

## REPACCMO 2026 Candidate Questionnaire

Thank you for taking the time to complete our values questionnaire. Voters who rely on party affiliation deserve to know a Republican candidate's values align with their own, which is the purpose of this document. You will be presented with a series of statements. For each statement, choose either "Agree" or "Disagree". There is a comment box below the statement where you can add comments. Each statement is scored based on Republican Platform values, including the Amendments passed last year at the state convention. Comments can provide clarification, but will not affect your score. There are nine pages to this questionnaire with varying numbers of questions, plus a candidate statement at the end. Please allot approximately half an hour to forty-five minutes of time to complete the questionnaire. Also, if you are running for office at a local or county level, be sure to check with your central committee to see if they are doing any additional vetting. Obtaining a REPACCMO vetted logo does not guarantee the Central Committee's endorsement if they have an additional evaluation process.

Begin by providing the personal information requested below. Do not leave any information blank. All statements require a response, and the questionnaire cannot be submitted if there are omissions. Only Comments and the last page of Candidate Statement declarations are optional.

**Name** Paul Gross

**County** Franklin

**Please select one of the following options**

I am/will be a candidate for county or local office

**If you are or will be a candidate for elected office, please enter the office you are seeking or type "none" if you are not seeking elected office.**

East Central College Trustee Subdistrict 1

### Healthcare

**I support the following statements:**

**A1. Obamacare should be repealed, and we should move to a free market solution without government interference.**

Agree

#### A1. Comment

Obamacare is a absolute failure!

**A2. Abortion should be banned in Missouri with no exceptions.**

Agree

**A3. As a first step towards banning abortions in Missouri, I would support the 2026 A3 Amendment which allows for exceptions in the case of rape, incest, and the life of the mother.**

Agree

**A4. Individuals who aid in abortion should be criminally prosecuted, including the mother.**

Agree

**A5. Informed consent should be the cornerstone of all medical care choices, but may be suspended in cases of national or state emergencies.**

Disagree

**A6. Informed consent should be the cornerstone of all medical care choices.**

Agree

**A7. Vaccine mandates are a necessary evil to minimize and lessen the chance of pandemics, but should also include exemptions for religious reasons.**

Disagree

#### **A7. Comment**

There should be no mandates your choice.

## **SECOND AMENDMENT**

### **I support the following statements:**

**B1. All citizens should be able to own and carry firearms with no restrictions.**

Agree

**B2. It is government's role to place restrictions on some types of weapons and accessories for the safety of all.**

Disagree

**B3. It is necessary for government to implement licensing and restrictions to protect against crimes such as mass shootings and to control firearms sales.**

Disagree

**B4. Restrictions on magazine capacity is a reasonable approach to dangerous situations like mass shootings or confrontations with law enforcement.**

Disagree

**B5. I support all aspects of Missouri's SAPA law.**

Agree

**B6. Elected officials have the right to make and change gun laws as society's needs change.**

Disagree

**B7. Red flag laws are a necessary evil to protect Missouri citizens.**

Disagree

**TAXATION & PROPERTY RIGHTS**

**I support the following statements:**

National

**C1. Any Change to the federal tax system should include a requirement for a balanced budget with caps on debt.**

Agree

**C2. The IRS should be eliminated and taxation should be based on a national sales tax.**

Agree

**C3. Any change to the federal tax system must include a repeal of the 16th Amendment that established the federal income tax.**

Agree

**C4. EPA regulations are necessary to protect our natural resources.**

Disagree

**C5. To run the government, a progressive tax more fairly shares the burden of taxing the people.**

Disagree

State

**C6. Only US citizens should be allowed to own property in Missouri.**

Agree

**C7. Eminent Domain is necessary to improve the community as a whole.**

Disagree

**C8. The Missouri budget is out of control. Real cuts have to be made, and we need more federal contributions to make up any shortfalls.**

Agree

**C9. It is necessary for government to grow as our population and its needs expand.**

Disagree

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                |          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| C10. Real Estate and personal property taxes are necessary to fund government needs.                                                                                                                           | Disagree |
| C11. Real estate and personal property taxes should be eliminated and replaced with a consumption (sales) tax.                                                                                                 | Agree    |
| C12. The elimination of state income tax is on the right track if it is coupled with spending cuts.                                                                                                            | Agree    |
| C13. Missouri should have a state version of DOGE, with authority to recommend or eliminate state funded agencies, budget items, positions within government, and other wasteful spending items in the budget. | Agree    |
| C14. Any elimination of tax burdens should prioritize real estate and personal property taxes before state income tax.                                                                                         | Agree    |

