



# MRTA

## Missouri Retired Teachers Association & Public School Personnel

### **2010 MRTA Legislative Platform**

**“MRTA is 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 tax exemptions for public education retirees that MRTA was instrumental in obtaining in 2007 (HB444).
3. MRTA will support legislation to repeal/modify the WEP (Windfall Elimination Provision) and GPO (Governmental Pension Offset) provisions for Social Security.
4. MRTA will work to protect/maintain healthcare coverage for public school retirees that is mandated by Missouri Law requiring the same premium and the same coverage as the active public school employee.
5. MRTA will work to protect/maintain the “spiking” regulation MRTA was instrumental in obtaining which limited the increase of FAS to 10% in 2007.
6. MRTA will work to protect/maintain the financial integrity of PSRS/PEERS Retirement System.
7. MRTA will support legislation to change the gubernatorial selection of the retiree position on the Public School Retirement System and the Public Education Employee Retirement System (PSRS/PEERS) Board to an elected position.

#### **STATE LEGISLATIVE ISSUES OF INTEREST TO MRTA**

1. MRTA will support equal and adequate public school funding through the foundation formula for all public schools as mandated by the Missouri Constitution.
2. MRTA will support legislation to increase minimum salaries for teachers and the funding of those increases.
3. MRTA will support the continuation and funding of the Career Ladder Program.
4. MRTA will support the full restoration of professional development funding for educators.

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## **STATE LEGISLATIVE ISSUES OF INTEREST TO MRTA - Continued**

5. MRTA will support a simple majority for passage of school bonds and an increase in the percentage of bonding capacity for public schools.
6. MRTA will support the current independent governance of the PSRS/PEERS Board.
7. MRTA will support affordable and accessible healthcare including prescription drugs and financial security for all Missouri retirees.
8. MRTA will oppose vouchers and the use of tax dollars for nonpublic schools.
9. MRTA will oppose state mandated consolidation of public schools that meet state standards.
10. MRTA will oppose any legislation that would reduce school funding such as Taxpayers Bill Of Rights (TABOR).
11. MRTA will oppose legislation that would remove funds and/or independent investment decisions from the PSRS/PEERS Board of Director's control.

## **FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES OF INTEREST TO MRTA**

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

### **MRTA VISION**

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 is an affiliate of AARP and NRTA. Our motto is "To Serve, Not To Be Served."

### **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.