



MOBILIZE MISSOURI

U.S. Congress Candidate Survey 2018

Bill Haas

Candidate Name:

Date:

April 27, 2018



TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Survey:

1. How would you incentivize clean power initiatives?

Through tax code and/or subsidies.

2. Where should the money for infrastructure investment come from?

90% federal government; without controlling both houses, will be difficult; might have to do some trading.

Yes or no:

3. Do you consider the internet a public utility?

Yes No

4. Do you support net neutrality?

Yes No

5. Do you support the expansion of light rail transit?

Yes No

6. Do you support electrical grid modernization?

Yes No

HEALTHCARE

Survey:

7. What solutions can the federal government offer to address the heroin epidemic?

Alternative sentencing and treatment; state and federal registries of opioids, free needle exchanges; possibly de-criminalization partial or all. Figure out life situations that are causing it and address those.

8. How would you address the dearth of adequate healthcare in rural areas?

Tax-incentives, medical school and nursing school incentives, subsidies.

Yes or no:

9. Do you support the negotiation of Medicare/Medicaid drug prices with Canada?

Yes__yes___ No___

10. Do you support the legalization of marijuana?

Yes__yes___ No___

but more youth will use so must take some of the money from taxation and use for education; regular use very bad for brains under 30.

11. Should the government mandate that all state prescription drug monitoring programs are accessible to health care providers and other prescribers?

Yes___ No___

I think so but am not sure I understand; what a smart questionnaire; goodness gracious!

12. Do you support Medicare for All or a comparable universal healthcare solution?

Yes__yes___ No___

For over 20 years; one of original members of Missouri Single Payer.

13. The Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) is a federal law that requires anyone coming to an emergency department to be stabilized and treated, regardless of their insurance status or ability to pay, since 1986 this is an unfunded mandate. Do you support funding this mandate until a Universal Healthcare Solution is enacted to ease the cost burden on urban and rural hospitals?

Yes__well, of course, what caring sane person wouldn't?___ No___

ENVIRONMENT

Survey:

14. How should state and federal governments deal with clean water issues like Flint, MI?

Well, the facts of Flint are a special case, but clean water is a basic necessity and right; whatever it takes in the way of federal and state assistance.

15. What should be the position the federal government takes on climate change? Why?

We need to try to stop it before it's too late. First there's no doubt it's a fact, and second, even if there is some doubt, wouldn't you rather address and be wrong than not address and be wrong?

Yes or no:

16. Would you suggest federal involvement in dealing with West Lake landfill?

Yes__of course__ No____

17. Do you support private companies being allowed to drill on public lands, protected areas, or parks?

Yes____ No__generally no__

18. Do you support coal/oil industry subsidies?

Yes____ No__What! Are you kidding me? Of course not.__

19. Should we continue to fund the cost of national parks?

Yes__well of course__ No____

ECONOMIC & LABOR POLICY

Survey:

20. How do you think we can plan our economy for changes to industries/loss of jobs due to automation and the obsolescence of the nation's industrial sector?

Any company that lays off workers b/c automation or merger/acquisition should be required to pay them fair severance and/or pay for retraining, like 5% of pay for every year of service. If you cant afford it, then don't automate or merge. It's that simple. Obsolescence, the government should pay for retraining. I've thought this for over 20 years since we were going to stop logging in the northwest to save snail darters (before most of your time?). If we weren't willing to make sure loggers who lost their jobs, whole, then don't let the door hit the snail darters in the butt on the way out. Snail darters god's children, and loggers are too.

21. What is your approach to tax policy?

Well, before any or the other candidates were born (except the two who filed last), I wrote me senior thesis at Harvard Law School under Stan Surrey (now deceased), former Under Secretary of Treasury on reforming the tax code: two main points: tax-code a terrible way to incentivize behavior b/c rich benefit more from deductions. So subsidies best, tax-credits better than tax deductions, and if you don't have enough income to offset tax-credits, we give you the money, like Earned Income Tax Credit, which needs to be expanded. I'm also in favor of Universal Basic Income. Also, the other point of my thesis was to simply the tax-code so you answer a few questions on a postcard and IRS figures your taxes. Now it can be done by computer software of course.

