



Edwardsville | Glen Carbon
Chamber of Commerce

POLICY COUNCIL

2018 ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES & SENATE CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

CANDIDATE NAME: Mike Babcock

POSITION SOUGHT: Illinois State Representative, 111th District

1. **Do you support or oppose a \$15 an hour minimum wage as proposed and voted on by the Illinois General Assembly?**

Oppose

2. **Do you support or oppose Illinois moving from a flat tax system to a graduated tax system?**

I am opposed to a graduated income tax. The only bill introduced so far that contained proposed rates for a progressive tax would have, if implemented, raised taxes on almost all Illinois families and not just the wealthiest taxpayers as some would lead us to believe. The flat tax is fair. Everyone pays an equal percentage of their income and

3. **Do you support or oppose Illinois offering a public option healthcare system?**

Oppose

4. **Do you support or oppose the legalization of cannabis?**

Oppose

5. **Do you believe reforms are needed to the current workers' compensation system? If so, what are your recommendations?**

Yes. Businesses pay considerably more for workers compensation insurance in Illinois than in neighboring states, placing Illinois at a competitive disadvantage. We need to look seriously at reforming workers compensation that is both fair to workers and businesses.

6. **Do you support or oppose changing the way legislative districts are currently drawn?**

The current partisan gerrymandering system is entirely divorced from the will of the voters and deliberately disregards existing community boundaries, creating only voter confusion about who their elected representatives are (Holiday Shores in the 111th is a textbook example of this problem). This system serves only to reduce the political competitiveness of districts and lock in the existing partisan breakdown of the General

Assembly. That is why I am a supporter of adopting a fair mapping system that introduces an independent commission into the redistricting process. Simply stated, voters should be in charge of choosing their politicians, not the other way around.

7. Do you support or oppose legislation that increases the state's motor fuel tax to pay for improvements to state and local roads?

Oppose.

8. Do you support legislation to reduce prescription drug costs?

I would support legislation that would reduce the cost of prescription drugs only if it did not also impose additional costs to Illinois taxpayers. During Rod Blagojevich's term, the General Assembly was forced to repeal the Illinois Cares RX program, which subsidized the cost of senior prescription drugs, because it placed extreme pressure on the budget. We can't afford to repeat that mistake.

9. Do you view business tax credits as incentives that promote job growth or as 'corporate loopholes' that should be eliminated?

I support giving incentives to help stimulate economic growth under certain circumstances, but the system needs to be fair and transparent. The recently updated EDGE tax credit offered by the state is one such incentive that can attract jobs without distorting the local market. Generally, the state should do its best to foster an environment that is favorable to business across the board. A level playing field, with limited government intervention in the economy, is vital to the health of our system.

10. Do you support the ability of small businesses to form larger groups to competitively bid for more affordable healthcare costs?

Support