



MRTA
MISSOURI RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
AND PUBLIC SCHOOL PERSONNEL
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2017 MRTA Legislative Platform

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

Dear Newly Elected Officials: we welcome you and remind you we are here to answer your questions on public education retirement. We are here to provide the best support for education retirees possible.

SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES OF INTEREST TO MRTA

1. MRTA will use all available means to restore the Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) which the PSRS/PEERS Board of Trustees has reduced twice in the past five years. MRTA supports the restoration of the COLA to pre-2011 levels for PSRS/PEERS of MO retirees.
2. MRTA will work to protect the Missouri public pension retirement plans as defined benefit rather than defined contribution plans.
3. MRTA supports a Cost-of-Living Adjustment increase (COLA) for the retirees of the PSRS of the City of St. Louis.
4. MRTA supports legislation to change the retiree seat on the PSRS/PEERS Board of Trustees from an appointed seat to an elected seat.
5. MRTA will support the current independent governance and independent decisions in order to protect/maintain the financial integrity 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.
6. MRTA supports reform of the current statutes regarding divorce of PSRS/PEERS members. MRTA supports HB 1709 of 2016 (Lair – Dist. 7) which allows for benefit pop-up.
7. MRTA supports HB 1710 of 2016 (Lair – Dist. 7) which closes a loophole used by employment services to circumvent the PSRS/PEERS 550 hours work-after-retirement (W.A.R.) law.
8. MRTA will support an increase of work-after-retirement (W.A.R.) limitation from 550 to 800 hours.
9. 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.

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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 work to protect/maintain the Missouri state income tax exemptions for public education retirees that MRTA was instrumental in obtaining in 2007 (HB444).
3. MRTA will oppose vouchers, the expansion of charter schools and the use of tax dollars for nonpublic schools.
4. MRTA will oppose any legislation that would reduce school funding such as Taxpayers Bill Of Rights (TABOR).
5. MRTA supports the current Missouri Teacher Tenure Law (Amendment 3, which would have changed the law, was defeated in 2014).
6. MRTA will support legislation to increase minimum salaries for teachers and the funding of those increases.
7. MRTA will oppose state mandated consolidation of public schools that meet state standards.

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 affordable healthcare to promote financial security for all.
5. MRTA will oppose vouchers and the use of tax dollars for nonpublic schools.

MRTA's 2017 Legislative Moto is:

***Loud, Insistent,
and Persistent***

