

**Missouri State Senator Bob Onder
District 2**



Summary

Legislative Biography

Senator Onder has been a physician and small business owner for over 20 years. He is board certified in Allergy and Immunology and Internal Medicine. Senator Onder is a member of the Missouri State Medical Association and a Life Member of the National Rifle Association. He is also a former board member of Missouri Right to Life. Senator Onder is a graduate of Washington University School of Medicine and St. Louis University School of Law.

In 2015, his first year in office, Senator Onder was elected by his peers to serve as the Assistant Majority Floor Leader in the Missouri Senate. That same year he received the Freshman Legislator of the Year award from the Missouri Chamber of Commerce; the Legislator of the Year

award from the Missouri Century Foundation, an organization that advocates for free market principles; a legislative award from the Missouri Academy of Family Physicians for his help in passing legislation relating to Direct Primary Care options in Missouri; a legislative excellence award from the Missouri Dental Association; and, was named a Champion of Freedom by the Missouri Alliance for Freedom, a group that advocates for limited government and the growth of individual liberty.

Senator Onder lives in Lake Saint Louis with his wife, Allison, and their six children. [Legislator's Biography, [8.20.18](#)]

[ALEC Legislator of the Week Q&A – 8.20.18](#)

This Week, ALEC and FreedomWorks introduce Missouri State Senator Robert (Bob) Onder. Senator Onder has served the residents of Missouri's second Senatorial District in St. Charles County since 2015. He's continuing his service in the Senate, as he previously served in the Missouri House of Representatives from 2007 to 2008. Senator Onder has been a physician and small business owner for over 20 years. He is a graduate of Washington University School of Medicine and St. Louis University School of Law. In 2015, his first year in office, Senator Onder was elected by his peers to serve as the Assistant Majority Floor Leader in the Missouri Senate. That same year he received the Freshman Legislator of the Year award from the Missouri Chamber of Commerce., He also received the Legislator of the Year award from the Missouri Century Foundation, , a legislative award from the Missouri Academy of Family, a legislative excellence award from the Missouri Dental Association, and, was named a Champion of Freedom by the Missouri Alliance for Freedom. Senator Onder lives in Lake Saint Louis with his wife, Allison, and their six children.

Why did you run for office?

I ran for the Missouri State Senate in 2014 because I was concerned with the direction the state and our country were going, and I felt called to do something about it. I believed, and still believe, that the principles of small government and economic opportunity are critical to move our state and our country forward.

What is your favorite thing about Missouri?

I love Missouri because it is a place of common sense, conservative values, and Midwestern friendliness. Most places in Missouri have a small town feel, and our number one industry is agriculture, yet Missouri is a leader in biotech, medicine, and finance.

In your view, what is the biggest issue facing Missouri?

While Missouri has Republican supermajorities in both chambers of the legislature and a Republican Governor, our state is threatened by several ballot initiatives that would undo much of our success of the last decade. A referendum in August could repeal Right to Work and a misnamed initiative in November known as Clean Missouri would manipulate redistricting to elect more progressives to Congress and the state legislature.

If you could “wave your magic wand,” what would you like to see immediately implemented in Missouri?

If I could wave a magic wand, I would like to see Missouri become the 28th Freedom to Work state.

Do you serve on any committees, if so which committees and why? How do you think you have impacted them?

I chair the General Laws committee where I have shepherded labor reform measures such as government union reform, right to Work, prevailing wage reform, and repeal of union-only project labor agreements. I am also a member of the Education Committee where I authored and passed legislation to allow public school students the choice to take online courses they need to succeed. On the Ways and Means Committee I have championed tax cuts.

What project or law are you most proud of?

My most important accomplishment has been this year’s passage of the Government Union Accountability Act. Reforms included in this bill include recertification elections, financial transparency, the requirement for annual dues authorization, openness in collective bargaining, and limitations on release time.

How has ALEC helped you as a legislator?

ALEC is a tremendous resource in many ways including its publications which are very valuable. I go to at least one meeting a year, and the opportunity to learn from and network with my colleagues in other states is invaluable.

Can you share a fun fact about yourself that’s not in your official bio?

I’m working on my private pilot license right now, and on a couple of recent flights I experienced the joy of “moderate turbulence” in a Cessna 150. My instructor kept reminding me to rely on my training and “keep flying the airplane.” I think of it as a fitting metaphor for life in the political arena.

