



MOBILIZE MISSOURI

State Candidate Survey 2018
Maria Chappelle-Nadal – District 86



HEALTHCARE

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

The State of Missouri is in grave danger of turning into a state that distributes health care through block grants. The national Republicans are trying to select who gets health care and who does not. While know the ACA is the best option we have to date - that's also tested - there are some changes that need to be adopted, such as allowing prosthetics and orthotics to be covered under the federal law. Missouri is losing out by not fully adopting the multitude of benefits that the ACA allows. I will continue to fight for access for home health care for our seniors and those with disabilities. I will also continue to fight for additional funds to benefit the First Steps program which supports developing babies.

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

The best way to deal with the opioid crisis is by recognizing the failed efforts in addressing the heroin and crack crisis in the 70s and 80s. Complete communities were destroyed because of these epidemics. These days opioids are a crisis. Recently, a Post-Dispatch article stated St. Louis County was at its highest level since monitoring the use of opioids. In the last few years, the legislature has made efforts to save more lives by allowing first responders to have access to life saving tools. I will continue speaking with families on how they've been negatively impacted by the addiction and then follow up with that valuable information in the legislature to create sound policies.

Yes or no:

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

Yes__xxx__ No____

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

Yes__xxx__ No____

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

Yes__xxx__ No____

ENVIRONMENT

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

I have been a longtime supporter of renewable energy. It is important that we focus on our carbon footprints on the planet Earth. Air quality has been taken for granted for too long. Contaminated particles in the air have a direct affect on our health. Missouri has an old law that exempts vehicles over a certain age from having to pass an emissions test. That law has always irked me and next session I plan to work on this issue.

As the legislative champion for raising awareness about radioactive waste, there are several new policies that our legislature needs to adopt. It is my firm belief that every level of government and businesses with large sums of liability are accountable for their part. There is currently a breakdown in communication among local, state and federal governmental entities. Citizens lose out when their elected officials are not adequately knowledgeable about our radioactive waste crisis that impacts the entire region either by water, soil, air or the food we eat. St. Louis is a cancer cluster and we must have all hands on deck. In two years, I've held 100 townhall meetings on the subject matter. I also gather empirical data - to better stay informed – by working with families that live in fear of getting cancer or an autoimmune disease or those that already suffer from an illness. I've interviewed many that have since died due to exposure to radioactive waste.

Yes or no:

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

Yes _xxx_ No

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

Yes _xxx_ No

9. Do you support selling state park land to private entities for economic development?

Yes No _xxx_

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 _xxx_

ECONOMIC & LABOR POLICY

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

The state MBE/WBE contracting process is a farce. It makes it very difficult for minority-owned businesses from getting public contracts on the local and state level. While St. Louis County recently passed a better MBE contracting process, there are holes still needing to be filled.

Public and private partnerships are more important than ever in this economy. However, a plan to fully diversify the workforce is necessary, especially after the events in Ferguson. As a frontline protestor in Ferguson, after the shooting of Mike Brown, who was teargassed for 3 ½ hours on a street without an outlet, many inequity issues were brought into the sunlight. What was apparent is that we have a lot of talented yet hopeless young people who've had a hard life. I spend my time giving this population of people hope and opportunity by connecting them to broader networks.

I been a longtime supporter of labor. While I have huge respect and appreciation for unions such as CWA, SEIU and AFSCME, there is still work to do to diversity the building trades. Inequity still exists. I tell residents all the time that I will support their labor policy positions as long as I get to talk about an inequity when I see it. It is in our contract, post-Ferguson.

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. Higher learning opportunities. A skilled workforce is a stable workforce. We need to do a better job at getting the poor out of poverty. In many of the communities that I represent, the concept of a middle class is out of reach for their lifetime.

Yes or no:

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

Yes__xxx__ No___ \$_\$25. I've filed legislation increasing the minimum wage to \$15 dollars per hour, but I simply don't think even that is a livable wage for working families.

14. Do you support right to work legislation?

Yes___ No__xxx__

15. Will you vote for the state to commit to using union businesses to fulfill state contracts?

Yes__xxx__ No___

16. Would you vote to consolidate the current state tax brackets into 2 brackets?

Yes___ No__xxx__

17. Do you support low income housing credits?

Yes__xxx__ No___

POLICING/JUSTICE

18. What can the state legislature do to improve law enforcement relationships with disenfranchised communities?

Pass the law enforcements reforms I've filed as legislation and have called for since 2013 and especially post-Ferguson. Cultural and competency training is a must.

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

Jobs, education and expanded mental health services.

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

I support recreational and medicinal use of marijuana. #FreeTheHerb

Yes or no:

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

Yes___ No__xxx__

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

Yes__xxx__ No___

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

Yes___ No__xxx__

24. Do you support ending the death penalty?

Yes__xxx__ 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 a woman's right to choose an abortion. I don't engage with groups that have opposite views on reproductive care. However, in the legislature and among my colleagues, I talk about personal freedom, the health considerations of a woman, cases of incest or rape, and abusive relationships. Since I have been studying the impact of radioactive waste, I urge women to go to Planned Parenthood if they are concerned with their reproductive health.

Furthermore, I fully and wholly support the Trans and Queer communities.

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?

As a three-time victim of sexual harassment in the state capitol, I have zero tolerance for anyone who chooses to violate another person's space. I have aided and guided former interns when they've needed to talk to someone about an incident. I have spoken on behalf of capitol staff to administrators to make sure their work spaces are safe and supportive. I report every situation of harassment that I am made aware of.

