



Edwardsville | Glen Carbon
Chamber of Commerce

POLICY COUNCIL

2018 ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES & SENATE CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

CANDIDATE NAME: Katie Stuart

POSITION SOUGHT: Illinois State Representative, 112th District

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

I supported legislation for an incremental increase in the state's minimum wage over a five-year period which also provided tax credits for businesses.

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

Providing tax relief for middle-class families is a top priority for me. I am, and will continue to be opposed to higher taxes on middle-class families. I voted against Springfield's income tax increase, because I believe families are overtaxed enough and they cannot afford to pay more. It's clear that we need to move to a more fair tax structure that reduces taxes on low and middle-income families.

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

Providing access to quality health care to all Illinoisans needs to be a top priority for our state. I voted to require insurance companies to cover people with pre-existing conditions. My opponent's allies blocked legislation I supported capping double-digit premium increases. I'll keep fighting to make health care more affordable for local families. We should take steps to cap premiums before looking at other changes.

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

Recent changes to enhance the medical marijuana program in Illinois helped to provide critical access to patients with chronic pain and other medical diagnoses. Its important that we continue to monitor this program to help more patients and make improvements where we can, especially in response to the ongoing opioid epidemic.

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

Starting in 2011, Illinois made reforms to the workers' compensation system, and since that time workplace injuries and payments have fallen significantly. Unfortunately,

these savings have not translated down to the employers who have to pay the cost of the premiums. Insurance companies are now making bigger profits than ever. I voted for further reforms requested by employers and business groups, but I also insist that these reforms require big insurance companies pass savings on to small and medium-sized employers in our community.

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

I support an independent redistricting process.

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

We need to examine our state spending and prioritize funding for road work, but I do not support a mileage tax or any new plan to tax drivers for every mile they travel. Middle-class families cannot afford to pay more to get to school or to work, in order to fund more dysfunction in Springfield.

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

Yes. I have sponsored and supported legislation to crack down on prescription drug price gouging.

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

Business tax credits should be used to support and reward companies that invest in our local economy and local workers. I have supported legislation to provide tax incentives, especially for small and medium sized business, to help keep more jobs in the Metro East and in Illinois.

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

I'd be interested in discussing the impact of this proposal further with the Chamber and with working families. My priority is reining in skyrocketing health care costs for middle-class families and protecting access to care for people with pre-existing conditions. I would be interested in knowing whether this proposal could be part of that effort.