

JASON KANDER
CCP 2008 Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Jason Kander

Committee: Friends of Jason Kander

Address: 1300 Meadow Lake Terrace, Kansas City, MO 64114; www.jasonkander.com;
816 268 6169

Office: State Representative, 44th District

Treasurer: Diana Kander

Education: High School at Bishop Miege. B.A. in Political Science at American University. J.D. from Georgetown Law School.

Employment: I am a practicing attorney.

Civic and Political Experience: I co-founded Heartland Democrats of America, an organization that promotes progressive values in rural and suburban Missouri. I am a member of the GKCWPC and a general member of the CCP. I have also worked on numerous political campaigns for Kansas City Democrats.

Previous elective office sought: None

Addresses for the last 5 years: 1300 Meadow Lake Ter, KCMO 64114; 109 E 69th Ter, KCMO 64113; and 1208 W 64th Ter, KCMO 64113.

Anticipated Campaign Budget: I have \$51,000 on hand and anticipate continuing to be very competitive in the coming months.

1. I think that the Medicaid cuts are immoral and should be reversed as soon as possible. I also think that State Legislators should lose their health insurance until the cuts are restored.
2. I will make it a top priority to restore Medicaid to those who have lost it. Every budget, every health care bill, should carry an amendment with this goal. Additionally, I support allowing more small businesses and self-employed Missourians to pool together to provide coverage.
3. No. Additional cost shifting is not necessary. We just need to get our priorities straight.
4. In a country as wealthy as ours, the simple ability to go the doctor should not be a luxury. I believe that health care is a human right.
5. The following are my healthcare priorities:
 - a. **Medicaid.** I think the cuts should be restored as soon as possible.
 - b. **Honesty about fraud.** It is time that we crack down on Medicaid provider fraud. Governor Blunt accuses recipients of "abusing the system," but the truth is that the overwhelming financial impact of Medicaid abuse comes from a small number of providers. We need to beef up this arm of the Attorney General's office.

- c. **Kids first.** As we address the healthcare crisis, we must prioritize the 121,000 Missouri children without health insurance.
 - d. **Hold HMOs and Insurers Accountable.** Missouri should fast-track any litigation regarding so-called "experimental therapies," "pre-existing conditions," or other common claim denial techniques. I am determined to prevent insurance companies from withholding legitimate treatments from those who need it most.
 - e. **Pro-Choice.** I am pro-choice and oppose any further limits on a woman's right to choose. I opposed the recent legislation affecting family planning clinics in Missouri.
 - f. **Prescription Drugs.** Maine, Hawaii, and California have brought the cost of prescription drugs for the uninsured down by using the buying power of Medicaid to negotiate with drug companies. We can threaten to remove drugs from the Medicaid preferred drug list if they do not lower exorbitant prices.
6. Yes. I think that our campaign finance system should be modeled after Arizona's. (I support Senator Jeff Smith's public financing plan). We need to have some sort of public financing to allow people without a lot of personal wealth to compete with self-funded candidates, and at the same time we need to understand that it is impossible to keep money out of politics. Rather than pursuing the unrealistic goal of a completely level playing field, we should work to make the field at least open to all.
7. I ABSOLUTELY support the right of public employees to collectively bargain.
8. Yes. Prevailing wage laws should be enforced for public projects, and so should MBE/WBE requirements as well as more stringent environmental standards.
9. No. I do not support vouchers or any other private incentives for private and parochial schools, such as property tax credits. They rob the public school system of much needed funding.
10. Yes. I think that the current changes to damage limits and venue are bad for Missourians. As a practicing attorney who deals with insurance companies on behalf of injured Kansas Citians, I believe that the job of our legislature is to expand access to our court system and not to limit it.
11. Yes, the Missouri General Assembly should revisit tort reform. It is unrealistic to believe that the current climate would permit a complete repeal of damage caps. However, we need a plan to make medical malpractice insurers accountable for their premiums. I would propose a plan to set guidelines for premium increases and would heal the rift between lawyers and doctors by creating a private right of action in the law for doctors to bring claims against their own insurers. Also, I believe that we need to revisit the right of health insurance companies to subrogate such a large percentage of awards. I also believe that it is time to – at a

