



Missouri Votes Conservation (MVC) is a non-partisan, statewide organization that advocates for pro-environment legislation and elected officials in Missouri. We are the only entity in Missouri that represents the broad diversity of conservation interest in the state- from environmentalist, scientist, and business owners to hunters, anglers, and independent farmers. We are also the only organization that focuses on the political arena to achieve sound conservation practices.

MVC is affiliated with the League of Conservation Voters, a widely respected national organization that advocates for the environmental through legislative channels.

For more information go to [www.movotesconservation.org](http://www.movotesconservation.org)

### 2010 Questionnaire for Legislative Candidates

Candidate's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Office Seeking: House / Senate (*circle one*). District Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Party: \_\_\_\_\_

Campaign Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ MO Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Office Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_ Campaign Manager \_\_\_\_\_

List your top three campaign issues (*does not need to be conservation- or environmental-related*):

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What risks, if any, to the environment or wilderness do you perceive in your district? And if elected, how you would address these problems?

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Why do you want the endorsement of Missouri Votes Conservation?

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As an elected official you will face many issues relating to public health, natural resources, and the environment.

**Please select the three issues you believe are the most pressing for the State of Missouri.**

- Encouraging energy efficiency in homes and businesses
- Funding for alternative modes of transportation
- Combating climate change by reducing carbon emissions
- Promoting the viability of small farmers
- Solid waste reduction and encouraging recycling
- Protecting rivers, lakes, and streams, and improving water quality
- Improving air quality
- Encouraging the construction of green buildings
- Creation and training of green jobs and a green workforce
- OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate a specific policy you will support to address one of these issues, and why you think it is important.

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### **Green Building**

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) buildings are more innovative, energy efficient, and healthier to live and work in. Many states and local governments have adopted LEED certification goals for new construction and major renovations. In Missouri, schools, businesses, and private home owners have chosen to build or renovate with the goal of attaining LEED ratings.

**Would you support LEED certification requirement for all new construction for state buildings in Missouri?**

YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

Do you have LEED-certified buildings in your district? (visit <http://snipr.com/MVC2010>)

Why do you think a building owner would seek LEED certification?

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**Energy Efficiency**

Energy efficiency refers to the ability to do the same amount of work with less energy. While energy efficiency policies keep costs low for consumers, they also reduce pollution related to energy production. In the United States, commercial and residential buildings account for 40% of all energy consumption in the United States. By implementing a statewide building energy code, similar to a fire code, Missouri would standardize energy efficiency practices and establish a minimum level of energy-smart construction for all **new** homes and commercial businesses. This would make home ownership more affordable by reducing energy and utility costs, and provide homeowners with more disposable income to return to the Missouri economy. As of 2010, Missouri is only one of eight states without a statewide energy building code.

**Would you support the adoption of an energy building code for Missouri?**

**YES**\_\_\_ **NO**\_\_\_

An energy efficiency resource standard (EERS) incentivizes utilities to invest in energy efficiency programs, like providing customers with automatic thermostats, subsidizing Energy Star appliances, and paying for energy audits of homes and business. EERS sets efficiency goals for utilities to reach, thereby pushing them to make efficiency a top priority. This is important because efficiency is twice as cheap as building new electricity generation like a coal or nuclear power plant

**Do you support an energy efficiency resource standard for Missouri?**

**YES**\_\_\_ **NO**\_\_\_

Please describe how your constituents would be impacted by implementing statewide energy efficiency policies.

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**Parks**

Missouri’s state parks are valuable natural and cultural resources and important tourism assets, particularly during tight economic times when families look for in-state activities that cost relatively little. But our parks are in the worst shape they’ve been in for 30 years – their infrastructure is crumbling, from roads and trails (including the popular Katy Trail) to, water and sewer systems, campgrounds and buildings. The state park sales tax provides for park operations, with virtually nothing left over for capital improvements, which were last funded from a state bond issue in the mid-1980s. The current backlog is more than \$200 million.

**Would you support allocating a percentage of any state capital bond issue – at least \$100 million – for Missouri State Parks?**

**YES**\_\_\_ **NO**\_\_\_

What state parks are in or near your district? Please explain the impact, if any, of the funding crisis?

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## Transportation

While Missouri is the 19<sup>th</sup> largest state by geographic area and 18<sup>th</sup> by population, it has the seventh largest highway system. Yet MoDOT intends to add additional lane miles, including spending over \$8 billion to add truck-only lanes on I-70 and I-44 in rural Missouri. According to a NASA study, the on-road transportation sector is the top net contributor to climate-disrupting greenhouse gas emissions. Further, each dollar spent on additional highway miles makes it more difficult to develop a balanced transportation system that helps protect the environment and build livable communities. For example, MoDOT only provides around \$5 million statewide for public transportation.

**Would you support a policy that significantly increases the percentage of state transportation dollars allocated to non-highway transportation projects (such as public transit and bike and pedestrian facilities) that promote livable communities and environmental stewardship?**

YES\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_

Please describe the transportation issues facing your district.