The issue/policy I seem about the only one to espouse, and I've done it forever, though recently there was a bill in congress to this effect, is to ban federal subsidies, like tax-exempt bonds, to existing companies looking to move to a different jurisdiction, including sports teams, blackmailing and extorting, and playing one jurisdiction against the others for subsidies they don't need, a zero-sum game where they win and taxpayers lose. Even my former mayor of Cleveland (I was one of his assistant law directors 1977-1979), the great progressive, didn't propose this, nor my favorite economist Paul Krugman to my knowledge, though I'm sure they'd agree with it.

22. What role should unions play in our future? Please include your thoughts on Right to Work legislation.

Opposing Right To Work a no-brainer. You know, it's right to work for less. Unions played an important role in this country's development of fairness, and they should be encouraged. On the other hand, I hate strikes, and am in favor of mandatory binding arbitration as alternative to strike.

Yes or no:

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



Yes__yes___ No___ \$___\$1/year up to \$15 indexed to inflation.___

24. Do you support a Financial Transaction Tax (FTT)?

Yes__yes___ No___

25. Should there be increased enforcement of antitrust laws?

Yes_well, fair enforcement___ No___

26. Do we need to decrease federal spending?

Yes___ No___ No, we need to stimulate jobs with money for infrastructure and education. Education especially is the key to this country's future, the answer to crime (third-grade reading scores abysmal in urban and rural areas, as 4-term member of St. Louis School Board, I would know that), and is a basic tenet of my congressional platform, urban, rural and everyone in between. The key is a second qualified adult (teaching assistant) in every classroom, pre-k (very important and should be universal) through third. Will take some money that school districts and state cant afford, so has to be federal. In the St. Louis Schools will take about \$9 million/year, and we currently have a pilot program to show the benefit b/c of my advocacy.

27. Should we continue to fund Medicare and Social Security; the so-called entitlements?

Yes_duh! Of course___ No___

POLICING/JUSTICE

Survey:

28. What are your thoughts on reducing the prison population, and recidivism rates in the US?

Non-violent offender need to be out with adequate social services support and job training, and alaternative sentencing for drug-crimes. Am in favor of life-imprisonment no possibility of parole for aggravated child molestation. Recidivism rate prohibitively high, and if we can cure it, we're not doing it. Nice issue for Democrats too; not much sadder than a child molester who's let out and does it again. Better than restricting where they can live, which is just a joke.

29. How would you improve equity within our Court system with reference to plea deals, 3-strikes laws, and mandatory minimums?

These are complicated issues I'd rather not try to sound-bite. No plea-deals without good cause on dwi/dui. People in our area, alderman?, with 8-9 offenses on their record not including ones that have been plea-bargained. Not a big fan of 3-strikes and out unless violent felonies. Mandatory minimums seem to eliminate racism in sentencing but I'd like judge to have some discrestion for good cause.

Yes or no:

30. Are you in favor of for profit prisons?

Yes___ No___No, charter schools either___

31. Would you support restoring the vote to felons who have served their time?

Yes_sure___ No_____

32. Are you in favor of federal legislation to remove the "felon box" from job applications?

Yes _sure___ No_____

33. Do you think police departments need military grade equipment?

Yes___ No_Not really; what they need is better training, more money, and more enforcement of officers who violate policy.

34. Do you support ending the death penalty?

Yes_always have since I can remember, 30-40 years___ No_____

35. Do you support creating a committee to study and make suggestions on how to reduce crime in prisons?

Yes_of course___ No_____

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS & GENDER ISSUES

Survey:

36. Where do you stand on reproductive freedom for women? Please discuss such topics as: abortion, ease of access to birth control, fact-based sex education, and rights/responsibilities of fathers? Please add how you will present your position to voters with different opinions.

