



**Humane World
Action Fund™**

Formerly called
Humane Society Legislative Fund

**CANDIDATE
QUESTIONNAIRE**

Missouri state office

2026 Missouri state office candidate questionnaire

Candidate Name: _____

Candidate Address: _____

Office Sought: _____ Locality: _____

Staff Contact Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ Website: _____

Animals play an important role in the lives of many Americans. Countless citizens look to their local government to protect animals from cruel treatment and exploitation. Humane-minded individuals care deeply about the positions their elected officials take on animal protection issues.

For information on the range and details of our issue areas, please visit the websites of Humane World Action Fund (humaneaction.org) or Humane World for Animals (humaneworld.org).

Background information

What actions have you taken to promote the welfare of animals in the past? (Please include any action taken in an official or unofficial context.)

Are there any animal welfare programs or issues of importance to you that you would take initiative on after you are elected?

Will you post information in your campaign materials stating your positions on animal protection issues?

Do you have, or have you had in the past, any pets that have made an impact on you personally?

STATE ISSUES:

Statewide office holders and members of state legislatures influence animal protection policy by supporting humane legislation, opposing government programs that use taxpayer funds to harm animals, supporting funding for government programs to protect animals and for adequate enforcement of animal welfare laws, and opposing inhumane laws or those which weaken current protections. We'd like to know your position on the following important animal welfare issues, which are subject to debate in your state.

PETS AND CRUELTY

Puppy Mills: Internet sales, flea markets, face-to-face sales and many pet stores that sell puppies are getting those dogs from puppy mills. A puppy mill is an inhumane, high-volume commercial dog breeding facility which churns out puppies for profit, ignoring the needs of the pups and their mothers. Dogs from puppy mills are often sick and unsocialized. Pet retailers often falsely assure consumers that the puppies they offer for sale are raised in reputable or humane breeding facilities, when really, they are coming from mass production puppy mills.

Will you support efforts to end the retail sale of puppies sourced from puppy mills in pet stores?

Yes No Not Sure

Animal Cruelty Penalties: Under current Missouri law, law enforcement officers are empowered to intervene in instances of animal cruelty and take possession of animals in those situations. These cases require specialized training to safely seize animals in cruelty situations and are often linked to other criminal activity, such as drugs, guns, domestic violence, child abuse, and elder abuse. Increasing access to training for law enforcement officers and increasing the penalties for animal cruelty will make Missouri safer for the state's residents and their animals.

Will you support increased penalties for animal neglect and abuse as well as increased resources for law enforcement to be trained on these cases?

Yes No Not Sure

Breed-Specific Legislation: Across the United States, entire communities ban or restrict dogs because of their breed, or, more commonly, what is perceived to be their breed. Breed-based policies aren't founded on science or credible data, but on myths and misinformation surrounding different breeds and their natures. The impact of these policies on dogs, families, and animal shelters, though, is heartbreakingly real. Breed bans and restrictions force dogs out of homes and into shelters, taking up kennel space and resources that could be used for other animals in need.

Will you support efforts to prohibit discriminatory breed-based policies in Missouri counties or cities?

Yes No Not Sure

FARM PROTECTION AND FOOD SAFETY

Fashion: Whether trapped in the wild or raised on farms, animals used in the fur industry suffer immensely. On fur factory farms in the U.S. and around the world, millions of rabbits, foxes, mink, and other wild animals spend their entire lives in cramped cages, deprived of the ability to engage in natural behaviors—only to be crudely gassed or electrocuted at the end. In the wild, animals are caught in crippling leghold traps without food or water, suffering for days before they die or are killed. Leghold traps are indiscriminate, often maiming and killing non-target animals, like threatened species and even pets—all this in the name of fashion. Prohibiting the sales of new fur products will support efforts to end this cruel industry, while still allowing businesses to sell vintage or used fur products, and continue services caring for fur products, such as storage and cleaning.

Will you support efforts to prohibit the sale of new products containing fur, sourced from animals raised solely to produce fur products?

Yes No Not Sure

Factory Farming: On factory farms, egg-laying hens are packed into battery cages where they can't even spread their wings. Baby calves are taken from their mothers and confined in pens so small they can barely move, and pigs are locked in gestation crates the width and length of their bodies, unable to even turn around.

Will you support humane livestock management practices that prevent the extreme confinement of breeding pigs, egg-laying hens, and calves raised for veal in restrictive, inadequate, and unnecessarily painful conditions?

Yes No Not Sure

RESEARCH, TESTING, AND FASHION

Alternatives: The vast majority of animal testing is for drugs, vaccines, medical devices, and to assess the risk of chemicals — however, 95% of drugs tested on animals fail in human trials. Non-animal alternatives not only save countless animal lives, but can be cheaper, faster, and more relevant to human biology, therefore more reliable at predicting safety. Despite the evidence that animal testing is an unreliable metric for determining efficacy of products for humans, many laboratories across the United States, including in Missouri, continue to engage in animal testing. Continued reliance on these outdated and inhumane testing methods harms the animals confined to the cages of the laboratories and stunts scientific development.

Will you support legislation to encourage the use of non-animal testing alternatives?

Yes No Not Sure

Transparency: The federal government currently requests basic information about facilities that experiment on animals. Concerningly, several species are completely exempted from these reporting requirements. As we continue to develop more non-animal research alternatives, we need to understand the full scope of animal testing that has taken place in our state.

Will you support legislation requiring facilities to disclose information to the state describing how many animals they have, what species are being used, and the purposes of their animal experiments?

Yes No Not Sure

WILDLIFE

Black Bears: In October of 2023, the Missouri Department of Conservation announced the third black bear hunting season, with “harvest quotas” of up to 40 bears. Any bear killed has a tremendous negative impact on the population and its ecosystems—but to meet these harvest quotas, trophy hunters shot and killed vulnerable black bears on both private and public property. People value bears for their considerable aesthetic and ecological purposes, as crucial members of their forest habitats and iconic animal species. Of just 900 to 1000 bears in the entire state, 12 bears were confirmed to have been killed during the 9-day 2023 season—an increase from the 8 killed in 2022—and in four counties where bears had not previously been hunted.

Will you oppose the proposed yearly Missouri black bear hunting seasons?

Yes No Not Sure

State Commission Appointments: According to the Commission’s online resources, the four members of the Missouri Department of Conservation Commission are appointed for their “knowledge and interest in wildlife conservation.” Through their expertise they serve as policymakers, engage in strategic planning, approve Wildlife Code regulations, and make other key decisions that determine the fate of Missouri’s wildlife. This is, however, the same commission that decided in 2021 to establish Missouri’s first continuing black bear hunting season.

Will you encourage the Governor to appoint commissioners committed to preserving Missouri’s natural beauty and wildlife, backed by science and not by special interests?

Yes No Not Sure

Thank you for your time! Please return the completed questionnaire to:

Humane World Action Fund

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Email: info@humaneaction.org

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About us

We fight for political and policy change to tackle the root causes of animal cruelty and suffering.

We work to advance our mission by passing animal protection laws at the state and federal levels, educating the public about animal protection issues and supporting humane candidates for office. Together, we act to end animal cruelty.



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