

**CHANGE DIRECTION. VOTE**



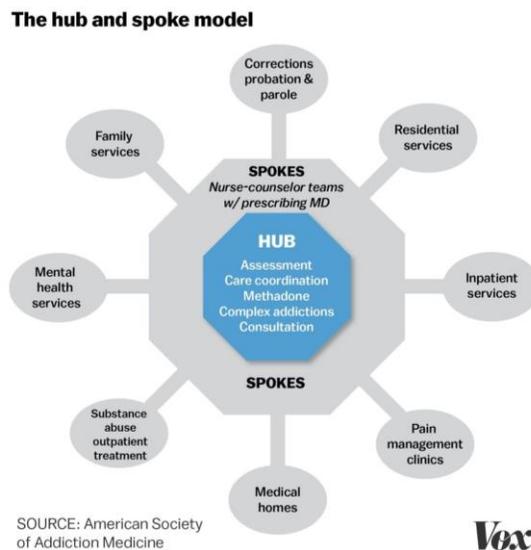
## **Audience Questions from Candidate Forum – November 30, 2018**

1. What are the demographics of your district?
2. What do you need to flip the district if history shows that the GOP has more voters and more money?
3. What are the two main issues that are critical to your constituents? How will you be addressing these concerns?
4. How would you counteract voter suppression?
5. If you are elected what will you do to improve infrastructure: internet communication, roads, bridges, airport?
6. What will you do to reduce gun violence?
7. Would you be in favor of eliminating the tax-free status of major universities with billion-dollar endowments and using the money for tuition assistance in order to reduce the cost of education?
8. I am disappointed to see little or no African-American presence in the audience tonight, especially since ours is the party that best serves their interests. This important constituency has recently raised a voice in public protests. How can we encourage some of this energy to be converted to political and legislative action?
9. What can we as Democrats do to overcome the fact that many of our fellow Americans would rather vote for a perverted child molester than any Democrat and elect him to the senate?
10. What approach are you taking to win? How can retired people help in your campaign?
11. How much money have you raised?
12. How are you going to combat Trump at the state level?
13. Why did Trump win?
14. Millennials want to know if you will be recommending the use of block chain technology to house medical records and build an opioid prescription database. Block chain technology is secure by design and suitable for recording medical records, identity management, transaction processing, and food traceability.
15. Renewable energy is one of the most effective ways to address climate change. Will you support enforcing the 21% of renewable energy standard by 2021 as passed by Missouri voters in 2008?
16. What steps will you take to improve the funding for public education?

## **Answers in blue from Geneviève Steidtmann, Candidate for the Missouri House, District 101**

1. **What are the demographics of your district?**
  - a. District 101 includes the Cities and Townships of: Ballwin, Chesterfield, Clarkson Valley, Ellisville, Wildwood, Lafayette, Wild Horse
  - b. **Largest age range percentages:**
    - i. 35-55 = 39.7%
    - ii. 5-19 = 24.6%
  - c. **Racial Makeup**
    - i. 87.9% White
    - ii. 5.7% Asian
    - iii. 3.6% Hispanic
    - iv. 1.6% Black
  - d. **Single Parents:** 12.2% of the homes with children under 18 are single parent homes
  - e. **Median Income:** \$115,000
  - f. **Unemployment:** 2.8%
  - g. **Education**
    - i. 97.3% of people 25+ years have a high school diploma
    - ii. 71.1% of people 25+ years have a high school + higher education degree (compared to about 32% in the state of Missouri)

2. **What do you need to flip the district if history shows that the GOP has more voters and more money?**
- I need to reach out to voters and show them how connected to special interests our current Rep is, and how much they influence his work in the House.
  - I want to show people that there is an alternative to what the GOP has become over the past decade: a party that rewards greed, has little empathy, and refuses to deal with problems that affect us all: healthcare, poverty, public education, opioid (and other) addictions, etc. Politics cannot ONLY be about business. It needs to serve business, but people should come first.
3. **What are the two main issues that are critical to your constituents? How will you be addressing these concerns?**
- Taxes, the Opioid Crisis
  - Although I am not personally against reasonable taxes, as a legislature I would look for other alternatives before proposing raising taxes on individuals. In Missouri we have cut corporate revenue by \$200,000,000 in the last 10 years, so if there is a place where we need to focus to recover tax revenue to help the budget (in areas of healthcare, education, infrastructure, etc.), it is on corporate taxes first.
  - The opioid crisis is a public epidemic, and we need to recognize that it does not discriminate by race, or socio-economic status. I suggest we use Vermont as a model. They took Medicaid expansion and they developed a holistic approach using a hub and spoke model. It looks something like this:



4. **How would you counteract voter suppression?**
- Propose state-wide mail-in ballots.
  - Repeal the strict voter ID laws that have been passed in the past few years in Missouri. We've had little to no evidence of voter fraud, and voter ID laws are put in place to disproportionately harm minorities and the poor.
  - I would also like to see a national holiday for national election days.
5. **If you are elected what will you do to improve infrastructure: internet communication, roads, bridges, airport?**
- I think we agree that tax cuts for the wealthiest are not the way to pay for it. But then again, tax increases on the wealthy is not necessarily the answer in this case. In Missouri we have cut corporate revenue by \$200,000,000 in the last 10 years. I would like to see that money returned to Missouri's Schools, healthcare and infrastructure.
  - I have an airport in my District, and I would like to talk to them and learn more about their thoughts on this topic.

**6. What will you do to reduce gun violence?**

- a. I am a gun owner and I support the 2nd Amendment. Constitutional rights and safety measures can co-exist. Having personally dealt with a mentally ill person with access to guns, I strongly support universal background checks.
- b. I also strongly believe we need to talk to and work with gun owners to find solutions to the public health crisis of gun violence. If Democrats continue to treat gun owners as the enemy, no common ground will be found, and that is unacceptable. We must work on multi-tiered solutions to the many problems of gun violence: domestic violence, suicide, accidental shootings, and mass murder.

**7. Would you be in favor of eliminating the tax-free status of major universities with billion-dollar endowments and using the money for tuition assistance in order to reduce the cost of education?**

- a. First, I think education has been the target of too many cuts. There are other places to look before education comes up on the list of places to find money.
- b. That said, I do believe taxing private school endowments is one way to raise funds for additional public education, and to reduce student loan debt. I would not support removing that "tax free" status of non-profit universities, but looking at something like taxing the interest gains on the endowments (somewhat like the capital gains tax model) would be a good avenue to explore. I am not an expert in this area, and I'd want to learn more about it before making a definitive decision.

**8. I am disappointed to see little or no African-American presence in the audience tonight, especially since ours is the party that best serves their interests. This important constituency has recently raised a voice in public protests. How can we encourage some of this energy to be converted to political and legislative action?**

- a. I completely agree that African-Americans and other minorities need to have a voice in politics and legislation. One important step I am taking is to speak out against SB43, and continue to fight for its repeal. SB43 is a horrible law put into place last year which legalizes discrimination against minorities by making it harder to sue employers and others who commit it (and punishes government whistleblowers).
- b. I also want to partner with people such as House Rep Bruce Franks, Jr., Rod Chapel, Jr., President of the Missouri NAACP, Freddy Doss, Legislative Assistant in Jefferson City, and Dr. Peggy Sherwin, fellow House Rep Candidate to understand their priorities and how I can use the privilege I have as a Caucasian, cis-gender, middle class person to stand up for those who need my voice and my help.

**9. What can we as Democrats do to overcome the fact that many of our fellow Americans would rather vote for a perverted child molester than any Democrat and elect him to the senate?**

- a. This is a difficult question because people who would vote for someone like that are confounding to me.
- b. I would like to see the extremely divisive, ultra-partisan political road we find ourselves on to end. The "party before country" and "party before people" attitude is ridiculous and only harms our society.
- c. So, what should we as Democrats do? We need to model good behavior, and call out bad behavior on both sides of the aisle. I also believe there is a way to have strong opinions about issues, and still be respectful, civil, and ethical. We can hold people to high standards, even when we disagree with them.

**10. What approach are you taking to win? How can retired people help in your campaign?**

- a. I am primarily working on three fronts at the moment: (1) getting my name out to my District, (2) raising money, (3) recruiting volunteers. See my website: <http://gs4mo.com> to donate or to sign up as a volunteer.
- b. In my campaign, we currently have a Campaign Strategist, Field Director, and Volunteer Manager. I am working with my team to put together compelling communications, a field plan to meet as many constituents as possible, and fundraising to support it all.