Roe v Wade stands. The reason for the third trimester rule was that was about when viability was then; viability now closer to 21 weeks. So reality more complicated. It should be a woman's choice but the true common ground is wide-spread safe available affordable contraception and education so that there are virtually no unplanned pregnancies and so that women are able to make that decision within the first trimester. And those anti-choice need to be called out for the anti-sex hypocrites who believe that life begins at conception and ends at birth, as my protagonist does in my published novel of Love and Politics, pinkcollarblue.com. At some point in pregnancy regulation of abortion except to preserve life or significant health of the mother does not seem unreasonable, as RoeWade delegates to second/third trimester. We need to work hard for that true common ground. And not be afraid to call out opponents for what they are, and surveys say most Americans support that position.

37. What would your public and private response be if allegations of sexual harassment were made against a colleague in government or a member of your political party?

For either party I'm a big fan of letting the voters decide. Facts of each situation different and often difficult to assess. Al Franken resigning was a crock. I think voters would have kept him. More recall laws would be good so don't have to wait until next election. At state level better than impeachment, too.

Yes or no:

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

Yes__yes__ No_____

39. Do you support revoking tax credits for alternatives to abortion agencies, specifically, crisis pregnancy centers which have no state regulations?

Yes__yes but not sure I'd go to the mattress on this if would cost me the election__ No_____

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

Yes Yes No

In my first month on the St. Louis School Board, 1997, I introduced just this Resolution; got a lot of attention and passed (along with a LGBT – no Q or U back then – non-harrassment and non-discrimination Resolution, which also passed, but outreach still not good 20 years later), but we're not doing it. I've talked to Superintendents about doing it every 1 or 2 of my 16 years on the Board, talked to Planned Parenthood to help us, and like that. There's a state law, but there are ways to teach around it.

41. Do you support mandatory sentences for those convicted of sexual assault?

Yes yes, but it may depend on how sexual assault is defined and what's included; I'd rather see them get help, as they'll be out one day. No

42. Do you think federal civil rights law should be expanded to protect transgender Americans?

Yes **Of course!** No

ETHICS/TRANSPARENCY

Survey:

43. What approach do you take in deciding which campaign contributions to accept?

I would not accept campaign contributions from those advocacy groups who espouse issues that I cant accept, like the NRA, to avoid the appearance that my votes were compromised. The case can me made that one shouldn't take contributions from groups you do support for the same reason, so that's why we need to get corporate contributions out of politics.

From which individuals to accept contributions from is more complicated, but the principle should be the same.

44. Discuss what truthfulness in campaign ads means to you and how you have put that into practice.

Well, this is an interesting question. I've been running ads since 1993 mayor's race and no one has ever said my ads aren't truthful. I'm generally in favor of being transparent with your positions, including those about your opponent, acknowledging nuance where it exists, and letting the chips fall where they made. In 2008 I criticized Todd Akin in the general election and kept it business not personal and afterward he was quoted as saying I ran a respectful campaign. But I've been running ads against Ann Wagner since January on several radio stations and will continue to do so. Wait until you hear my ads starting in May criticizing her from taking money from the NRA for three cycles. Even Republicans want their children safe at school with common sense gun control laws like banning high-capacity mazzazines, universal background checks, and being 21 to buy assault weapons, and she'll never vote for those c/ she's bought and paid for by the NRA. And will criticize her for voting against protecting social security, Medicare and Medicaid as she's done in the last month. Btw, those will be winning issues in the general election I believe and should be espoused by whoever wins the primary, which may be me of course.

Yes or no:

45. Do you support publicly funded elections?

Yes __yes__ No ____

46. Do you support a standardized code of conduct for all elected officials at a federal level?

Yes ____ No ____

I'm not sure what this is or how it would be enforced.

