



MOBILIZE MISSOURI

State House of Representatives Candidate Survey 2018



HEALTHCARE

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

I support a single payer option, medical marijuana, access to contraception no matter the ability to pay for it, protecting the environment (the lack of doing so affects health more than almost any other factor,) paid family leave of 12 weeks, and providing money for drug treatment centers and rehabilitation services for drug addicts.

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

The legislature can fund rehabilitation programs that focus on allowing addicts to break the cycle of addiction. Incarceration only is not an appropriate response to drug addiction and crimes related to it. I support making police stations and fire stations places where people can go to access help, turn in drugs and drug paraphernalia, without fear of arrest and providing state funding to cities who implement programs like this.

Yes or no:

3. Do you support using state funds for addiction and recovery resources?

Yes X No _____

4. Would you support a bill to apply for an Affordable Care Act Reinsurance waiver?

Yes X No _____

5. Do you support Medicare for All legislation (public health insurance)?

Yes X No _____

ENVIRONMENT

6. What type of legislation do you believe the Missouri legislature could pass to have a significant impact on combating climate change?

The state needs to protect public lands, reward organic farming practices that reduce pressure on the environment, and provide tax incentives for solar panels and other energy reducing programs.

Yes or no:

7. Do you support states tax credits and or/exemptions for businesses and private citizens investing in renewable energy?

Yes X No ____

8. Do you support a state buyout for residents near the West Lake Landfill?

Yes X 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 X No ____

ECONOMIC & LABOR POLICY

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

First of all, Right to Work must fail. I believe the state should support community college and vocational programs to create a larger talent pool of prepared workers. The state should also provide incentives to entrepreneurs and small businesses.

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 would be interested in finding ways for the state to support all small businesses, not just cooperatives. I will bring every ounce of business experience I have to support small business and entrepreneurs. These are the job creators. Access to capital is one of the most critical needs for small business to succeed and increasing access to capital will be at the top of my agenda. Expansion of ESOP and other employee investments in the success of the businesses they work for is another piece of the puzzle that allows all employees to share in the profits and growth of their companies. I am especially interested in expansion of micro loans for very small start ups and encouraging investors to fund these micro businesses, perhaps something like a scaled down version of Arch Grants.

Yes or no:

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

Yes No \$10.10, SEIU's federal number, and then increasing incrementally with inflation every single year

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 There needs to be more than 2 tax brackets

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?

As a private citizen, I organized neighbors in my community to collectively fund a program called “Cops Walking a Beat,” in which second shift officers are literally walking or cycling the neighborhood. This has led to, in the opinions of both officers and neighbors, an increased camaraderie between the two groups. While this might not be the solution for every neighborhood, I believe there is a solution for every neighborhood if the efforts are community based. I support the cooperation between police and community groups to recruit additional officers, especially minority officers, and want increased de-escalation training for police. Since local control, though, the state cannot (and maybe even should not) mandate city policies, but I would work with the city’s police department as I do now to create programming that works for every neighborhood in my District and across the city.

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

Fully funding education is the most effective way to reduce crime. Poverty is the father of crime. When students have an opportunity to succeed and learn from a young age, they will leave poverty and desperation behind - two things that directly result in crime.

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

Yes. Right now, I support the legalization of medical marijuana. I believe marijuana could be a cash crop for our state and am interested in understanding the benefits to the state of full legalization.

Yes or no:

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

Yes No State troopers already do more than traffic violations.

22. Do you support appointing a special prosecutor for officer involved shootings?

Yes No

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

Yes No I see no value in special penalties for any segment of the population.

24. Do you support ending the death penalty?

Yes 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 would describe myself as pro-life and do so in the broadest definition I can apply. I have done, and will continue in the future to do, all I can to help women who might find themselves facing a difficult pregnancy. I extend that core belief to the understanding that it is critical to provide and fund nutrition programs, healthcare, education, and more to help anyone in need. I am a strong supporter of helping our fellow citizens with disabilities and have long been against the death penalty. America is divided in many ways on this issue and as a result much litigation has occurred.

The Supreme Court has ruled, and I accept, a woman's right to choose as recognized in Roe v. Wade. I support a woman's right to an abortion in cases of rape, incest, or life and health of the mother. I support access to contraception, regardless of the person's ability to pay for it. I said the same thing in the NARAL questionnaire and the Missouri Right to Life Questionnaire. My beliefs do not change, regardless of which group I am speaking with.

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?

First and foremost: The Governor must resign. I have a zero tolerance policy for perpetrators of sexual harassment. The #MeToo movement did much to ensure women feel safe (or, safer) in reporting harassment, but there is more to do. I believe women when they tell me they have been harassed - that is the first step. Women must be believed.

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 **X**, I believe, in this case, if one side of the issue gets tax credits, the other should too.

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)

1. I support construction of more efficient and accessible public transit.
2. I support proper maintenance of our roads, bridges and public waterways.
3. I support development of ride-sharing technologies.

In addition, I support higher statewide taxes on gasoline (and tobacco, for that matter) on the condition that the new revenues are used to strengthen the health safety net for children, people with disabilities, and seniors.

