



Edwardsville | Glen Carbon  
Chamber of Commerce

## **POLICY COUNCIL**

### **2018 ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES & SENATE CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE**

**CANDIDATE NAME:** Jason Plummer

**POSITION SOUGHT:** Illinois State Senate, 54<sup>th</sup> District

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

Minimum wage jobs were never meant to support a family. We need a more robust economy, an education focus on skills and the trades, and a culture where hard-working people are not left dependent on low-paying jobs. I oppose a \$15 an hour minimum wage because data proves it would hammer our small business owners to the benefit of large corporations, it would decrease the number of jobs available to those seeking employment, and it would deprive many of our youth and those just starting out the ability to learn the important soft skills that we all learned when we started our first jobs.

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

Southern Illinois residents face the highest tax burden in the country when accounting for the aggregate of all taxes paid. This has obviously harmed our residents, businesses, and the region as a whole. Our tax structure must be competitive and conducive to investments and growth so that we can compete and we retain our skilled workforce; many of whom are fleeing the state. In order to produce quality jobs and encourage economic growth it is my deeply held position that we must lower taxes and broaden the tax base. The worst thing we could do now would be to raise taxes on a quickly dwindling population that is already struggling under a ridiculous tax burden. I adamantly oppose a progressive tax structure that, contrary to political promises during a campaign season, would undoubtedly raise taxes on all Illinois working families.

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

I oppose an Illinois public option.

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

I oppose legalizing recreational marijuana.

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

Absolutely. Illinois workers compensation costs dwarf those of neighboring states we often compete against for jobs and investment, such as Indiana and Missouri. As a businessman I have direct experience dealing with the disparity in these costs and it is driving job opportunities away from Illinois workers. The drivers behind these high costs are varied. Combatting fraud, a rigged litigation system, a benefits structure that incentivizes some to not participate in the workforce, and ensuring that insurance companies are not overpaying for medical services are four key areas of concern.

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

I have always been a strong supporter of legislation enacting both term limits and redistricting reform. Unfortunately, we live in a state where a small group of career politicians are able to choose their voters, rather than voters choosing them. When voters have attempted to place the question of drawing legislative boundaries on the ballot, a movement I was very involved in, they were prevented from doing so by Speaker Madigan and special interests who want, above all else, to retain the current power structure. I fully support putting both of these questions before the voters who overwhelmingly support reform and as Senator I will vote to place these questions on the ballot.

**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 don't support raising any taxes on Illinois families, including the motor fuel tax.

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

Lowering prescription drug costs is very important and I support legislation that will induce markets to correct out-of-control prices, but I don't support any new state programs that would spend more money and take on more debt to address the issue.

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

Business tax credits and enterprise zones are only treating the symptoms of our economic problem, not the root causes. They place government in the driver seat, picking winners and losers, and often imposes economic disadvantages on existing businesses who do not benefit from new incentives. By in large, I think the state as a whole should be attractive to business and not just specific geographic areas within cities or counties. Illinois should have lower taxes, fewer job-killing regulations, and a stable government that upholds the constitutional requirement to pass a balanced

budget. I am opposed to scenarios where government that is unwilling to create an environment where all can prosper instead elect to pick winners and losers. The vast majority of people should not struggle under a government-imposed environment that prevents opportunity while a select few, often friends and campaign donors, benefit from special incentives.

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

Certainly.