

Warrensburg, 10/27/16

1. Do you support making Missouri a Right to Work state?

No. While I have a personal antipathy toward many union tactics and objectives, it boils down to the right to contract. A private employer owns the jobs and has the right to set conditions of employment (within the constraints of non-discrimination laws); if one of those conditions is union membership, that's his right. However, I strongly oppose any version of union, closed or agency shop for public employees and those of quasi-public organizations.

2. Do you support eliminating Missouri's prevailing wage law?

Yes. This interferes with the right to contract, it drives up the cost of public projects, and discriminates against those companies (& their workers) that choose to be non-union. However, as long as the Federal Davis-Bacon Act is in effect, we still will have to pay these rates for Federally assisted roads.

3. Do you support increasing the minimum wage?

No. Economists have shown that it is equivalent to sawing off the bottom rungs of a ladder. Employers cannot pay an employee more than the value that employee produces. Raising the wage eliminates entry level jobs, especially for the under-educated. The burden falls most heavily on minorities. For proof, look at Seattle's restaurant industry collapse since the minimum wage was increased.

4. Do you favor allowing concealed guns on college campuses?

Yes, by holders of concealed carry permits. Mass shootings occur in gun-free areas, where opposition is not expected. Knowing that trained, responsible people may be present will dissuade the aspiring mass murderer.

5. Would you sign a pledge not to raise taxes for any reason?

No. To do so would preclude voting to substitute a less intrusive tax for another tax, even if the new one were lower. However, a prerequisite for raising any tax should be a reduction in some part of government in addition to lowering/eliminating an existing tax.

6. What is your proposal for complying with the Real ID Act?

Missouri has done well by opposing this national database. However, many people, such as those who have a need to work on military bases, need it. We should make it available as a voluntary option, with whatever extra costs/fees that would entail.

7. Why reject Affordable Care Act funding that would help more Missourians receive Medicaid?

The Federal share declines over time, placing the burden on productive taxpaying citizens. It would be a budget buster in the long run. Besides, we know that some major modifications will have to be made to Obamacare, since even many Democrats recognize that it's unsustainable. Another problem is decertification of rural hospitals, and reduced reimbursement rates for surviving ones.

8. Would you support a bill that would require citizens to pass a background check to get a concealed gun permit but not have to go through and pay for a training course?

Since SB656 passed allowing unlicensed concealed carry, and most other states will not recognize a Missouri license that did not include training, I see little benefit to this. A background check is required to buy a firearm except for in person-to-person sales. I would support waiving the live fire requirement for veterans who earned the Expert Marksmanship medal of their service.

9. Should Missouri re-establish campaign contribution limits?

No. Why squeeze the balloon? Money will find a way – limit contributions and the money will still be there, just through less accountable channels. We do need to look at lobbyist influence in Jeff City, and provide more transparency there. If an office holder is going to be bought and paid for, wouldn't you want to know who owns him. ?

10. What would make you the best job creator?

Gary Johnson, as a successful governor of New Mexico, said that he didn't create any jobs – he just got the government out of the way of private businesses that do create jobs. And that's what we need to do. We license too many occupations, we have too many functionaries, petty tyrants who want to control every aspect of how we conduct business. Rep. Hoskins' Big Government Get Off My Back Act was a start, but needed to go farther to reduce existing regulations. And it contained a subsidy – We should not subsidize businesses, especially new ones that compete with existing ones, whether direct, or by TIFs, TDDs, NIDs, etc.

11. Could you explain how you can fix more of Missouri's roads and bridges?

A. Get rid of Missouri's Prevailing Wage Law which drives up costs and subsidizes Union contractors.

B. Government services should be paid for by those who use them. That means user fees. Since toll roads are verboten, if more money is needed, then indirect user fees such as license fees and fuel tax could be considered. Those who would justify a sales tax because non-drivers benefit from hiway transport of goods forget that our indirect transportation taxes are already built into the cost of goods and services.

12. Would you let Missouri businesses deny service to same sex couples based on sexual preference?

Our Bed & Breakfast accepted all consenting adults, without regard to race, religion, sexual preference, etc . I'm not so sure I'd force others to, especially for services requiring personal creativity. After all, we allow businesses to discriminate on other grounds – no shirt, no shoes, no service, etc. We need to balance multiple basic and statutory rights – private property, free association rights, freedom of religion, privacy, non-discrimination, etc. Now, if a local retail business gets a reputation for refusing service to LGBTQs, I may just join the informational picketers.