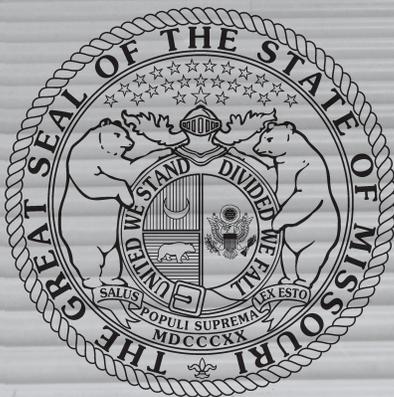


MISSOURI SECRETARY OF STATE
JASON KANDER

AS THE STRUCTURE OF A GOVERNMENT GIVES



2016
POLICY AGENDA



Dear Fellow Missourian,

Since taking office as your secretary of state in 2013, I have worked hard to cut red tape and fees for Missouri small businesses, preserve the integrity of our elections, call for more transparency and accountability in government and crack down on financial fraud.

I'm proud of what my office has accomplished, especially in just the last year:

- Worked with local election authorities on voter roll cleanup efforts that resulted in the most accurate and current voter rolls in decades;
- Secured a \$21.5 million settlement from a firm for assigning inflated credit ratings to toxic assets packaged and sold by the Wall Street investment banks;
- Submitted the smallest general revenue operating budget any secretary of state has since 1998;
- Conducted an investigation of petition signature fraud that led to the filing of felony charges against four individuals; and
- Cut my own budget and other expenses to be able to provide over \$3 million in grants to local election authorities to ensure they have the resources to conduct secure and fair elections

We also wrote several pieces of legislation that became law. The legislature passed my Senior Savings Protection Act, a bipartisan law to protect Missouri seniors from financial exploitation. We built on the success of our first-of-its-kind online military voting portal, www.momilitaryvote.com, and got the legislature to pass bipartisan legislation to expand military voter registration. Finally, the legislature passed our legislation to provide safer voting options to survivors of domestic violence, also by wide bipartisan margins.

While I am pleased that seniors, our men and women in uniform, and survivors of domestic violence will benefit from these new laws, I know we still have work to do. My office will continue to spend much of this legislative session focusing on four major goals: keeping our elections secure, open and accurate; restoring public trust in government; protecting Missourians; and growing Missouri business. In the 2016 legislative session, I am asking our General Assembly to make some changes to state laws to help in those efforts.

In this document you will find my legislative priorities, which have been filed on my behalf by both Democrats and Republicans. I will highlight these proposals throughout the 2016 legislative session, and I will work to show the General Assembly why these reforms are necessary to help us better serve Missourians.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve.

Sincerely,



Jason Kander

KEEPING ELECTIONS SECURE, OPEN AND ACCURATE

The Elections Division of the Office of the Secretary of State is responsible for administering all statewide elections, initiative petitions and voter education. Secretary Kander believes only eligible voters should be able to cast a ballot, but also that all eligible voters should have the opportunity to vote.

Since taking office, Secretary Kander has made the initiative petition process more transparent, worked with local election authorities to make voter registration more convenient and investigated allegations of voter fraud – completing more elections investigations than any Secretary of State ever has in Missouri.

In 2013, he established the Elections Integrity Unit to allow Missourians to submit elections concerns directly to the secretary of state's office. In advance of the 2014 general election, Secretary Kander established the Elections Integrity Task Force, comprised of bipartisan law enforcement and elections officials to coordinate efforts that ensure Missouri elections remain fair, secure and accessible.

Building on the success of the online portal www.MoMilitaryVote.com, Secretary Kander passed bipartisan legislation to expand military voter registration. He also passed legislation to provide safer voting options for survivors of domestic violence.

No Excuse Absentee Voting

Missouri is one of only a handful of states that require eligible voters to provide a very specific excuse to cast a ballot prior to Election Day. No-excuse absentee voting is a type of pre-Election Day voting that increases convenience for eligible voters and helps reduce long lines and wait times for voters at the polls on Election Day.

Key Elements of this Legislation:

- Allows any eligible Missouri voter to cast an absentee ballot in any election without being required to state a reason for voting absentee.

Ensure Ballot Access for Emergency Disaster Workers

Emergency workers are often called out of state to help aid in disaster recovery around the country. In the event of an emergency, it can be difficult to send absentee ballots to these workers. This was the case in 2012, when more than 600 Ameren employees left Missouri and Illinois to aid in Hurricane Sandy relief efforts just before the general election, but after the deadline to request an absentee ballot.

Key Elements of this Legislation:

- Permits emergency workers to request absentee ballots until 5 p.m. on the Monday prior to the election when an emergency has been declared; and
- Allows emergency worker absentee ballots to be sent and received via mail, fax or electronic transmission.

