

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	Mike Costlow
County	St. Charles
Please select one of the following options	I am/will be a candidate for state or federal 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.	State Representative District 108

Healthcare

I support the following statements:

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 Obamacare should be repealed, and we should move to a free market solution without government interference.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

A3. Comment

While this is one of the first steps, I also support concurrent actions that seek to define a child in the womb as entitled to protections under the 5th and 14th amendments.

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

Agree

A4. Comment

While I agree, a cultural and societal change is necessary before a law like this could be passed.

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

Disagree

A5. Comment

If we surrender our essential rights due to national emergency, those seeking to strip our rights will simply create emergencies.

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

If vaccines work as advertised, those who choose to receive them should be immune from the virus they are vaccinated from and do not require forcing it on others.

SECOND AMENDMENT

I support the following statements:

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

Agree

B1. Comment

Nearly absolute - I do believe there are crimes that, as condition of punishment, can remove certain rights. The list is short.

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

Disagree

B2. Comment

I am currently carrying the Suppressor Freedom bill in the MO House to challenge the unconstitutional overreach of the National Firearms Act.

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

B3. Comment

History has shown these licensing schemes to be ineffective and infringe on the rights of law abiding citizens.

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.

Disagree

B5. Comment

Some parts of the SAPA law that was passed had the unintended consequence of preventing state law enforcement from aiding federal task forces (like ICE's sex crimes task force) and made it more difficult to secure insurance policies. We want to protect our 2nd Amendment rights without interfering with law enforcement's ability to do their job.

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.

Disagree

C2. Comment

I am not ready to place all taxation on a sales tax - I would prefer the majority of the Federal budget to come from import/export taxes as originally designed. If there was a path to repealing the 16th amendment, I would support it.

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.

Agree

C7. Comment

There are some situations where eminent domain is appropriate, but we have allowed public and private companies to use it inappropriately. I am working with organizations affected by the Grain Belt Express development to file legislation preventing this eminent domain abuse in the future.

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.

Disagree

C8. Comment

Relying on Federal dollars are a central reason our budget ballooned over the past 6 years and special interest groups felt bold enough to fund ballot measures to expand medicare. We have to build a strong MO economy that stands self sufficiently.

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

C10. Comment

Personal Property Tax discourages investment in our state and must be repealed. Missouri's scattered tax system is in need of a top-down overhaul.

C11. Real estate and personal property taxes should be eliminated and replaced with a consumption (sales) tax.

Disagree

C11. Comment

Since these taxes are local, these communities cannot rely solely on consumption taxes to replace revenues for essential services (ie. areas with little or no commercial businesses). Each local community

will need to identify the best taxing strategy to fund essential services. The State should allow each community to find the best way to do that for themselves.

These taxes were voted on locally and represent the value each community places on different services. If the State invoked a state-side sales tax and reallocated funds to these taxing districts, it would not match their needs as well. This is why the local communities need a chance to solve the problem themselves.

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. Disagree

C13. Comment
We do have a 'DOGE' committee in the Missouri House that is authorized to investigate and make suggestions. I would support expanding their authority, but would not like them to have direct authority to remove items unilaterally. They still need checks and balances.

C14. Any elimination of tax burdens should prioritize real estate and personal property taxes before state income tax. Disagree

C14. Comment
While Personal Property tax would be a lower value than income tax and appear easier to replace, the complexities with replacing PPT require a longer runway. Income tax is easier to do through legislation because it is already a State tax.

It is my hope that we tackle PPT next year.

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

D1. Comment
A competent president can facilitate global discussions with a phone call. Trump has already proven that.

D2. The EPA is necessary to control bad actors and safeguard an acceptable environment for everyone. Disagree

D2. Comment
I would support a small EPA to assist with issues similar to FEMA, but their scope would have to change so drastically that the department would be all but eliminated.

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

D4. Comment

I am a cosponsor of Rep Jordan's Clear Skies Act (HB2388) and was last year as well.

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

I am not exactly sure what the question is asking but this sounds like a social justice declaration. I would need more information to fully answer.

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

E6. Comment
Our Constitution is too large and misused. Any marriage law should be statutory.

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. Agree

F2. Comment
This is the current Federal Law, though I know it is being challenged.

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

F3. Comment
I do not agree with Amnesty. I support a pathway to legal citizenship for those who are established in the USA, are not on any public assistance, and have not broken any other laws other than entering or staying in the country illegally.

These individuals must report to US Immigration authorities and begin the immigration process at the back of the line like everyone else. Failure to do this should result in immediate deportation.

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.

Disagree

G1. Comment

Our current posture of paper ballots completed by hand, counted by tabulator and hand counted as a check/control is the best in the nation. Removing all electronic counting of ballots removes an essential objective safeguard and welcomes bias, error, and malfeasance that is difficult to detect.

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

Disagree

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

Disagree

G3. Comment

Both methods can be secure or unsecure. Using both provides proper controls.

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.

Agree

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

Disagree

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

Disagree

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.

Disagree

G8. Comment

I do not like selecting 'disagree' here, but exceptions for those with medical issues preventing them from leaving home/facility should also have access to mail in ballots. The general public should not.

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

H1. Comment

The 10th amendment was written to protect us from unconstitutional laws written by Congress. If Congress passes a law that they are not explicitly authorized by the Constitution to act on, that law is invalid under the 10th Amendment.

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

Disagree

H2. Comment

This question is too vague. Not all agencies should be funded.

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

H5. Comment

If I understand the tone of the question correctly, this appears to suggest that all mandates must be treated as valid. We know that isn't always the case and must challenge all those that are not.

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

I1. Comment

The Missouri Plan created partisan Courts appointed by Liberals. It must be repealed and objective, textualist justices appointed.

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

I2. Comment

This is legally required, though the definition of 'single subject' is not agreed upon.

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.

Disagree

I3. Comment

I have seen firsthand the attempts made by some in the Republican party to abuse this concept to control their ballots. In theory it is good, but in practice it does not work. The voters of that Party should be responsible for declaring which candidates values align with the party. This can be achieved best by closing the primaries.

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.

Disagree

I4. Comment

I have seen firsthand the attempts made by some in the Republican party to abuse this concept to control their ballots. In theory it is good, but in practice it does not work. The voters of that Party should be responsible for declaring which candidates values align with the party. This can be achieved best by closing the primaries.

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

Disagree

I5. Comment

While I will continue to accept donations to my campaign, I make it clear to all lobbyists that a donation will not change the way I vote or evaluate.

I have been quoted as saying "I would even take money from Planned Parenthood, but would immediately forward that money to Pro-Life organizations to fight them"

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

Agree

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.

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

I understand

community events only to candidates who have gone through their vetting process.

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

I understand

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

Mike Costlow

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