are appreciated. Jefferson City needs to remind people we are here to represent their best interests. Without that key component, the policy implements won't manifest the desired intent.

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?

CBB Transportation is a business in St. Louis that functions as a similar model. Brick City Makes is currently renovating property in the Benton Park area that is modeling their operation similar to an incubation hub akin to a T-REx or Cortex, only the space will be designated for manufacturers and their ancillary partners. The Missouri Technical Corporation is designed to allocate dollars for start-ups and entrepreneurs that offer value to our shared economy. I would work to increase dollars to the MTC, with a focus on these incubators and work-spaces that promote worker-centered collaboratives.

Yes or no:

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

Yes No Whatever the actuarial tables determined to sustain a living wage, and then we index

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, Jefferson City should acknowledge the real issues of distrust between law enforcement and distressed communities, specifically black. Part of that means looking at how we got here. History shows us that the structural imbalance between blacks and every other race puts us an economic disadvantage that is passed on to the next generation. Being behind economically in a society where cost continue to rise, and opportunities continue to diminish lead to behaviors that don't comport with our legal system. Jefferson City can and should address the economic imbalances that lead to more interaction with law enforcement. Beyond that, when there is inevitable interaction with law enforcement, the policies that govern policing should be more punitive than that of a basic resident. Police have the legal license to kill. With great authority comes greater responsibility. This does not mean citizens don't play a role. When we feel unsafe, we call the police. Proposition P passed in the city with fifty-nine percent of the vote. Our chasm isn't as wide as it appears, but without action to mend the relationship necessary to police and be policed, the inertia will lead to a vacuum that is filled with actions that will tear us apart. It's up to Jefferson City to govern the behavior of the public-safety arm of the state.

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

Economic opportunity and stability is the only true way to tackle crime. We aren't inherently criminal. We make mistakes, but most are venial. If we allow people to fend for themselves, we can't then impose punitive policies that further restrict one's mobility. Creating the space for opportunity allows space for the dignity people require to live. In addition to a more vibrant and dynamic economy, legislating policies that are both more diversionary and restorative gives folks who have made mistakes the ability to function. This is why the City banned the box, installed annual arrest warrant holidays, started Prison to Prosperity and Civil Liberties Jobs program during my tenure in Room 200. We can and should expand these efforts at the state level.

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

I not only support legalizing marijuana, but I believe the state is missing an important opportunity to both diversify our agricultural market, while tackling criminal justice reform in a smart way. Marijuana is not a gateway drug, but it is a gateway to unnecessary arrests, especially when we know many who are arbitrators of our legal system that partake. Enough with the hypocrisy on this. Marijuana should be uninhibitedly legal.



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 ___ 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?

There is no such thing as pro-life or pro-choice. These tropes were developed to keep us arguing about an issue that needs none. Women bear the responsibility of child bearing and far too often child rearing. It is the woman's decision to make. I believe in the fourteenth amendment's right to privacy, and it's protections against government intrusion on a woman's decision to do what with her body what she feels is in her best interests. Some issues have no middle ground, and standing by your principles may not always be sufficient to every voter or interests group. No matter - it's the right and authentic thing to do.

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 never know what it is like to be a woman who is constantly harassed by unwanted suitors who believe they have a right to express their impulses on the innocent and unsuspecting. Speaking as someone who has had close family members abused, it's hard to separate wanting to harm the person or persons responsible and justice. Harm is immediate gratification that potentially stunts another innocent life. Justice is placing zero tolerance policies in place that ensure those accused, tried and found guilty beyond any reasonable doubt of any such crime. The main thing any of us, especially men, can do is listen to women on these issues, and follow their lead in structuring a system that not only protects women, but values them. Until we love and value each other, how we govern our behavior will always be lacking.

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)

There are several things we can and should do to improve and expand infrastructure. One is raise the gas tax, in phases, that is commensurate with states similar in size and scale. The much needed revenues will allow us to truly tackle our roads and bridges for our increased car usage. This can help prevent catastrophes like we saw in Minnesota in 2007. We also should match the City's dollars from the Prop 1 effort we passed during my tenure in Room 200, and complete the buildout for north-south metrolink. Expanded light-rail not only enhances mobility, but can lessen the need for car use which means less economic maintenance for the individual and less stress on our roads and bridges. Finally, I believe it useful to get creative. One policy initiative is to create a transit development district around the entire city where those funds can be deployed for transit oriented development throughout the city.

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?

Not only should our grid be modernized, we need better planning for what this state should look like for the next generation. This means modernizing our pipes underground, our fiber optic and electric lines, natural disaster upgrades, etc. With any budget, we have to prioritize how we spend, and where the tax revenues come from. If one option is raising utility rates, it should only be the commercial rates that rise, with penalties in place if a company tries to pass on the cost to residents. We also need to hire more urban planners to assist our engineers in structuring our state in ways that has advantages for all of us, not just businesses.

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?

H.B 1303 sponsored by Representative Alferman is a good start, but only addresses a symptom of the overall problem. Money in politics has been shown to be corrosive. If money is truly speech, then there is a clear inequity amongst residents whereby their voices have been stunted and stymied. Lobbyists has become a pejorative, but the persons fighting on behalf of the issues that matter to them and their community are not the issue. It's the access they garner based on their ability to finance what elected officials desire. We should not only regulate the relationship between lobbyists and elected officials, we should also regulate PACs and large money expenditures, as well as tackle publicly financing campaigns.