## GLOBAL ISSUES

### I support the following statements:

|                                                                                                            |          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| D1. Organizations such as the UN and NATO are good because they provide a platform for global discussions. | Disagree |
| D2. The EPA is necessary to control bad actors and safeguard an acceptable environment for everyone.       | Disagree |
| D3. Government regulations are an impediment to the development and growth of an economy.                  | Agree    |
| D4. Chemical spraying of our atmosphere must be completely eliminated.                                     | Agree    |
| D5. Missouri should declare its sovereign rights over any global organization attempting control.          | Agree    |
| D6. Missouri should work with global organizations for better economic and environmental outcomes.         | Disagree |

## EDUCATION & FAMILY

**I support the following statements:**

**E1. School Choice & SSA accounts should be an option for education of our children.**

Agree

**E2. School's must develop and publish policy on social issues and those are the rules that are to be followed for that school. Such rules must take into account students' unique backgrounds and individual needs to ensure all students feel safe and acknowledged.**

Disagree

**E2. Comment**  
Policy and social issues should never be in same sentence.

**E3. DESE should be eliminated. Curriculum should be determined locally.**

Agree

**E4. To protect the privacy of the child, school counselors cannot always share information with the child's parents.**

Disagree

**E5. Whether a child receives vaccinations is the right of the parents alone to decide.**

Agree

**E6. The Missouri Constitution should be amended to allow marriage between two consenting adults.**

Disagree

**E7. The Department of Education must be eliminated and national curriculum rejected.**

Agree

**IMMIGRATION & CRIME**

**I support the following statements:**

**F1. Missouri should work with ICE as needed to remove all illegals from our state.**

Agree

**F2. Children born in this country are US citizens even if their parents are not.**

Disagree

- F3. Immigration amnesty should include people here illegally if they have not broken any laws.

Disagree

F4. Missouri voter roles must be purged so that only US Citizens can vote on any issue in Missouri

Agree

F5. Employers who hire illegal aliens should face stiff penalties.

Agree

F6. Missouri should welcome and protect all non-citizens regardless of how they entered the country, if they want to be part of the American Dream of freedom and opportunity.

Disagree

F7. Cashless bail should be eliminated from our judicial and law enforcement process.

Agree
- ELECTION INTEGRITY
- I support the following statements:
- G1. All forms of electronic voting equipment must be eliminated.

Agree

G2. All election results should be tabulated through hand counting by bi-partisan teams.

Agree

G3. Hand counting does nothing to ensure election integrity as people can cheat. Electronic is more secure.

Disagree

G4. Any hand counting of ballots must also be backed up by tabulator scans to confirm/audit totals and should be done by a separate team.

Disagree

G4. Comment

No electronic anything!

G5. Mail-in voting should be expanded to six weeks to ensure all who wish to vote have a chance to do so.

Disagree

G5. Comment

Mail in should be eliminated.

6

G6. Voter rolls should be totally purged after each presidential election cycle and people required to re-register.

Agree

G7. Primary ballots should be available only to voters whose registered party affiliation matches the ballot they have chosen (closed primaries).

Agree

G8. Mail-in voting should be eliminated except for overseas military.

Agree

G9. Any mail in balloting must arrive before election day and remain sealed until counted on election day.

Agree

STATE SOVEREIGNTY

I support the following statements:

H1. The 10th Amendment to the US Constitution only applies where Congress has not passed laws to the contrary.

Disagree

H2. Missouri's tax funded agencies perform valuable services to our citizens and should receive priority funding when the annual budget is prepared.

Disagree

H3. Missouri's governor and attorney general have a duty to push back on federal overreach, especially when state sovereignty is threatened.

Agree

H4. We should legally challenge the federal government when mandates are issued that affect Missourians.

Agree

H5. Federal and/or state mandates must be enforced to ensure the safety of all Missouri residents.

Disagree

MISCELLANEOUS

I support the following statements:

Legislative & Judiciary.

**I1. The Missouri Plan for selection of judges for the MO Supreme and Appellate courts ensures quality candidates are considered for these two courts.**

Disagree

**I2. Bills that are filed and final legislation that is perfected and passed must adhere to the single subject rule of the MO Constitution.**

Agree

### Party Values

**I3. Candidates should only be allowed to file for office under a political party's name if the majority of the candidate's values align with the party's current platform that is in effect when the candidate filed for office.**

Agree

**I4. If the majority of an elected official's voting record does not reflect the party's stated platform values, the party should refuse to allow that individual to file with their party in the future.**

Agree

**I5. If elected, I pledge that I will abstain from accepting monetary donations or gifts from lobbyists.**

Agree

## **CANDIDATE STATEMENT**

You have indicated your desire to run for elected office as a member of the Missouri Republican Party ("Party"). By signing this Statement, you are attesting that the majority of your values are in alignment with the Party's, as enumerated by the Party Platform, together with the Amendments passed at last year's state convention ("Platform"). The affixing of your signature on this Statement is an affirmation to both Missouri voters and Party committee men and women that your actions, bills, and votes (collectively "Performance") as an elected official will honor the Platform values you are indicating align with your own.

