



MRTA
MISSOURI RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
AND PUBLIC SCHOOL PERSONNEL
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2013 MRTA Legislative Platform

“MRTA is independent, non-partisan and does not endorse political candidates.”

SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES OF INTEREST TO MRTA

1. MRTA will work to protect the Missouri public pension retirement plans as defined benefit rather than defined contribution plans.
2. MRTA will work to protect/maintain the financial integrity of PSRS/PEERS Retirement System, PSRS of Kansas City, MO and PSRS of the City of St. Louis.
3. MRTA will work to protect/maintain the Missouri state income tax exemptions for public education retirees that MRTA was instrumental in obtaining in 2007 (HB444).
4. MRTA will support legislation to repeal/modify the WEP (Windfall Elimination Provision) and GPO (Governmental Pension Offset) provisions for Social Security.
5. MRTA will work to protect/maintain access to healthcare coverage for public school retirees through the school system from which they retired as is mandated by Missouri Law requiring the same premium cost and the same coverage as the active public school employee.
6. MRTA will work to protect/maintain the 2007 MRTA sponsored “spiking” regulation that limited the increase of Final Average Salary (FAS) to 10% per year.

STATE LEGISLATIVE ISSUES OF INTEREST TO MRTA

1. MRTA will support “equal and adequate” public school funding through full funding of the foundation formula for all public schools as mandated by the Missouri Constitution.
2. MRTA will support the current independent governance and independent investment decisions of the following Boards of Trustees: PSRS/PEERS Retirement System, PSRS of Kansas City, MO and PSRS of the City of St. Louis.
3. MRTA as public education retirees and as Missouri tax payers oppose the concept of a State Investment Board.
4. MRTA will support legislation to increase minimum salaries for teachers and the funding of those increases.

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MRTA, a 501(c)(4) not-for-profit corporation, is a grassroots advocacy association with 19,700 members.
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STATE LEGISLATIVE ISSUES OF INTEREST TO MRTA continued

5. MRTA will support a review and reforms to the Missouri Tax Credit Program that will benefit Missouri Public Education.
6. MRTA will support the full funding of the Parents as Teachers Program and professional development of educators.
7. MRTA will oppose vouchers, the expansion of charter schools and the use of the tax dollars for nonpublic schools.
8. MRTA will oppose state mandated consolidation of public schools that meet state standards.
9. MRTA will oppose any legislation that would reduce school funding such as Taxpayers Bill Of Rights (TABOR).
10. MRTA will support a simple majority for passage of school bonds and an increase in the percentage of bonding capacity for public schools.
11. MRTA supports the current Missouri Teacher Tenure Law.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES OF INTEREST TO MRTA

1. MRTA will oppose mandatory Social Security for new educators.
2. MRTA will support legislation to repeal/modify the WEP (Windfall Elimination Provision) and GPO (Governmental Pension Offset) provisions of Social Security.
3. MRTA will oppose privatization of Social Security.
4. MRTA supports affordable and accessible healthcare to promote financial security for all American retirees.
5. MRTA will oppose vouchers and use of tax dollars for nonpublic schools.

MRTA VISION STATEMENT

The Missouri Retired Teachers Association and Public School Personnel is a caring, active, and knowledgeable community. Members give their talents and time to support retired and active public school employees. Members strive to uphold and improve the integrity, value, and mission of our public schools, so that all school personnel may live healthy, vital lives and be secure economically, socially and professionally in retirement.

MRTA MISSION STATEMENT

The Missouri Retired Teachers Association and Public School Personnel organized in 1960 is the only educational organization in Missouri working exclusively for retired school personnel. MRTA will work actively with government and its entities for beneficial legislation. We shall strive to increase membership until all retirees become members, and always foster good fellowship. We will encourage members to be involved in community affairs and work for worthy educational causes. Our mission is to serve and not to be served