Yes or no:

27. Will you protect access to contraception and support mandated insurance coverage, state or private?

Yes__xxx__ No____

28. Do you support repealing restrictions against abortion providers and hospitals, including doctor/hospital privileges and the 72 hour waiting period?

Yes__xxx__ No____

29. Will you support removing state tax credits for crisis pregnancy centers?

Yes__xxx__ No____

30. Do you support mandating that medically accurate sex education be taught in every public school district?

Yes__xxx__ No____

As a school board member I supported real life sex education in our classes.

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

Yes__xxx__ No____

Absolutely. I am a big supporter of transgender individuals. My former intern, Nathan, was curious. I support him to this day. It is quite a compliment to share such a big part of his life.

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)

Our local roads are terrible and need to be fixed. As a St. Louisan, I will fight for our fair share of what we pay into general revenue. Outstate Missouri gets more in financial benefits than our region, yet we pay a larger portion in taxes. Thirdly, the state needs to improve minority contracting in highway and road projects.

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?

I believe in investing in our aging infrastructure. I do not believe taxpayers should pay for the costs of repairs and replacements. The legislation before the general assembly, this year, placed a huge cost burden on utility customers. That's not right for those on fixed incomes.

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__xxx__ No____

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

Yes__xxx__ No____

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

Yes__xxx__ 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 support banning lobbyist gifts. However, I do not support loopholes that allow non-disclosure. Everything should be public.

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

Same day voting registration. Child care provisions and better access for the physically challenged.

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 __xxx__ No ____

Yes, generally, but the people of the St. Louis must get the opportunity to vote on what their desires are when it comes to a merger of any kind.

40. Do you support repealing Missouri's voter ID law?

Yes __xxx__ No ____

EDUCATION

Survey:

41. What do you believe would improve Missouri public schools, to make them a better option than private schools?

Invest in teachers. Climate and culture are very important principles in having a good foundation in public schools. Allow teachers the freedom to be creative when teaching. Stop teaching to the test!

Yes or no:

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

Yes___ No__xxx__

Charter schools are public schools. Having said that, it is vital that charter schools have the same accountability mandates as traditional public schools. I've been cleaning up charter school laws for years. There is still much more work to do.

As a previous state representative, I always voted against school vouchers.

43. Do you support the election of school boards by voters of the local school district?

Yes__xxx__ No___

44. Do you approve of the process Governor Greitens used to appoint state education board members?

Yes___ No__xxx__

45. Should teachers be allowed to carry firearms in public schools?

Yes___ No__xxx__

GENERAL

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

When I was running for congress in 2016, I was supported by Mobilize Missouri. As I engaged in local meetups in those days, I felt like there was a safe space for me as a Democrat. I represent the most progressive end of the party. And because of who I am, I've not always felt embraced. Mobilize Missouri changed the game. And that is why I donated nearly \$100,000 to progressive candidates, including endorsed Mobilize Missouri candidates, in 2016.

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

- a) Pass legislation that forces the Departments of Natural Resources and Health and Senior Services to be proactive in home buyout programs and testing and remediation of contaminated properties. It is also important to continue to educate the public about the regional cancer cluster, while keeping the EPA accountable.
- b) Pass legislation that provides a balanced plan when dealing with unaccredited school buildings.
- c) Adopt policies for sexual harassment reports that don't re-victimize individuals or allow the culprits to continue in their predatory behavior. A zero-tolerance policy is non-negotiable.

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

I have a record of practicing inclusivity in my daily life. I am proud to be the mentor of a gay high school teenager. I support the human race and I value our similarities and differences. I'm in love with the first amendment which includes the freedom of expression.

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

That would be ideal to have clean bills. It depends on how "clean" is defined. The four-word description above does not account for real life, nor practicality. Issues are sometimes complex. Part of sausage making is to balance out the interests of opposing sides. And that's a difficult task that I've experienced time after time. It's great when we all agree. But when we don't agree, I want the least harm done to the residents I represent.

Yes or no/fill in the blank:

50. Do you have a committee formed?

Yes ___xxx___ No ___

51. Do you have a fundraising plan?

Yes ___xxx___ No ___

52. Have you raised money/gotten commitments already?

Yes ___xxx___ No ___

53. Do you have a campaign manager?

Yes ___xxx___ No ___

54. What amount of time per week do you envision dedicating to campaigning and call time?

__88-90 hours/week__

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

Yes ___xxx___ No ___

56. Do you know the size of your universe?

__xxx__

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

A majority ___

58. Do you have someone organizing volunteers for your campaign?

Yes ___xxx___ No ___

59. List any relevant networks are you a part of or targeting in order to broaden your reach. All demographics, including seniors, gym friends, educators, neighbors, family and business owners.

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 work really hard to understand the issues that face the region. I've been knocked around a bit because I have my own style of governing and I speak the truth whether my opposition wants to hear it or not. I take personal risks for the residents I represent. When it comes to the health and well-being of residents in the 86th district, I will be ready, armed with information and willing to stand in the gap, just like I did during the Ferguson Uprising.

As for my opponents...

Farrakhan has only voted 5 times since 2016, before filing for office. When I offered to mentor him for a 2020 run, he declined. I'm looking for a tested successor.

Gloria is a regular voter. She is not taking this political conservative climate seriously.

Bobby Shields is a regular voter. He has no organization or committee set up since the last time I checked.