



MRTA

Missouri Retired Teachers Association
and Public School Personnel

877-366-MRTA

3030 DuPont Circle
Jefferson City, MO 65109

www.mrta.org

Questions for Missouri House and Senate Candidates and Current Office Holders

“Ask them the Hard Questions!”

When given the opportunity to ask policy makers questions use the questions below.

Missouri Education Pensions

1. PSRS (Public School Retirement System) was formed in 1946 as a defined benefit pension plan (DB) to attract and retain the best and most experienced educators possible. Do you support the current defined benefit plan for educators and support staff which is similar to the defined benefit plan for the legislature and statewide officials? *(a DB plan pays a monthly benefit for life, a DC plan pays you until you run out of money.)*
2. Would you support legislation that requires all new teachers and support staff to be placed into, or to be given a choice to opt into, a defined contribution plan (DC) such as a 401(k) vs. the current defined benefit plan (PSRS)? Did you support HB 864 of 2019 Taylor?
3. Would you support maintaining the current independent governance and independent investment decisions of the Boards of Trustees of the following public education retirement systems: PSRS/PEERS Retirement System, PSRS of Kansas City, MO and PSRS of the City of St. Louis?
4. Would you support consolidating the Public School Retirement System/Public Education Employees Retirement System (PSRS/PEERS) with another state retirement system? For example, consolidation through a State Investment Board. What are your feelings on the discussions of consolidating the MOSERS for state employees and MPERS for highway employees such as the Highway Patrol?
5. At times there is legislation that increases the cost of doing business or increases benefits of the PSRS/PEERS system such as certain Work- After-Retirement (WAR) provisions. Would you support legislation that increases the cost to the PSRS/PEERS system currently pre-funded at 84%?

(see next page)

MRTA, a 501(c)(4) not-for-profit corporation, is a grassroots advocacy association with nearly 29,000 members. MRTA is independent, nonpartisan, and does not endorse political candidates.

Missouri Public Education

1. Whether it is in the form of a voucher, tax credit, or other means, will you support spending public tax dollars to allow students to attend private schools?
2. Will you support the expansion of charter schools statewide as an alternative to traditional schools?
3. Currently, Missouri is ranked 49th in the nation in beginning teacher salaries. How would you propose to raise the salaries of public school teachers?
4. Legislators have fully funded the 2005 Foundation Formula for Public Schools the last two years. However, the State Adequacy Target (SAT) which is the baseline amount given to each district per student in schools was supposed to be recalculated every other year, but the SAT as of 2012 has been fixed at the funding rate used in 2005. Even with the \$61 million additional revenue to the Foundation Formula this legislative session, those funds spread over the 567 school districts may not even cover the additional health insurance costs for school districts and is one of the reasons for low teacher salaries in Missouri. What would you do to adequately fund the Foundation Formula for Public Schools if anything?
5. Transportation funding for public schools now stands at 15% funded. State policy states that transportation should be funded at 75% of transportation costs. What would your solution be to this inadequate funding of transportation that is particularly important to rural public schools?