



Edwardsville | Glen Carbon  
Chamber of Commerce

## **POLICY COUNCIL**

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

**CANDIDATE NAME:** Hal Patton

**POSITION SOUGHT:** Illinois State Senate, 56<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?**

Everyone wants to raise salaries for employees, including minimum wage employees, but raising the minimum wage at this point would drive businesses from this state at a time when they're suffering tax increases and ever increasing regulation – especially in a border community like ours. Every employer would like to be able to afford to pay their employees more, but until Illinois becomes more competitive, we simply cannot afford a \$15 an hour minimum wage.

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

I strongly oppose a graduated income tax. The graduated income tax plan on the table in Springfield is not a new way to tax as it is being sold; it's just a tax increase. Small businesses and the middle class would suffer the most under a graduated tax. Illinois cannot afford to lose any more small businesses or continue the outward migration of our residents.

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

As a healthcare professional and business owner I have a unique background and experience dealing with healthcare and health insurance. I plan to use my insights to reduce wasteful healthcare expenditures and refocus on prevention such as wellness programs many private insurers have implemented. Illinois cannot afford a public option at this time. To offer a public option we would have to double taxes on all people and businesses and that is not something I would support.

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

I'm open to a discussion on a plan to legalize and tax cannabis. If there is a plan that can bring in additional revenue and create new business opportunities, but also protect against underage consumption. We need to protect our citizens against

overuse and abuse and partner with our law enforcement community to break up the lucrative business of gangs and drug dealers.

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

Yes reforms are desperately needed. One of the issues brought up most by businesses leaving the state or those who decide not to relocate to Illinois is our broken workers' compensation system. We need to be more competitive and more in line with our neighboring states to attract new investors. Workers who are truly injured on the job should be cared for, but non-work related injuries and doctor shopping are ways the system gets gamed and costs go up.

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

A fair map system that allows an independent commission to redraw district boundaries is one of the top reforms needed in Illinois. Legislators should not be choosing their voters. I 100% support a fair map system, term limits, and campaign finance reforms for Illinois.

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

Illinois residents are being taxed out of their homes and the state when they're being hit with increases to income and property taxes. The state does not need to hit them again with an increase to the motor fuel tax. More money is needed to maintain and improve our roadways but we need to go about it another way. We need to look at reducing the cost and time it takes to complete our infrastructure projects. This will save us money up front and allow for more residential and retail growth.

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

Absolutely. Prescription drug prices are out of control. I would support a cap on out of pocket costs to people on fixed incomes. Drug prices in other countries are significantly lower than medicine in the U.S.

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

True "corporate loopholes" should be eliminated, but the state of Illinois needs to be friendlier for business. We need to be able to out compete our neighbors, provide affordable land, reasonable property taxes, and a strong workforce. If we can have a friendlier business environment and be more competitive with our neighboring states we can let our great geographical location, workforce, and other resources bring us new business.

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

I absolutely support small businesses forming groups to competitively bid. I have pushed for this for my own business and would support it as State Senator. I experience this first hand as a small business owner and believe partnering together could bring costs down for small businesses. Healthcare costs have doubled for many small businesses in recent years. Any ways to reduce costs should be looked at.