You also understand numerous court rulings have indicated if a candidate files with a party whose values (s)he does not share, said candidate is committing a fraud and deceit upon the voting public. (See SCOTUS Justice Antonin Scalia delivering majority opinion in *California Democratic Party v. Jones*, 530 U.S. 567 (2000)) The oral delivery of the opinion can be heard at this link: <https://www.oyez.org/cases/1999/99-401>.)

Candidates wishing to represent the Republican Party through elected office are expected to check the boxes below that you agree with, and you must sign this Statement as part of REPACCMO's vetting process. If your Central Committee is doing mandatory vetting, they may have adopted a policy of rejecting the filing fee of those county candidates who do not successfully complete the REPACCMO vetting process. If your filing fee is rejected, that also serves as the Party's rejection of your ability to file as a Republican candidate at the county level. Therefore, you should check with your central committee chair to determine their policy. You can find your county's chair and contact information at this link: <https://www.repaccmo.com/cc> REPACCMO makes the results of your Candidate Questionnaire

available to central committees.

If you are an incumbent with a voting record, as part of the REPACCMO evaluation, we will check that record. We utilize three independent scoring services, Freedom Principle of MO, Freedom Index, and CPAC. If you have at least a C- from two of the three services, at least a C- on this questionnaire, and no felony convictions in the State of Missouri, you will earn a REPACCMO VETTED logo which can be used on marketing materials. Your completed questionnaire will be placed on our REPACCMO website, and voters will be able to view your positions on the statements you have answered.

We thank you for your commitment to being open and honest with voters about your values and positions. Good luck in your campaign for office, and thank you for participating in REPACCMO vetting. Together, we are building a Republican Party whose members and representatives support the values expressed by the Party's platform. Republican voters deserve no less.

Please check each statement below that you agree with.

**I have read completely the current Platform, including Amendments, and affirm the majority of my values align with it. (The platform and amendments passed by the 2024 Missouri State Convention delegates can be found at this link: <https://www.repaccmo.com/mo-republican-platform>)**

Agree

**If elected or re-elected, I will adhere to the Platform tenets in my capacity as an elected official. I understand I am expected to support the principles of the Platform, and if my elected position casts votes, the Platform will be a guide for my voting decisions. My Performance will reflect my belief in the Party's values as enumerated in the Platform.**

Agree

**I understand being a Republican elected official means I am a representative of the Party's values. I will listen to my Party's input, and my Performance will reflect my support of Republican values over those of special interest groups, lobbyists, and/or my own desires for career advancement in politics or otherwise. I will ensure my Performance brings honor to my office and does not compromise any aspect of the duties required by my elected office. "Party interest" does not mean nor would it include compromising my legal responsibilities.**

Agree

**In my capacity as an elected official, I understand I am expected to honor the Platform by performing my duties in an impartial manner, without regard to race, ethnicity, or religion. I will favor equality over equity. If my elected office is judicial, I shall not legislate from the bench or use my authority to favor one party over another, but rather be guided by established judicial principles. This principle of equality under the law is in compliance with the Party's Platform.**

Agree

**I expect the Party will carefully watch my voting record (if my elected position casts votes) to monitor adherence to the Platform. If my Performance deviates from the Platform, I understand I may be contacted by members of the Party for an explanation. If my Performance continues to reflect my disregard for the tenets of the Platform I have said I support, I further understand the Party has the right to refuse to allow me to file as a Republican for any future elected office, regardless of the office sought.**

Agree

**I understand this Questionnaire is only one part of a multipart process the Party's vetting committee may utilize in determining my eligibility to run for elected office as a Republican. Signing this Statement offers no guarantee of acceptance of my filing fee for county level office. If my filing fee is rejected, I understand it is also the official Party rejection of my ability to register as a Republican candidate for the political office being sought. (I know I would still be able to file with another party or as an Independent.) Additionally, I understand there may be central committees who elect to offer speaking engagements for community events only to candidates who have gone through their vetting process.**

I understand

**Revised Statutes of Missouri (RSMo) 115.357 stipulates you cannot appear on any ballot using the Party's name until the appropriate Committee**

I understand

Treasurer has accepted your filing fee. Giving your fee to any other individual does NOT mean your fee has been accepted by the Party. Fees paid to any other individual, such as directly to the election authority, can be returned uncashed, and the Party can reject your candidacy which prevents you from filing as a Republican. For county offices, contact the central committee chair to determine their process which may include paying the filing fee ONLY to the committee treasurer. (See MO case law 24VE-CV00185)

By typing your full name below, you are acknowledging your agreement with the statements checked above.

Paul Gross

A3. As a first step towards banning abortions in Missouri, I would support the 2026 A3 Amendment which allows for exceptions in the case of rape, incest, and the life of the mother.

Agree