



MOBILIZE MISSOURI

State House of Representatives Candidate Survey 2018
Brad Bakker – District 84



HEALTHCARE

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

First and foremost, we need to expand Medicaid as soon as possible. Beyond that most basic step, however, we also need to make sure the Department of Health and Senior Services is better funded in order to provide sufficient resources for in-home health for the disabled and elderly who vitally need these services.

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

First, we can legalize and regulate marijuana and other cannabinoid products to provide alternatives for pain relief to people who desperately need them. Second, we can expand funding for Medicaid, substance abuse treatment, and mental health supports to make sure that those needing addiction treatment and assistance receive the help they need.

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?

Missouri has one of the lowest gas taxes in the nation, and increasing it would provide much needed revenue while incentivizing drivers to choose more fuel efficient vehicles and modes of transportation. We can also include tax incentives in the budget process for homes and businesses to install solar panels in order to lessen our reliance on fossil fuels.

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

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?

No



ECONOMIC & LABOR POLICY

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

Missouri should not focus on giving out tax credits to any and all businesses (which only encourages a loss of tax revenue and race to the bottom with neighboring states), but instead provide incentives and loans (particularly with a state-backed micro-finance program) for entrepreneurs to build new businesses in our state.

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, and potentially the state-backed micro-finance program discussed above could prioritize fund allocation to these types of businesses.

Yes or no:

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

Yes \$15 (raised over time)

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?

Yes

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?

The Missouri legislature needs to tackle comprehensive criminal justice reforms in order to restore trust in the criminal justice system, which will help foster cooperation between citizens and law enforcement. The state legislature should also provide incentives for local police departments to adopt implicit bias and de-escalation training programs that are certified, as well as better community policing.

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

I believe we need to restore trust in our criminal justice system, in large part with better community policing, as citizen/law enforcement cooperation and coordination is incredibly important in keeping neighborhoods safe.

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

Yes, I support full legalization (with reasonable time/place and other regulations) of marijuana, whether for medical or recreational use.

Yes or no:

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

No

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 strongly support a woman's right to choose and women's reproductive health decisions should be made by women in consultation with their medical professional of choice. I am upfront about my views to those with differing views, and often point out that I do not think that government should infringe on the most intimate of decisions.

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?

Having independent investigators appointed for elected officials accused of sexual harassment is incredibly important to having comprehensive investigations and accountability for such actions. Independent investigators could also be appointed by leadership in order to keep complaints confidential where possible.

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)

My top three priorities are road and rail bridge repairs to prevent serious disasters, providing assistance to cities to maintain and expand rail/bus service, and investing in rural broadband coverage.

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?

While I believe this would be very helpful, I am skeptical that any costs for improvements for the electrical grid would not be borne by customers who have already seen their costs for trash, water, and gas service rise.

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; But only in limited ways such as on freight shipping to not create problems for individuals on fixed incomes who are already paying overly high sales and other regressive taxes.



GOVERNANCE

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

My understanding is that this is HB 1303. While I strongly support a ban on lobbyist expenditures (and will never accept any lobbyist gifts in Jefferson City as a legislator), I have concerns about the elimination of reporting that the bill deems unnecessary due to the ban. The bill also lacks strong definitions of “customary” gifts so that I believe there are large potential loopholes in this bill.

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

The state should pass automatic voter registration when individuals obtain their driver’s license or other state ID. The state should also make the general election day a state holiday to encourage voter participation. Finally, the state should expand absentee voting and allow for early voting to improve voter options and participation.

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; While a local solution would be preferable, I strongly favor efforts to repair our fractured and fragmented local government.

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?

Better funding for the schools remains a must, and DESE should also establish definitive standards (rather than frequently moving the goal-posts) regarding accreditation. Schools losing accreditation should receive a large funding boost from the state while also undergoing significant administrative changes in order to rectify problems more quickly.

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 have been strongly encouraged by the activism and energy that Mobilize Missouri has brought to our political process, and as someone who believes in involving new voices in our political process, I hope to receive this endorsement. I believe that I can best represent the new ideas, energy, and progressive ideals that Mobilize Missouri have pushed for in our region.

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

Criminal justice reform and public safety issues, equitable economic development, and ethics reform.

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

I think it is important to have the diverse voices in the Democratic caucus lead on key issues of experience and expertise, and taking a supportive role to those who are doing the best work on key issues (such as Rep. Cora Faith Walker on health care policy, Rep. Bruce Franks on systemic racism issues, and Rep. Crystal Quade on budgetary matters). I hope to back their efforts and be a supportive voice rather than a supplanting voice in the legislature.

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

I generally support this principle as it reduces the opportunity for corruption and legislators slipping problematic riders and giveaways through that few notice until later.

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?

40 hours – I already spend this amount of time on questionnaires, other paperwork, canvassing, campaign meetings, call-time, and other campaign related events.

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 – voting totals range from approximately 2,500 – 5,800 in the district, and we expect a voter turnout of approximately 5,000 in the primary.

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

2,500 is the key number based on the above, though our ultimate target is 3,000

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.

My legal network and union connections (my family has strong union membership / ties with the Ironworkers Local 396 and IBEW 1) have been very helpful for fundraising and support. I have already been endorsed by the Teamsters Local 688.

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 believe I bring the needed experience and policy background to quickly make an impact in Jefferson City. I previously worked as a judicial clerk for the federal courts, assisting Judge William J. Haynes, Jr. with drafting court decisions. In my private practice I've organized and managed a legal clinic for the homeless to provide attorneys and legal advice for those unable to afford legal services. I have also worked with the Midwest Innocence Project and other public interest organizations to file briefs in the U.S. Supreme Court and Missouri Supreme Court on behalf of the wrongfully convicted and in support of reforming the Missouri criminal justice system.



I have the knowledge and familiarity to identify short-comings in current law and address needed reforms. I also have experience drafting and interpreting legislation so that I can hit the ground running upon taking office.