ALEC membership/ties

[Signed Confirm Judge Brett Kavanaugh ALEC Letter](#) 2018

Attended annual ALEC conference in San Diego, 2015

ALEC Legislator of the Week, 8/20/18

Other Hits

State Senator Bob Onder signed a letter delivered to the Senate Judiciary Committee insisting that “Judge Brett Kavanaugh is the single most qualified person in the country to serve on the Supreme Court.” This letter was crafted in partnership with the American Legislative Exchange Council. During his

nomination hearing, Judge Brett Kavanaugh, President Trump's second nominee to the Supreme Court, lied under oath and made plain his political partisanship. Kavanaugh repeatedly contradicted himself and obfuscated direct questioning from Democratic senators during his hearings with the Judiciary Committee. Kavanaugh claimed that allegations of sexual assault lobbed against him amounted to little more than a "political hit made on behalf of the Clintons." With blustering indignation, he levied a threat against Democratic senators during his testimony, warning, "What goes around, comes around." But even before revelations of sexual misconduct surfaced around Kavanaugh, civil rights activists stood in staunch opposition to him. The testimonies of Judge Kavanaugh and his accuser Dr. Christine Blasey Ford have exposed a cultural failure to understand and empathize with the experiences of sexual assault survivors, while Kavanaugh's entire judicial record displays apathy to the liberty and security of women, the LGBTQ community, the disabled community, and people of color generally [Daily Intelligencer, [10.3.2018](#); The Washington Post, [10.2.2018](#)].

During a bid to further restrict access to abortions, State Senator Bob Onder claimed, on the Missouri Senate floor, that zoos are more heavily regulated than abortion clinics. Onder explained his reasoning by asserting that zoos have a five-day waiting period for euthanizing animals, while abortion clinics in Missouri require women to wait three days after meeting with their doctors before having the procedure. "Let's think about this. Babies, it's three days, so although there are members of this body who don't agree with that three days, babies are three days," Onder said. "So, zoo animals, it couldn't be more than 24 hours, right?" Onder's analogy notwithstanding, abortion clinics in Missouri are regulated to such a high degree that at the time of Onder's statements, only one facility in the state could actually perform abortions. Despite this, Onder suggested that Missouri should change its capital's motto to "Where we protect our zoo animals, but it's open season on Alternative to Abortion centers and pro-life organizations." Then he took the apparent joke a step further, drafting an amendment that would rename the St. Louis Zoo the "Midwest Abortion Sanctuary City Zoological Park" [Huffington Post, [4.6.2017](#)]

State Senator Onder claimed that protecting pregnant women and women who have had abortion procedures from discrimination would turn St. Louis into an "abortion sanctuary city." Onder called for voiding a St. Louis ordinance because it would protect women who are pregnant or have had abortion from discrimination in housing and employment. Onder claimed the ordinance could infringe on the religious liberties of employers and renters who oppose abortion. "The abortion sanctuary city law is a very radical, left, national agenda item and no one should be surprised that the Missouri legislature is going to stand by pregnancy care centers," Onder stated [Missouri Times, [6.13.2017](#)].

State Senator Bob Onder pushed for a state constitutional amendment that would dismantle civil protections for the LGBTQIA community. The New York Times stated that Onder's legislation would "give some of the nation's broadest legal protections to opponents of same-sex marriage." Sen. Onder sponsored House Joint Resolution No. 39, assuring clergy members of their right to refuse to perform same-sex weddings. More practically, this legislation opens the door for businesses to discriminate against LGBTQIA people. The bill's actual wording could easily reach outside of the sphere of weddings, leading to much broader consequences, like denying social services, education, employment or housing to married gay people, opponents contend [New York Times, [5.9.2016](#); St. Louis-Post Dispatch, [5.10.2016](#)]

State Senator Bob Onder argued that country clubs should be shielded from sales taxes. Onder supported a tax break for country clubs that would reduce state general revenue by as much as \$1.1 million annually. [St. Louis-Post Dispatch, [2.22.2017](#)]

In August 2018, voters overwhelmingly rejected Right-to-Work in a statewide referendum. Despite this, Senator Bob Onder still champions the anti-worker policy, stating that if he had “a magic wand” he would implement Right-to-Work in his state. At the 2018 annual ALEC conference Sen. Onder described the plaintiff in JANUS vs. AFSCME, Mark Janus, as “bigger than Beyoncé,” further showcasing his enthusiasm for the degradation of worker protections [ALEC, [8.20.2018](#); Twitter, [8.9.2018](#)].