Contract With Missouri

The Republican Party has a goal for Missouri: to see it become an economic, energy, and research powerhouse befitting a State that is in the middle of the greatest nation on Earth. Securing these properties requires harnessing the individual inspiration, drive, and excitement of the citizens of the State. By acting as a shield for entrepreneurs and investors from bureaucratic bullying, the Missouri State Government can attract investment projects which will bring jobs and bright minds to the State, and enrich all of its inhabitants.

Attracting bright minds and innovative research will establish Missouri as a place to build new and lucrative businesses and infrastructure. To accomplish this, the State Government must see that its investments in education are not squandered. The Republicans will unleash the power of the citizenry to control the quality of schools within the State at all levels: Primary, Secondary, and University.

Energy concerns are critical to the nation as a whole at this time. Bills are proposed below which will encourage the construction of new power plants and gas refineries in Missouri, reducing in-state costs of these critical resources, and enabling the sale of surpluses to the nation as a whole, further enriching the people of Missouri while providing much-needed aid to the rest of the United States. Development is encouraged by offering protection from frivolous law suits and malicious activist groups, while the safety of the people and the land is preserved by ensuring malicious and criminal behavior which causes harm is handled as a criminal offense.

As a compassionate people, Missourians have established welfare, Medicaid, and other programs to support those who need it. These programs have been abused, their rolls expanded so greatly that they cannot cover the costs that those for whom they were designed incur. These rolls will be brought down to manageable levels, so that those who are in true need receive the care and help they require.

In pursuit of these goals, if the undersigned are elected to office and control the State Legislature, they will bring the bills at the end of this document to the floor for open debate and a vote.

Proposed Bills

Missouri Self-Sufficiency Act: The government of Missouri will refuse all federal money, including "stimulus," budgetary compensations, "carrot and stick" money, and other such schemes designed to manipulate State business from the federal level. Exceptions include only national security (e.g. interstate highways) and high-emergency situations (as declared by the Governor).

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Missouri Fiscal Responsibility Act: State programs will be thoroughly investigated, and their rolls reduced by removing those whose sole "need" is financial in order to meet its responsibilities to wards of the state, and those who would be such were it not for adoption programs.

Missouri Investment in the Union Act: Should there be a surplus, it shall be cut from the budget in the form of a tax cut for the next fiscal year, or used to purchase US Treasury Bonds as an investment in America and Missouri's future.

Missouri Jobs and Corporate Growth Act: In order to attract new businesses and retain our current ones, Missouri will eliminate its corporate taxes and cut income taxes.

Missouri Energy Jobs and Economic Growth Act: To reduce gas prices and energy prices in Missouri, the State will invite the construction of nuclear power plants and gasoline refineries by private owners. Missouri will match, for 20 years, the subsidies farmers are given to keep land fallow for the land devoted to these construction projects, and the State will enact protections for such projects from Federal regulatory agencies. We, the people of Missouri, can take care of our own well-being.

Missouri Energy Research Act: In conjunction with the Energy Jobs act, the State will invite and encourage partnerships with its own Universities and companies in other states which are working on such research. Investment in building Smart Grid technologies - such as a new, cutting edge grid along side the current legacy grid - will be encouraged through tax incentives.

Missouri Universal Education Quality Act: In order to increase the quality of primary and secondary schools throughout the state, municipal support of public schools will be left to municipal governments as their people see fit. State funds for education will be distributed directly to parents of students of school age, which they may use to send their children to any accredited school within the state.

Missouri University Reform Act: Because prices for running state Universities are becoming out-of-control, they will be permitted and expected to perform like a business. Expenses that do not contribute to their performance will be thoroughly examined, and state funds will not be used to support them. Schools which cannot operate with balanced budgets will be allowed to go out of business.

Missouri Environmental Stewardship Act: Missouri will take responsibility for managing its own ecology, and establish what agencies it deems necessary to promote this stewardship. Outside of national parks, Missouri will claim primary and sovereign authority over its environmental laws, refusing extra-State agencies any authority to investigate or enforce out-of-state regulations. Such Missouri State agencies will work with and promote responsible development of undeveloped, privately-owned lands so they may be of profit to the citizens of Missouri.
Missouri Environmental Development Protection Act: To curb business- and development-killing "ecological bullying" on the part of activist groups and federal agencies, Missouri shall enact policies protecting private development concerns from litigation which halts or destroys high-investment development projects. Preventative fines and judicial cease-and-desist orders may not be implemented for any purpose to prevent speculated harm. Criminal procedures after harm has been shown - with burden-of-proof being on those seeking to prove harm - are the deterrent to executing illegal activities.

Show-Me-Tort-Reform Act: To ensure that Missouri does not develop job-killing and inflation-exacerbating law suits as the State attempts to attract businesses and high-end research and development jobs to the state, civil suits will not be permitted to grant financial awards in excess of those necessary to pay for the care necessitated by the harm that was done. "Hardship" pay and punitive damages may not be awarded by civil courts. Punitive measures may only be meted out in criminal proceedings; individuals will be held responsible for decisions made, rather than abstracting such penalties to fines and fees.