



Edwardsville | Glen Carbon
Chamber of Commerce

POLICY COUNCIL

2018 ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES & SENATE CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

CANDIDATE NAME: Monica Bristow

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?

I support legislation to raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour, phased in and with tax credits for small businesses.

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

I support changing Illinois' tax structure to cut taxes on middle-class families by making millionaires and billionaires pay their fair share. A fair income tax can ensure we have the funds we need to provide students with a world-class education, guarantee and expand access to quality health care, invest in job training and provide incentives for employers that create jobs here in Illinois, all while providing tax relief for middle-class and struggling families. In addition, I support property tax relief for homeowners, while opposing the mileage tax, opposing a retirement tax, and opposing any tax or fee that adds to the burden of the middle class.

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

Yes. A public health care option would offer every Illinois resident a chance to purchase low-cost health insurance, help lower premiums and reduce uncertainty at no cost to taxpayers.

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

I would want to thoroughly review any legislation with local law enforcement and community organizations before taking a position on any bills that would change the laws governing marijuana in Illinois. I do believe that the state should further review options that can help stop the opioid epidemic.

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

I do believe reforms are needed to the workers' compensation system to make Illinois' economy more competitive without hurting the middle class. For example, I support the creation of a not-for-profit insurance provider that would be able to sell workers' compensation insurance to businesses throughout the state, offering the same quality insurance as for-profit companies while delivering the best value for businesses. The competition would also encourage for-profit insurers to offer lower-cost options for Illinois employers. Additionally, I support reforms that require for-profit insurance companies to pass savings from workers' compensation reform on to Illinois employers. Since Illinois enacted workers' compensation reforms in 2011, costs, injuries and claims have all dropped significantly, but these savings are not necessarily being passed on to businesses. I support giving the Department of Insurance authority to review insurance rates before they become effective and reject those it finds excessive.

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

I have heard from many area residents who want to see more transparency and fairness in the way legislative districts are created. I would support establishing an independent redistricting committee comprised of members appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to help reduce political influence over redistricting to make sure all legislators are held accountable to their constituencies.

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

I supported a bipartisan, balanced budget that includes a significant investment in our infrastructure, including nearly \$400 million for downstate public transportation and \$2.9 million for pay-as-you-go capital projects. These investments will help repair and enhance our infrastructure so that employers see Illinois as a better place to do business and give motorists safer roads travel on. While I support greater investment in repairing our roads, I am 100% opposed to the idea of taxing motorists for the miles they drive. I will fight against the mileage tax with everything I have.

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

I supported House Bill 4900, which would reduce prescription drug costs by allowing the Attorney General to investigate generic drug manufacturers that spike prices, independent of increased manufacturing costs.

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

I believe very strongly that tax credits for Illinois businesses promote job creation by incentivizing business owners to hire more employees and continue to expand our economy. One of the first bills I introduced would create a tax credit for any Illinois business that increases its number of employees by more than 10 percent from the previous year.

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

Yes.