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 yes, ideally partnered with some state funding or tax incentives for utility companies.

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?

I do not believe it's a good idea to remove reporting requirements for lobbyist gifts. I would not take gifts from lobbyists myself, and would want to ban lobbyist gifts. I am committed to finding and developing talented and ethical candidates who will have no issue with rejecting any/all lobbyists gifts.

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

Same day registration, early voting, and getting rid of the current voter ID laws. We should be doing everything possible to make it easier to vote, not harder.

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** I support the State playing a role, but not superseding the City and the County

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 support school funding at a level to ensure that every district has enough resources to provide an excellent education and a clean, safe learning environment for student, no matter where they live. I support higher pay for teachers and fewer diversions of school revenue to economic development projects. I support a statewide approach to curriculum that prepares most students for successful careers, including investing in community college and vocational training. I support greater resources for UMSL and Harris Stowe University to develop them into the region's universities of choice for students and for employers. I support charter schools, in conjunction with strong accountability standards set by the state.

Yes or no:

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

Yes___ No **X**, except charter schools are public schools by definition. I do support charter schools.

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 **XXXXX**

GENERAL

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

I know I'm not your guy. Some of my stances might be too "conservative." I also know we could work well together. We may not agree on every issue, but there are plenty of issues we do agree on. Mobilize Missouri, even though it has only been around for a few years, has done a great job organizing around issues and candidates and has been able to bring more people into the political process. I deeply respect and appreciate what Mobilize does, its founders, and its goals. If I'm elected, I would hope we could work together on the many issues we both care about.

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

1. Support education
 - a. I support school funding at a level to ensure that every district has enough resources to provide an excellent education and a clean, safe learning environment for student, no matter where they live.
 - b. I support higher pay for teachers and fewer diversions of school revenue to economic development projects.
 - c. I support a statewide approach to curriculum that prepares most students for successful careers, including investing in community college and vocational training.
 - d. I support greater resources for UMSL and Harris Stowe University to develop them into the region's universities of choice for students and for employers.
 - e. I support charter schools, in conjunction with strong accountability standards set by the state.
2. Oppose Right to Work
 - a. I oppose the legislative effort to impose a so-called "right to work" in Missouri. What RTW proponents want to do is make it harder for people to form unions and to bargain collectively. An attack on union families is an attack on all Missouri families.
 - b. I support an increase to the state's minimum wage of \$7.85. We need to raise the minimum wage incrementally every year.
 - c. I support keeping the state's unemployment benefits at 20 weeks, and do not support the current effort to reduce benefits to 13 weeks.
3. Expand access to Healthcare
 - a. I support paid family leave of 12 weeks.

- b. I support access to contraception no matter ability to pay for it.
- c. I support a single payer option.
- d. I support the legalization of medical marijuana.
- e. I support protecting the environment, the lack of doing so affects health more than almost any other factor.
- f. I support Medicaid expansion, and finding ways to make these programs more efficient and effective.
- g. I support providing money for drug treatment centers and rehabilitation services for drug addicts. I support more rehabilitative options towards drug addiction.

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

Personally, I make it a point to seek out opinions that differ from my own. I understand that my experience gives me a certain viewpoint, and the experiences of others give them a certain viewpoint. It's up to both parties to come to every conversation knowing that, and to be open to what the other has to say. I support laws that mandate inclusion, and do not support discriminatory laws. I hope to lean on colleagues who come from backgrounds that are different from my own when my own experience limits my viewpoint. In my own personal life, I come from a very large, diverse family experience. We have several immediate family members who are a different race from myself. My brother and sister were gay. I have lived and worked with immigrants from South America, Mexico, and Africa.

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

I support "clean bills."

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 X No ____

52. Have you raised money/gotten commitments already?

Yes X 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?

30+ 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?

Yes

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

Prefer not to answer

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.

Unions, neighborhood groups across District 81, and answering every questionnaire I receive. Even if we don't agree on everything, there is something we agree on. And, no matter what, I want to make sure people know that I will always be responsive to them.

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 am an open book. I'll tell you what I think and tell you honestly. I will make sure that no matter what I accomplish in Jeff City, I'm accomplishing as much as possible for South City. While there are elected officials within in that are fighting it, our current legislature seems focused on getting to the bottom as quickly as possible - lack of progressive policies, insistence on attacking unions and workers, efforts to remove social safety nets... all of these things hurt our State and hurt our City. I am sure my opponent cares about St. Louis and wants to do his best for it in Jefferson City. The difference between us is that I have decades of experience managing businesses, employing people and providing excellent benefits, and have lived in many areas of the District. I will work harder than anyone, and my experience in having one of my businesses in rural Missouri gives me insight into the needs of those communities. I will work to find common ground wherever it exists. My door is always open and I will return every phone call. I will be accessible and accountable to the people of my District and my State. If you live in the District, I hope to earn your vote. Even if you do not live in the District and even if you do not support me, I hope to earn your trust. Call me with any additional questions. I'd be happy to talk to you. 314-250-1710. You can also read my platform here:



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