

CLEAN SLATE MESSAGING GUIDE



A CAMPAIGN BY



As you meet with legislators or help spread the word about automatic expungement, keep these key messages about Clean Slate in mind. Think about what messages resonate the most with you, and what messages will be the most convincing for your audience. Make sure to hit on key points multiple times to really get them across.

Clean Slate is about fairness.

- Missouri's current expungement process is expensive and difficult to navigate, shutting out people with low incomes who already qualify for a second chance. Under the current system, those with money or powerful connections are treated differently than everyone else. Automating the process evens the playing field for everyone.

Clean Slate is about second chances.

- A person's whole life should not be defined by their worst mistake, and those who have completed their sentence and stayed out of trouble with the law deserve a second chance.
- Individuals who have paid their debt to society should not be punished forever by being denied jobs, housing, and the opportunity to take care of their families. Clean Slate legislation creates effective members of the community and promotes hard work ethic.

Clean Slate is about safety.

- Studies show that people with a prior conviction who do not commit another crime within four to seven years are no more likely to commit a crime in the future than the general population. This proposal makes local communities safer by giving these people an opportunity to get back on their feet, turn their lives around, and support themselves and their families.

Clean Slate is good for Missouri's economy.

- Local businesses are struggling to find workers, yet tens of thousands of qualified applicants can't take these jobs because of their criminal records, some of which are decades old. This proposal will help these individuals build a better life while strengthening local businesses and boosting our local economy.

Clean Slate will help Missouri families.

- Half of American children have a parent with a criminal record.
- The long-term consequences of a parent's record can significantly affect a child's mental development, education, future employment opportunities, and overall well-being.
- By removing parental barriers to employment, housing, and education, we can help give all children the chance they deserve.