

Springfield City Council Candidate Survey

Brandon Jenson, he/him/his – City Council Zone 3

I believe in a community where our economy and democracy work for all of us, not just the wealthy few.

Strongly Agree

Ensuring that all stakeholders have a clear, actionable voice in the decision making process of elected officials is critical to effective outcomes of policy and budget. This could be implemented through a number of educational and procedural changes in local government decisions. Examples would include: 1. Modifying the development process to require improved public meetings between developers and residents, 2. Formal consultations by the City in policy and budget amendment processes with all affected stakeholder groups (including but not limited to unions, neighborhood associations, and businesses) 3. Greater efforts in civic education and engagement from elected officials, including media and outreach events by elected officials.

Public transportation should be expanded to meet the needs of the community.

Strongly Agree

Public transportation should provide an alternative means of transportation that is accessible for residents and visitors of all backgrounds and abilities. Public transportation must be integrated as a core strategy of transportation if our community is to grow in a manner that is functional and sustainable. Balancing the need for coverage and frequency of service ensures that the greatest benefit will be provided to the most number of people. I would advocate for greater priority of transit improvements, improving bus stop in tandem with road improvements, and exploration of a regional transit agency to expand service on a regional basis.

Public transportation should be free at the point of service (i.e., on the bus).

Moderately Agree

User fares historically fund a very small percentage of transit operations and capital costs but can have a significant impact on individual users. Rather than eliminating user fares system-wide, I would support alternatives that ensure financial ability is not a barrier to using transit while maintaining an opportunity for revenues to sustain operational and capital expenses. Examples could include: 1. Fare-free corridors that connect low-income neighborhoods to commercial centers and services 2. Fare subsidies, or pre-paid fares, for extremely low-income and homeless individuals 3. Surcharges for visitor-oriented routes, like the airport or major venues.

The right of workers to join unions to negotiate fair wages, benefits, and working conditions without employer interference should be protected.

Strongly Agree

Corporations have too much power, even when compared to collective voices. Unions under strong leadership have documented evidence of generating more beneficial outcomes for workers and creating better working conditions. Union busting represents a threat to these outcomes. I would support the rights of workers by being an advocate for unionization and prioritizing contracts with union organizations, within my legal and ethical ability.

All workers should earn a living wage of at least \$15 per hour.

Strongly Agree

To ensure a vibrant and prosperous community for all individuals, citizens must have the opportunity to earn a livable wage for their household. The City should periodically conduct a salary survey to ensure that its lowest-paid positions continue to meet a livable wage, and ensure that all positions are compensated accordingly. I would also support the inclusion of livable wage terms in City contracts, within legal limits.

Workers should have access to earned sick time and family leave to care for loved ones in times of crisis.

Strongly Agree

Paid leave should be a right of all workers, in order to ensure they may maintain a healthy work-life balance. I would advocate that City employees receive adequate benefits and prioritize contracts that incorporate these requirements of these benefits from external entities, within legal limits.

Every Springfield resident should have a safe, accessible, and truly affordable place to call home.

Strongly Agree

According to data from the Missouri Inclusive Development Corporation, Springfield is on track to see two-thirds of its affordable housing units convert to market-rate over the next ten years. Our City must support not only the addition of housing, through densification and expansion of residential when fiscally-responsible, but also the rehabilitation and reuse of dilapidated buildings. Examples may include support for Low-Income Housing Tax Credit developments, financial assistance for homeowners and high-impact residential properties, and moderate annexation.

The city of Springfield should contract with businesses who pay at or above prevailing wage rates and have a proven track record of respecting and protecting workers on the job.

Strongly Agree

I would ensure the City's procurement policies prioritize the awarding of contracts, within the confines of RSMo. 290.210 through 290.340. I would also support exploration of state statutory changes that would further serve to promote the use of prevailing wage in additional opportunities.

The city of Springfield should prioritize contracts with businesses that employ local workers who have access to apprenticeship training.

Moderately Agree

Recognizing the shortage of laborers in the Springfield area, I would support the prioritization of contracts to local entities, within legal limits, when coupled with sustained and improved efforts to increase the number of individuals who choose to enter trades. This would include continuing to support apprenticeship and on-the-job training efforts by higher education institutions and the public school system, and advocating for existing systems that assist with financial barriers to entering apprenticeships or trades.

City leaders should champion policies that eliminate racial disparities and racial injustice in traffic stops and other police interactions, as well as in income, housing options, and public health and safety.

Moderately Agree

Individuals should not experience differentiation in outcomes from their government based on race. I will continue to support issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion to ensure that all individuals are treated as human beings, irrespective of their differences in background.

Would you be willing to sign a pledge based on the items you indicated agreement with? This pledge would be shared publicly. Candidates who choose not to sign the pledge may also be made public.

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Yes, but I would appreciate an opportunity to read the pledge in advance and discuss any questions.

Is there anything else you would like for us to know?

I promise to be balanced, thoughtful, and intentional in my decision-making in order to maximize benefit to the greatest number of people.