PROTECTING MISSOURIANS

The secretary of state's office protects Missourians every day. The Securities Division fights financial fraud and educates investors on potential scams. The *Safe at Home* Program helps survivors of domestic and sexual violence evade their abusers by keeping their addresses confidential. Because he believes more tools are necessary, Secretary Kander is working with legislative and financial industry leaders, the law enforcement community, and victims' advocacy groups to improve these services and protect some of our most vulnerable citizens.

In 2015, the legislature passed Secretary Kander's Senior Savings Protection Act, a bipartisan law that protects Missouri seniors from financial exploitation.

Strengthen the Safe at Home Program

The Safe at Home address confidentiality program provides survivors of sexual assault, rape, stalking and domestic violence a substitute mailing address through the secretary of state's office to help prevent assailants from finding their victims.

Since 2007, the program has protected more than 2,000 Missourians, but it is not a guarantee of safety. This legislation allows law enforcement to crack down on abusers who attempt to locate their victims' addresses.

Key Elements of this Legislation:

- Expands the set of aggravating factors in existing stalking laws to include situations where a victim is a participant in the Safe at Home program; and
- Subjects violators to a class E felony, resulting in up to four years imprisonment.

Expand Safe at Home to Protect Survivors of Human Trafficking

As a state representative, Secretary Kander helped take Missouri's human trafficking laws from some of the weakest to some of the strongest. The Safe at Home address confidentiality program is limited to victims of sexual assault, rape, stalking and domestic violence in Missouri. Similar programs in North Carolina, Washington, Oregon and Maryland also extend this protection to survivors of human trafficking.

Those who engage in human trafficking have an interest in locating survivors who escape trafficking situations. They may wish to silence and harm survivors, or even force them back into servitude. *Safe at Home* is an established program that can help survivors of human trafficking

Key Elements of this Legislation:

- Adds human trafficking to the categories of survivors who may be served by the Safe at Home address confidentiality program.

RESTORING PUBLIC TRUST IN GOVERNMENT

Missouri has the most broken campaign finance and ethics system in the country. It's the only state that allows lawmakers to receive unlimited gifts from lobbyists and unlimited campaign contributions from anyone. Politicians can lie to the Missouri Ethics Commission with no consequences. Our disclosure laws fall short of real transparency. After years of no reform, bipartisan support for change exists in the General Assembly, and Secretary Kander will continue to lead on this issue with proposals for meaningful reform.

Reform Ethics, Lobbying and Campaign Finance Laws

In 2010, the Missouri General Assembly passed an ethics reform bill for the first time in decades, which Secretary Kander sponsored with then-Rep. Tim Flook (R-Liberty). But, the Supreme Court struck down the law due to a technicality unrelated to the bipartisan reforms in the bill. As a result, Missouri's ethics, campaign finance and political disclosure laws remain the worst in the country.

In addition to unlimited lobbyist gifts and campaign contributions, loopholes in our disclosure laws allow for the concealing of donors. And the Missouri Ethics Commission (MEC) lacks the funding, staff and tools it needs.

Key Elements of this Legislation:

- Reinstates campaign contribution limits and caps donations to political parties;
- Criminalizes political money laundering and obstructing MEC investigations
- Bans lobbyist gifts;
- Protects ethics whistleblowers;
- Provides new resources for the Missouri Ethics Commission;
- Expands MEC registration to include paid political consultants;
- Strengthens disclosure laws and closes loopholes; and
- Requires all politicians to follow Missouri Sunshine Law.

Require Ethics and Public Disclosure Education for State Officials

Citizen legislatures include many individuals new to public office. As they begin tenure, they often have minimal knowledge of the ethics and public disclosure laws that now apply to them.

In 2013, Florida addressed this issue by passing a law requiring ethics training for public officials. A similar requirement in Missouri will help lawmakers become familiar and stay up to date with the rules of financial disclosure and conflicts of interest.

Key Elements of this Legislation:

- Requires four hours of training to be completed within 120 days of entering office, with a 30 day grace period;
- Applies to statewide elected offices, the General Assembly, executive department directors and acting directors;
- Specifies that training shall include ethics, campaign finance and public disclosure law, including areas of chapter 105, chapter 130 and chapter 576 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri.

Strengthen Disclosure Laws

Missouri's disclosure laws need to be strengthened. Currently, Missouri requires political contributions and lobbyist gifts of \$5,000 or less to be disclosed quarterly, which results in money flowing to lawmakers virtually unchecked during the legislative session. With no limits on contributions or lobbyist gifts, Missourians deserve to at least know the source and movement of political money on a more timely and transparent schedule. While robust campaign finance and ethics reform is the priority of Secretary Kander, disclosure reform is a non-controversial step that can be taken immediately.