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

I don't believe it's the state's responsibility to ensure voter's participate. That's up to each and every campaign to gin up the support needed to get voters to the polls. What's more, if we are to believe in liberty, we also have to respect a voter's right to participate by not participating. The state should however remove itself from creating barriers that allow folks to vote as easily and efficiently as possible. The state should should also affirm and protect this right by using whatever the appropriate measures needed to protect anyone who's been disenfranchised. Being a pro-vote state doesn't mean more voters vote, but it does ensure voters that want to vote can do so without it being onerous or suffering any recriminations.

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?

I believe we have to stop pitting public schools and private schools against one other. I believe the more educational options our children have, the better. I grew up in the Clinton Peabody housing projects where the public schools my neighbors had to attend weren't able to prepare them for the present, let alone future. Black families have suffered from an inequity in education for generations, so any option we have to provide more opportunity for a more sustainable future for our children, we take. Part of the issue is the bulk of public school funding comes from property taxes. The quality of one's education shouldn't be based off of one's neighborhood assessed value. There needs to be a sustainable fund that not only supports public schools, but ensures there isn't a resource issue. With proper and expected resources, we can actually focus on the curriculum that prepares our children for the future they deserve.

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?

Part of representation is showing up and being responsive. When residents organize themselves to challenge the status quo and advance a vision for a better future as Mobilize Missouri has, it's even more imperative to show up and be responsive. The cares of our citizens should be our concerns, especially those of us seeking leadership roles with vested authorities in our state. Mobilize Missouri represents a faction of those residents, and I believe it incumbent upon me to be present for those residents. Being affirmed in this journey is an invaluable benefit for this campaign, and all that we wish to achieve on behalf of the people we claim to love.

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

Every campaign has some variation of redressing that which causes economic anxiety, alleviating the effects of an antiquated criminal justice system, expanding access to healthcare for our most vulnerable, etc. If one wants to effect change in Jefferson City, one can't limit themselves to a handful of issues or speak in soundbites. The issues that our residents care about are and should be dictated by our residents. Our residents don't have the luxury of picking and choosing issues they face every day, even when they try and prioritize what's perceived to be most important in that moment. Us folks in politics do too much prescribing and not enough listening. My value system is based in a basic belief that we are to ensure the next generation has a better future than our present. That requires working together in remedying that which ails us as a collective.

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 fortunate to have worked on behalf of principles and organizations that differ in style and substance. It allowed me to expand my vantage point, and further instilled a belief in me to eschew compulsory politics. As I stated previously in the aforementioned question, those of us privy to politics via the access we have do too much prescribing and not enough listening. We are the village it takes to move our polis forward. We just have to be intentional in our efforts, persistent in our outreach, cultivate that which binds us, and be open to the differences that make us who we are. When you are born black growing up in a distressed community enduring intense economic hardships, one's path to politics isn't typical of the class that's led for so long. Your existence is based on your ability to navigate. Your staying power depends on your ability to perform. I believe my career thus far speaks to my ability, and I will leverage that ability and the relationships I've built along the way in Jefferson City to not only positively effect change, but ensure we are a more welcoming state to live, work, play and do business in.

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

There is always a circumstance for a procedural tactic to be deployed. The question is why you use such a tactic, and how it is employed. There will be abuses, but there are always abuses in a free society. I'm not for more restrictions, I'm for more tools, more rights and more enfranchisement. To that end, I support the use of clean bills when necessary.

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?**

___As much time as it requires___ 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?**

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

___More than the other candidates___

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.

Beyond the public service responsibilities that have employed me, including NARAL & Ethical Society of Police, I serve in several different capacities in the city. I am a member of New Leadership Council, I serve on the steering committees of Gene Slay Girls & Boys Club and the Missouri Historical Society, and I am a member of the 1st Financial Federal Credit Union's Community Development Financial Institution Board. These entities allow me direct access to the community whose pleasure I serve at, while expanding my vantage point of issues in need of remediation. This campaign is not resting on resume however. We want to reach as many residents as humanly possible. The most important part of a campaign is what comes after the election. Win or lose, we have to come together to govern, so it's important be involved in all facets of public service as reasonably as possible.

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:

Mobilize Missouri put together one of the more comprehensive questionnaires this election cycle thus far. If one is serious about running for office, one must also be serious about



representing the people. I believe it's very clear from these responses who is serious about and prepared for the job, and who isn't. What's more, if one can't adequately acquit themselves in answering basic questions in this format, it begs the question of one's ability to legislate affirmative policy in a place as intransigent as Jefferson City. I hope my answers came off as clear and salient as intended. But I also want folks to know, I am not running against anyone in this race. I, along with my fellow office seekers, are simply running for the same position. We should exalt and extol the courage it takes to put one's name forward in an effort to tackle a mission larger than us for the purpose of moving us forward. My only aim is to distinguish my candidacy, not diminish others. Pollyanna as it may be, we are all in this together.