

Hold Them Accountable: Questions Every Citizen Should Ask Candidates and Office Holders

Foundational Questions for All Candidates

1. What do you believe is the proper role and purpose of government?
2. How do you decide whether to support or oppose a bill? Do you follow a clear set of principles or criteria?
3. How do you (or would you) choose your staff and advisors? What qualifications or values are most important to you?
4. What will you do if you are asked to vote on a bill you haven't had time to read or don't fully understand?
5. Can you name a bill you supported that you later regretted? What did you learn from that experience?
6. What is your understanding of a 'single-subject' bill, and why is that principle important to constitutional government?
7. What sections of the Missouri and U.S. Constitutions do you view as most important to protect right now — and why?
8. When you swore to uphold the Constitution, what did that oath mean to you personally?
9. Can you give an example of a time when you stood alone for what was right, even when it was unpopular?
10. How do you plan to keep your constituents informed about your votes and decisions?

Questions for House Members and Candidates

11. How do you feel about the practice of selecting the next Speaker of the House more than a year in advance — before the next election and before the members have been chosen?
12. Did you vote for Justin Sparks for Speaker? Why or why not?
13. Have you contributed to the House Republican Campaign Committee (HRCC)? If so, how much, and why?
14. How do you balance loyalty to party leadership with your duty to represent your constituents and uphold the Constitution?
15. How do you handle pressure from lobbyists, PACs, or leadership when their agenda conflicts with the interests of your district?

Questions for Senate Members and Candidates

16. Do you support requiring at least 48 hours for Senators to review any substitute bill before it can be voted on?

17. On what issues or principles would you be willing to filibuster, even if you had to stand alone?
18. How do you communicate major votes or policy changes to the people you represent?
19. What role should the Senate play in checking the power of the House and the Governor when they overreach?
20. What do you believe should be done to ensure that lobbyist influence and personal gain do not override the public good in the Missouri Senate?

Optional Follow-Up or Deep-Dive Questions

21. How would you define 'limited government' in practice?
22. Do you believe the people or the government are the ultimate source of authority?
23. What's your view of nullification or state sovereignty when the federal government exceeds its authority?
24. How do you balance compassion and justice in policymaking, especially on issues like abortion, welfare, or criminal law?
25. Do you believe unelected bureaucrats should have rule-making authority?



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