Key Elements of this Legislation:

- Expands disclosure reports to include a responsible party for contributions made by non-individuals;
- Reinstates 48-hour reports for contributions to state elected officials during legislative session that exceed \$500 and reduces disclosure report threshold from \$5,000 to \$2,000;
- Removes loophole allowing lobbyists to attribute expenditures to an entire group rather than individuals; and
- Requires state officials to report lobbyist gifts they receive over \$15 in value within 24 hours.

GROWING MISSOURI BUSINESS

When Missourians decide to start a business, they begin at the secretary of state's office. This puts the office in a unique position to help small business owners and to identify common-sense reforms that will help their businesses grow. On his first day in office, Secretary Kander launched the Business Outreach Office to help entrepreneurs get their ideas off the ground, and he pushed for legislation to cut red tape for Missouri businesses throughout 2013 and 2014. In 2014, his Startups for Soldiers proposal, which makes it easier for members of our military to start a business, became law. This year, he will once again call on the legislature to take action to create jobs and make it easier to do business in Missouri.

Cut Missouri Business Fees to the Overall Lowest in the Nation

The Business Services Division of the secretary of state's office handles the creation and maintenance of business entities in Missouri. In July 2014, Secretary Kander launched a new online business filing system to streamline and simplify business creation. Previously, Missourians could file only five business registration forms online. Now, nearly every form that must be filed with the secretary of state's office can be filed through an easy-to-use website.

Cutting business fees is a natural next step to make it easier to do business in Missouri. This legislation reduces and eliminates business filing fees for numerous types of business entities, including corporations, LLCs, LLPs, PCs and not-for-profits. The goal of the legislation is to make Missouri the best state in the country for entrepreneurs by making it free to start a business with the secretary of state's office.

Key Elements of this Legislation:

- Removes dozens of fees for filing business documents in Missouri, including those for corporations, LLCs, LLPs, PCs and not-for-profits; and
- Makes it free to start businesses with the secretary of state's office.

Cut Red Tape for Family Farms

Missouri is home to hundreds of incorporated family farms. Like other corporations, they file annual reports with the secretary of state's office. Family farm corporations differ from many other Missouri corporations, however, because changes in their location and ownership are very rare. For this, they should be exempt from annual reporting requirements unless important corporate information has changed. This legislation exempts family farm corporations from filing annual paperwork with the secretary of state's office in such a situation.

Key Elements of this Legislation:

- Exempts family farm corporations from filing corporate registration reports unless certain information has changed within the past year.

Expanding Startups for Soldiers

Startups for Soldiers is a law that waives business start-up fees for Missourians currently serving in the military. Proposed by Secretary Kander and passed in 2014 with bipartisan support, it was a simple fix that has given our entrepreneurial men and women in uniform a little extra incentive and encouragement to start their own businesses. Thanks to strong positive feedback, the next step is to expand this program to Missouri veterans in 2016.

Key Elements of this Legislation:

- Expands Startups for Soldiers eligibility from Missouri National Guard and active duty military residing in Missouri to Missouri veterans.

SUPPORTED LEGISLATION

Medicaid Expansion Legislation

The General Assembly's failure to expand Medicaid has wasted an opportunity to provide health coverage to an estimated 300,000 Missourians, create tens of thousands of jobs and save struggling rural hospitals and clinics all over the state.

Dozens of state and local business groups have endorsed Medicaid expansion. It is the smart thing to do for our economy, and the right thing to do for our families and communities.

The Missouri Nondiscrimination Act

The Missouri Human Rights Act prohibits discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, disability, age as it relates to employment, and familial status as it relates to housing. It does not include sexual orientation or gender identity, which means that under current Missouri law a person can be fired, kicked out of a restaurant or denied a place to live simply for who they love.

In 2015, Sen. Joe Keaveny and Rep. Stephen Webber sponsored the Missouri Nondiscrimination Act (MONA), which would prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in employment, housing and public accommodations. MONA simply extends the existing Missouri Human Rights Act to include lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) and allied people. The proposal has seen bipartisan support in the past, but has not yet become law.



Jason Kander, 34, was sworn in as Missouri's 39th Secretary of State in January 2013. A former U.S. Army Captain, Jason is a veteran of the war in Afghanistan. Prior to his election as Secretary of State, he practiced law, represented Kansas City in the Missouri General Assembly, and served on the Missouri Veterans Commission. He is a graduate of American University and Georgetown Law School and is married to his high school sweetheart, Diana. Their son, True, was born in September 2013.

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