47. Will you release your tax returns?

Yes sure ____ No ____

48. Will you commit to holding town halls with all members of your constituency?

Yes yes ____ No ____



How many ___ at least quarterly. _____

I've been advocating your organizations to do them for all candidates of all parties, one a month before election, one a week after primary. After election they should be done regularly.

49. Do you have a plan for remaining engaged with your district while in D.C.?

Yes regular trips back home _____ No _____

As well as electronic and social media.

50. Do you believe Citizens United should be overturned?

Yes_yes _____ No _____

I was advocating for coonstituional convention of states to do that when I was active with Occupy St. Louis/Missouri; they needed an issues to coalesce around and this should have been it.

51. Do you support expanding voter ID laws?

Yes _____ No_No! they're a crock! _____

52. Do you support an inclusive, clean census, counting all diverse members of our society in census?

Yes_yup _____ No _____

VOTER ENGAGEMENT

Survey:

53. Much of our population either votes along party lines, or doesn't vote because they don't believe either main party serves their interest. Do you think it's more important to reach across the aisle to voters your party has lost over time or to invigorate non-affiliated voters?

Yes, and new redistricting laws important, and I've been advocating for them before Kander, at least 3-4 years or more. And we need issues that appeal to the middle of spectrum: early childhood education, money for kids for college, income inequality, protecting social security and Medicare, common sense laws on guns.

54. What are your strategies to increase voter turnout?

We have to get out there on the streets and social media.

55. How do we make it easier to vote?

I'm not a big fan of remote by computer voting b/c possibility of hacking.

Yes or No:

56. Should voting day be a federal holiday?

Yes__yup__ No____

I think we need one federal holiday a month. 4 day work weeks, 3 week work months, 11 month workweeks, and one year off every 10 years with pay to assess how life's going. Some of that might take a while.

57. Do you support automatic voter registration?

Yes__yup__ No____

EDUCATION

Survey:

58. Briefly discuss your ideas to ensure that all children have access to equitable education to ensure a well-educated populace?

As I've said above, the key is third-grade reading scores, and the key to that is a second qualified person in early childhood grades, starting with mandatory pre-k. And the money will have to come from the federal government. In the St. Louis public schools, where I've been on the board 4 terms, that would take \$9/year and we currently have a pilot program to show its effectiveness, at my initiative. We also need 8th grade initiative with business community to make sure they all graduate with good skills and don't drop out.

59. What are your ideas for improving the academic achievement of students living in poverty?

See answer for 58. Who's not in school today and who's supposed to be knocking on their doors finding out why not, and how did test scores go this month and who's supposed to be helping those who've fallen behind catch up? Same two questions I've been asking since first ran for board in 1997.

Yes or no:

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

Yes___ No___NO_

61. Should state universities and trade schools be a part of our public education system?

Yes_yes___ No___

Haven't given this much thought till now.

62. Should we add educational assistance programs specifically for people who are being downsized due to industry obsolescence?

Yes_yes___ No___

I spoke to this above. Companies should pay for it if downsizing due to automation or mergers/acquisitions, as well as fair severance based on years of service. Mandatory. If it's not economically viable for you then don't automate or merge/acquire until it is.

63. Should teachers carry firearms in school?

Yes___ No__No__

64. Teachers often work in other industries due to being underpaid. The Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO) acts often mandate that earned Social Security is not available to draw on for retirees. Do you support legislation to correct this while ensuring the "no double-dipping" standard set in WEP/GPO?

Yes yes___ No___

IMMIGRATION

Survey:

65. What approach should the U.S. take in our refugee resettlement program?

My view is that if we don't work for peace in the countries they're fleeing, this will be a never-ending problem for all countries. There are not enough countries to easily absorb them all, so we must find peace in Syria and other countries they're fleeing. They wait in refugee camps without food often for years. Food to the camps, peace to their countries.

66. What would be your approach to dealing with illegal immigration and the policies surrounding it?

My view from Paul Krugman. Invest in developing business and industry in northern Mexico.

