



Edwardsville | Glen Carbon  
Chamber of Commerce

## **POLICY COUNCIL**

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

**CANDIDATE NAME:** Rachelle Aud Crowe

**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?**

I support raising the minimum wage to ensure anyone who holds a full-time job does not live in poverty and without the resources necessary to raise a family. Any increase, however, should include protections for our small business community. I support including a small business tax credit in any minimum wage increase proposal to offset the financial burden that would be felt by many employers. I also support gradually phasing in increases over time to limit the effect on small businesses.

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

While I support the concept of a graduated tax, I cannot fully support a plan until first viewing proposed rates to ensure middle class families are not faced with a higher tax liability. Any changes to our tax code should be comprehensive in nature, providing property tax relief for Illinois homeowners as well.

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

Affordable access to healthcare was the top concern at my recent small business roundtable in Alton. I generally support increasing access to healthcare, but would need to review the specific legislation to make sure there are not negative consequences for the small business community.

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

For thousands of Illinoisans suffering from a serious medical condition, marijuana has provided relief from pain and offered new options for both patients and health care providers in treating chronic debilitating illnesses. As a prosecutor who has participated in the Drug Court Program, I have seen first-hand the tragic effect of the opioid epidemic. I fully support expanding the medical marijuana program to ensure patients have options when treating chronic pain without having to rely on highly-addictive opioid prescriptions that can have tragic long-term effects. While I fully

support our state's medical marijuana program, at this time I cannot support changing our laws to legalize marijuana for recreational purposes without first consulting more with our local law enforcement officers. Their expertise must be heard as they are on the front lines every day in keeping our streets safe.

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

Reforming the system is a challenge that requires good faith negotiations among all interest groups. In Springfield, I'll work to bring all parties together to strike a balance that benefits the state as a whole.

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

I support a fair and open map making process that engages the public, ensures communities are not divided and districts are both compact and contiguous.

**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 am opposed to any increases in the motor fuel tax that would only place an additional burden on already financially-stretched working families.

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

I support increased prescription assistance, especially as drug costs continue to increase while health insurance plans are instituting higher and higher yearly deductibles, drastically increasing costs for working families and our seniors.

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

One of the biggest issues facing our area is the lack of quality, good-paying jobs. While subsidies for business growth and development are sometimes needed to lure large developments, relying on them too heavily shifts the tax burden from large corporations to middle-class families and small businesses.

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

Yes. Our core focus should remain on expanding access to health insurance and working to reduce costs for both patients and employers.