- minimum – raise the caps on pain and suffering awards to a level that more realistically reflects the cost of lifetime care.
12. Yes, I support state funding to Planned Parenthood.
 13. Yes, I support state funding for birth control measures.
 14. Yes. I fully support a woman's right to choose and will do what I can to protect it.
 15. Yes. I support the Missouri Plan. I think the current legislature does not respect the legal profession and they are trying to politicize a process that has been modeled in so many other states. I believe that we need more attorneys in the Missouri General Assembly.
 16. I don't think that Kansas City gets its fair share in the State Legislature. Our delegation in Kansas City needs to work more as a team to bring jobs and economic development to Kansas City. That means working alongside even Republicans in KC's suburbs to obtain seats on the committees that most affect Kansas City. It also means co-opting St. Louis representatives into an urban agenda, instead of two competing agendas.
 17. Yes. I fully support Stem Cell Research and will do what I can to protect it.
 18. I think the most challenging issue facing both parties is that many disrespect those who disagree with them and sometimes just resort to name calling. Calling someone a name or making fun of them will never convince them of your point or pass much needed legislation. It is very short-sighted to assume that those who disagree with you are simply ignorant. The most valuable characteristic that a legislator can possess is empathy.
 19. Candidates should address issues of faith if faith is an important part of their lives. They should never try to fake it. The whole purpose of Heartland Democrats was to help Democrats talk about the things they believed in term of values. We need to reframe legislative action that we disagree with in terms of the values these bills convey.
 20. I believe that we are losing union support because we aren't talking about our priorities in terms of values. 40% of Union members often vote for the Republican Party, even though endorsements usually go to only Democratic candidates. We need to connect with union workers on more than just their financial interests. We need to show them that the Democratic Party upholds their ideals. Instead of just explaining that we're right about the economy and jobs, we need to demonstrate that our economic policies are the morally upright option.

21. I am opposed to school vouchers. I think that vouchers will only continue to eradicate the middle class. I don't believe that I have ever accepted any contributions from PACs or individuals who have advocated for vouchers or school choice.
22. I was against the sale of MOHELA assets because it made it more difficult for Missourians to afford college. Transferring the loan assets to private entities that are more concerned about the bottom line has also hindered important programs that used to assist Missouri education in other areas, such as the loan forgiveness program for Missouri educators.
23. I have never supported the elimination of contributions limits. When the elimination was declared unconstitutional, but the Missouri Ethics Commission had not decided whether to apply the ruling retroactively, I voluntarily returned all contributions that were over the old legal limits and wrote a letter to the Missouri Ethics Commission encouraging them to apply the limits retroactively. This cost me about 60% of my funds raised at that time, but I believed it was the right thing to do.
24. No, I have never endorsed a Republican for office.
25. No, I have never supported right to work laws. My support of labor unions, and the effects their existence has on every other working person, is unwavering.
26. Yes, I support the right of public employees to collectively bargain. Not having the legal right to collectively bargain puts these workers at a disadvantage to secure better working conditions for themselves and a better living standard for their families.
27. I believe that there should be no additional limitations placed on Stem Cell research. I believe that it is our moral imperative to pursue life saving cures that stem cells can provide. I do not believe that human cloning should be allowed, but that is already protected by the constitutional amendment.
28. I would support NO changes to the Missouri Plan. I believe that it is the least political way to select judges, and I am dedicated to preserving it.
29. No. Our courts are a separate branch for a reason. Rather than working to limit access to the courts, our legislature's priority should be to open access to all Missourians. I fail to understand how juries across the country that conservatives believe are fit to decide death penalty recommendations are somehow unfit to calculate monetary damages.
30. Progressive groups I have been involved in:

- a. Heartland Democrats of America - which helped 4 Democrats get elected in Rural Missouri in 2006 and has targeted 3 more Democratic races for 2008. We have also trained a large number of Democratic candidates on how to campaign.
- b. Women's Political Caucus.
- c. Numerous student groups, general membership in CCP, member of Democracy for America, member of Human Rights Campaign.

31. Democratic campaigns I've been involved in

- a. Claire McCaskill for Senate – volunteer and organizer of a fundraising event.
- b. Jamie Metzl (before Cleaver entered the race) – issue research
- c. Albert Reiderer – assisted with a fundraising event
- d. Congressman Dennis Moore – policy advisor
- e. Assisted countless Democratic House candidates while working with Heartland Democrats.
- f. Victory 2000 – for all Democratic candidates across the state, but especially for Carnahan and Gore.

NOTE: My political involvement for the 2005-2007 campaign cycles was limited because I spent 14 months during that time on active duty with the US Army away from Kansas City.

My three top priorities are providing affordable healthcare, improving the quality of education in Kansas City, and making Missouri a leader on environmental policy.

I believe that we do this with creative, compassionate health care policies such as those discussed in earlier questions. I believe in focusing on urban policies in Kansas City to improve education and decreasing the amount of testing in our schools in order to allow teachers to teach. I also strongly believe in market-driven conservation policies via government reforms, as well as tax incentives for alternative and renewable energy technologies.