Yes or no:

67. Do you support a clean DACA bill with a path to citizenship?

Yes No

I do. Republican oppose it mostly because they're afraid that they'll all vote Democratic, which is probably mostly true, so we may need to find a compromise or solution to that to get it passed.

68. Do you support a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants already within our borders?

Yes No

See also answer to #67. But only after they've been here a certain period of time?

69. Regarding what is known as "The Wall," should the existing structures along our southern border be expanded and fortified?

Yes No no!

See answer to #65. Invest in jobs in northern Mexico!

RACIAL JUSTICE SECTION

Survey

70. What is the role of the federal government in addressing racial inequities in access to healthcare, employment, housing, and living wages? Discuss some key policies that you support that would reduce racial gaps in these areas.

I've long thought that the true answer to racial inequities is equal education and job opportunities. With respect to the former, we need to invest in our city schools so that minorities graduate with same numbers and skills as graduates of other districts. This in long run is about early childhood reading, where third graders in city schools are only reading at grade level 40% of them. It's about smaller class size, regular testing, second qualified adult in classroom. It works. See article in NYTimes a couple years ago on Union City New Jersey, compared to Newark.

Yes or no:

71. Do you support federal funding to remedy food deserts in predominantly black neighborhoods?

Yes__yes__ No_____

72. Will you commit to making racial inclusivity a priority when recruiting your own staff?

Yes_of course___ No_____

73. Arrests for drug possession and selling are disproportionately skewed to imprison minorities, essentially making drug use and selling quasi-legal for white Americans. Do you support policy changes to reduce this inequity?

Yes_ yes, and I've spoken to this elsewhere in questionnaire.____ No_____



CONCLUSION

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

Respect its values and enthusiasm, and would be able to help me get elected, especially in general election. If we don't win the general it's all for nought.

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

1. Early childhood education.
2. Money for college, an issue that should resonate with middle-class Republican voters.
3. Common sense gun control to protect our kids in school, banning high-capacity magazines, universal background checks, age 21 to buy any gun.
4. Protect social security, Medicare, Medicaid.

These should be winning issues in the general election if I/we can raise \$3M necessary to get the message out.

Yes or no/fill in the blank:

74. Do you have a fundraising plan?

Yes No

primary I'm mostly self-funding, also social media like Parscale did for Trump; I'll need this more in general election.

75. Do you have a campaign manager?

Yes No

I have people helping me but I've always made my own campaign decisions on strategy. I would welcome someone better at this than I am to make collaborative decisions.

76. What amount of time per week do you envision dedicating to campaigning/call time?

Full time after school ends (I teach in Ritenour) in May.

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

Yes No

Not yet but plan to.

78. What is the size of your universe?

I'm not sure what this means.

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

In primary, I think 30+% should win it. In 2008 I got 30% in competitive 5 person race outspent by other candidates \$350,000 to my \$15,000. In general election, Ann Wagner got 58% of the vote which means Democratic candidate needs to peel away 1 out of 6 of her votes,



no mean trick.

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

Yes ___ No ___

not yet but would embrace this of course.

81. Are you willing endorse the winner of your primary race if you are not the selected candidate?

Yes_ yes ___ No _____

Of course; am already reaching out to at least one of the candidates to start planning townhalls together, but alas Cort does not return my calls or emails.



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 that may not have been covered in our questions.

We're all better on the issues than Ann Wagner, though some of us maybe be nuanced better than others, and I like to think I'm one of them.

To beat Ann Wagner nominee will need issues that appeal across the political spectrum not just traditional Democratic issues, and I think I've got them.

I think you should consider who has the best chance to win the general election in your decision whom to endorse. Because if we don't win the general it's all for nought.

To win the general, the candidate should have:

Good name recognition.

Winning issues.

Money to get the message out.

I think I rate highest on the first two, and Cort seems to be best at the latter.

We'd seem to make a great team. So far I'm the only one who thinks so.

Thanks for the great questionnaire. It took a lot of hard work. Compliments to the authors!