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## Water

The Missouri legislature has not authorized an increase in water permit fees since 2000. Permit fees are used for the permitting, inspection and regulation of water quality. Current funding is insufficient to allow for the performance of DNR's duties and DNR's water program could be insolvent by the end of this year. This could lead to the federal EPA taking over clean water permitting and enforcement, resulting in higher fees, higher penalties and a more rigid enforcement approach. One source of new revenue for the Water Protection program could come from raising water permitting fees sufficiently to cover the costs of the program. Certain permittees, such as Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) and developers of large construction projects, pay only a tiny fraction (less than 10%) of the cost of permitting and are therefore subsidized by taxpayers for the remainder. Other industries, such as large industrial dischargers, pay fees sufficient to cover the costs of the program.

**Would you support an increase in water permit fees for CAFOs?**

YES\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_

**Would you support an increase in water permit fees for New Construction projects?**

YES\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_

Wetlands and streams help filter pollution, absorb flood waters, recharge groundwater, improve habitat and increase property values. In Missouri, permits for wetland and stream destruction are currently set at a flat \$75 rate. One way to increase fee revenues would be to scale fees according to the amount of wetlands and streams destroyed, where developers planning more destruction would pay a higher fee and developers minimizing destruction would pay less.

**Would you support a tiered fee structure that encourages developers to protect wetlands and streams?**

YES\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_



Please describe an important water issue facing your district.

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### **Agriculture**

Throughout the United States, there is increasing evidence of the health hazards facing communities downstream and downwind of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs), linked to the high concentrations of manure.

**Should the MO Department of Natural Resources be authorized to establish a five-mile perimeter around Missouri state parks and historical sites for concentrated animal feeding operations?**

**YES** \_\_\_ **NO** \_\_\_

Health departments in some other states are taking proactive steps to address the health risks from CAFOs. In Missouri, however, the Health Department says it can only conduct health investigations when it receives data indicating a public threat. Moreover, the Department does not track rates of community-acquired MRSA (*methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus*) bacterial infections or other illnesses affecting rural population near CAFO's.

**Should the Department of Health track disease parameters such as rates of infections and investigate the cause when disease trends emerge in specific regions?**

**YES** \_\_\_ **NO** \_\_\_

### **Solid Waste**

Recycling creates jobs, protects the environment, and strengthens communities. In Missouri a small tipping fee surcharge on landfills generates resources to expand recycling. Missouri currently diverts from landfills over 40% of all waste generated. A 2008 study by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources found that nearly half of the remaining waste in landfills was recyclable, with an estimated value of over \$200 million, and a potential energy savings of over \$500 million. Additional resources would help capture this opportunity and expand recycling in Missouri.

**Would you support increasing landfill tipping fee surcharges to expand recycling?**

**YES** \_\_\_ **NO** \_\_\_

Yard waste has been banned from landfills since 1992, and Missouri has developed a vibrant composting industry that employs thousands of people. Some landfill operators have proposed repealing the yard waste ban in order to use yard waste to increase methane production for energy generation. (Methane is a greenhouse gas 20 times more harmful than carbon dioxide.) However, only about 32% of methane generated in landfills can be collected, and the rest is released into the atmosphere, increasing greenhouse gas emissions.

**Would you oppose a plan to repeal the yard waste ban and allow yard waste back into landfills?**

**YES** \_\_\_ **NO** \_\_\_



If elected, do you have any suggestions to increase the rate of recycling in Missouri?

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### Climate

There is broad agreement within the scientific community that global warming pollutants must be reduced 80% by the year 2050 in order to avoid the most severe and irreversible impacts of climate change on future generations. Since 2003, 33 states have started or completed a climate action plan that develops a plan to reduce greenhouse gas emission while preserving or creating jobs. Not only is Missouri not among them, but the majority of Missouri legislators seem opposed to federal limits on greenhouse gas emissions. In 2010 the Missouri House (as of the date of this survey, the Senate was still considering) voted overwhelming to ask the U.S. Congress to vote no on a cap-and-trade bill, and also opposed EPA's ability to regulate pollutants such as carbon dioxide.

**Do you support the federal government's right to regulate greenhouse gases?**

YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

Has climate change had any impact on your district, if so what?

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### Feedback

**Would you like Missouri Votes Conservation or one of our partner organizations to schedule a call or meeting with you to discuss any of these issues and why they are important to your constituents?**

YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

What particular issues can we help you understand?

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Thank you for participating in the MVC endorsement process. We look forward to working with you to ensure the protection of Missouri's environment.

**Note: MVC will not endorse any candidate who does not respond to this questionnaire.** Please mail it to us postmarked by **Friday April 30th**. You may also fax it (314-727-1665) by that date. Or if you would like a digital copy of our survey, you may request it by emailing [elections2010@movotesconservation.org](mailto:elections2010@movotesconservation.org).