



**MRTA**  
MISSOURI RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION  
AND PUBLIC SCHOOL PERSONNEL  
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## **2016 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 supports reform of the current statutes regarding divorce of PSRS/PEERS members. MRTA supports HB 1086 of 2015 (Lair – Dist. 7) that allows for benefit pop-up.
4. MRTA supports HB 1085 (Lair – Dist. 7) that closes a loophole used by employment services to circumvent the PSRS/PEERS 550 hours work-after-retirement (W.A.R.) law.
5. MRTA supports the permanent reauthorization of the PSRS/PEERS provision allowing for a 2.55 factor with 31 or more years of service.
6. 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 employees.
7. MRTA supports a Cost-of-Living Adjustment increase (COLA) for the retirees of the PSRS of the City of St. Louis.
8. MRTA supports a COLA cap increase for PSRS/PEERS retirees.

### **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 a review of the current Missouri Tax Credit Program and support reforms that will ultimately benefit Missouri Public Education funding.

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3. 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.
4. MRTA will oppose any legislation that would reduce school funding such as Taxpayers Bill Of Rights (TABOR).
5. MRTA will oppose vouchers, the expansion of charter schools and the use of tax dollars for nonpublic schools.
6. MRTA supports the current Missouri Teacher Tenure Law. (Amendment 3, which would have changed the law, was defeated in 2014)
7. MRTA will support legislation to increase minimum salaries for teachers and the funding of those increases.
8. MRTA will oppose state mandated consolidation of public schools that meet state standards.
9. 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).

### **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 will oppose mandatory Social Security for new educator members of PSRS of Missouri.
3. MRTA will oppose privatization of Social Security.
4. MRTA supports accessible healthcare to promote financial security for all.
5. MRTA will oppose vouchers and the 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.

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