**11. How much money have you raised?**

- a. About \$5500
- b. I am currently looking for people to help with fundraising. This includes setting up gatherings in homes, doing calls to Dems who have donated in the past, etc. Please contact me at [genevieve@gs4mo.com](mailto:genevieve@gs4mo.com), or sign up to volunteer here: [https://actionnetwork.org/forms/volunteer-gs4mo-put-people-first?source=direct\\_link&](https://actionnetwork.org/forms/volunteer-gs4mo-put-people-first?source=direct_link&)

**12. How are you going to combat Trump at the state level?**

- a. To me, combatting Trump means combatting special-interests and politicians who are only interested in political issues that further their own self-interests.
- b. I plan to work for the good of ALL Missourians, regardless of party, regardless of whether they vote for me. As I like to say, our state motto is: "The welfare of the people shall be the supreme law." To me, the welfare of the people, means a focus on:
  - i. **Healthcare** for all
  - ii. Access to **affordable education**
  - iii. Opportunities for **jobs with fair wages**, and
  - iv. **Civil rights** with non-discrimination for all.

**13. Why did Trump win?**

- a. A combination of things. First, go back to question #9 regarding my statement about ultra-partisanship, where people feel it's more important to vote along party lines than to worry about who is actually going to govern.
- b. Next, there is a class war being waged. And for reasons best left to sociologists to explain, the people the least like Donald Trump saw him as their savior, voting against their own best interests. The symptoms of this class war are that the wealth, access, and privilege gaps are widening:
  - i. People at the very top keep getting more – money, education, jobs, healthcare, advantages in the legal and justice system, etc.
  - ii. People in the middle have stagnated or are losing ground in wages, healthcare, debt, access to higher education opportunities, and more.
  - iii. And the people at the bottom are being left behind and forgotten. Many are left without livable wages, no access to good education, no healthcare, bankruptcy, police brutality, poverty, hunger, and more.
- c. Somehow the Republicans have convinced a great number of people in all THREE of the above categories that they (the Republicans) can best represent them. This is a real problem for Democrats, and one we need to open our eyes to in order to solve. We need to listen to what these groups are saying and understand why they don't think Democrats can help them.
- d. I also must mention the disturbing growing culture of willful ignorance, particularly in critical thinking, science, and provable facts. In this age of 24-7 media, and never knowing exactly who is on the other end of a screen, we must increase our ability to research, think critically, and debate issues, not just take things at face value. This is yet another reason that the decline in access to higher education is particularly disturbing.

**14. Millennials want to know if you will be recommending the use of block chain technology to house medical records and build an opioid prescription database. Block chain technology is secure by design and suitable for recording medical records, identity management, transaction processing, and food traceability.**

- a. First, I understand how important securing personal data is, particularly when it comes to medical and identity information.
- b. Next, it is totally unacceptable that Missouri is the ONLY state in the US without a prescription drug monitoring database; that needs to change. That said, in 2017 the state legislature attempted to pass a very weak law that would have mandated the counties that DO currently have prescription drug database tracking to get rid of them. We need to stop working against local lawmakers to insist on

weaker bills that supersede them at the state level. We need to work with local government to make the state stronger.

- c. Finally, I only understand block chain technology at a very basic level. And I know it's used in crypto currency, and other high tech applications. I would need to understand it in more detail to make a recommendation about whether it should be used for these purposes

**15. Renewable energy is one of the most effective ways to address climate change. Will you support enforcing the 21% of renewable energy standard by 2021 as passed by Missouri voters in 2008?**

- a. First, the question is not correctly stated based on the statute that was passed – Proposition C. The question on the ballot, which passed with 66% voter approval:
  - i. Shall Missouri law be amended to require investor-owned electric utilities to generate or purchase electricity from renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, biomass and hydropower with the renewable energy sources equaling at least 2% of retail sales by 2011 increasing incrementally to at least 15% by 2021, including at least 2% from solar energy; and restricting to no more than 1% any rate increase to consumers for this renewable energy?
- b. Next, I am VERY supportive of enforcement of this renewable energy standard. As a general rule, I am supportive of clean and renewable energy initiatives.

**16. What steps will you take to improve the funding for public education?**

- a. As I stated in a question above, in Missouri we have cut corporate revenue by \$200,000,000 in the last 10 years. I would like to see that money returned to Missouri's schools, healthcare and infrastructure.
- b. I'm also strongly against cutting the public education budget whenever there's a budget shortfall.
- c. Finally, I am a big proponent for improving public school K-12 education, and I stand strongly against using any of the state money to fund charter schools.