



Edwardsville | Glen Carbon
Chamber of Commerce

POLICY COUNCIL

2018 ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES & SENATE CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

CANDIDATE NAME: Brian Stout

POSITION SOUGHT: Illinois State Senate, 54th 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 a \$15 an hour minimum wage. While certain industries will have to have qualifiers that would make them eligible to pay less than \$15 an hour, large corporations, such as Wal-Mart, should pay a living wage to their employees.

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

I support Illinois moving from a flat tax system to a graduated tax system. I believe switching to a graduated tax system will create more government funds, which can be used to fund our pension program. Additionally, a graduated tax system would provide relief for many struggling middle class families.

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

I support Illinois offering a public healthcare system. I believe affordable health care is important, and should be more easily accessible for Illinois residents.

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

I support the legalization and taxation of recreational cannabis. I believe the money to be made from taxing recreational cannabis is a huge untapped resource that the state of Illinois could use to make a dent in many financial issues that the state is facing.

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

I support reform. We have to be careful, however, as the workers compensation system is one of few that protects both workers and employers in the event of injury. I would like to see rates regulated on a Federal Level, so that states are on a level playing field.

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

I would support a more fair process, perhaps allowing a non-partisan group to draw the lines instead of elected officials.

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 do not support any legislation that taxes motor fuel at a higher rate. I also would never support a legislation that creates or allows a mileage tax.

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

Absolutely, and the amount of money that politicians are taking from pharmaceutical companies should be reduced along with drug costs.

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

If implemented and overseen correctly, I support tax credit incentives. They would also have to make sense, and be sustainable to the community in which the business is located. If the cost or taxes go up for the community, but not the business, that decision would have to be looked at more closely. After all, we have to have some incentives to move to Illinois.

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

Yes, but I take this a step further. I support a single payer system that allows Illinois' residence to buy in and have access to the same healthcare that our legislatures have. Keeping in mind that health insurance is one of the largest risk factors that employers face, this would lessen their burden and spread the risk to a much larger pool. It's time to focus on the health of our people. After all, they are the driving force of commerce in our state and in our country.