

MNEA House Candidate Questionnaire

district
candidate name

Preserving and Strengthening Public Education

1. For Fiscal Year 2006, the foundation formula for distributing state money to public schools will be at least \$700 million underfunded and a recent adequacy study showed the fully funded formula was over \$900 million short of adequate funding to meet state and federal requirements. A new funding formula was enacted in 2005 that will take eight years to implement and that does not increase overall adequacy of school funding. Would you support efforts to improve the new foundation formula bill so as to increase the overall adequacy of funding for all schools?

Yes No *This is complex - I would need to see details before committing*

2. The newly enacted school aid formula substantially reduces the overall state funding targeted for districts educating students living in poverty. Would you support efforts to improve the new foundation formula by providing greater support for districts with high concentrations of poverty, even if this required an increase in state revenues?

Yes No *I will not support tax increases*

3. Missouri NEA supports efforts to promote success for all students in school and in life. Research has indicated for over 40 years that social and economic factors play a large role in student success. Would you support expanded health care coverage for poor children to ensure that all students have access to adequate health care services needed for learning?

Yes No *probably not*

Would you support increased school funding for schools with poor students if the funds were targeted for reducing class size or providing after school tutoring, before and after school programs, adult basic education for poor parents or providing public school choice options via magnet schools, intradistrict and interdistrict school choice?

Yes No *possibly*

Would you support increase funding for higher education access for poor students, such as programs like the Taylor Plan, named after a Mississippi legislator, that gives a college scholarship guarantee to any poor student who commits, during grade school, to complete high school?

Yes No *not without seeing the costs*

4. Would you vote to provide public tax dollars to private and/or religious elementary and/or secondary schools through so-called "scholarship charities" that provide state tax credits for donations by parents or other entities used to offset the cost of their child (children) attending private or religious elementary and/or secondary schools?

Yes No *if for non-performing schools.*

5. Missouri NEA is committed to educational reform within the local public school system. Well-designed and operated charter schools within the public schools can provide creative ways of

teaching and learning. Current law allows charter schools only in Kansas City and St. Louis. Would you vote to expand charter schools beyond Kansas City and St. Louis?

Yes No *would need to see details on relative effectiveness of such schools.*

Would you vote to require charter schools to be within the public school system and accountable to the local school board?

Yes No *only in the general sense. local school boards should not have control of detailed curricula or day-to-day operations of personnel.*

A Qualified Teacher in Every Classroom

1. The Missouri NEA believes Missouri's children deserve the best teachers. Teachers who strive to attain National Board Certification should be supported by the state and their local school districts. Would you vote to give financial assistance and release time to teachers seeking national certification?

Yes No *The best teachers are not always those who "kill the boxer"*

2. Recent legislative efforts have sought to weaken Missouri's already flexible teacher certification law by forcing the State Board to adopt test-based certification from the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE) as a valid Missouri certification. ABCTE certification requires only a background check and successful completion of two multiple choice tests and does not contain a significant evaluation of actual teaching ability. Would you vote for legislation requiring that the State Board recognize ABCTE certification?

Yes No

Respect for Caring Education Professionals

1. Currently, public school employees do not have the right to organize and bargain. Would you vote for a bill to give public school employees the right to organize and bargain collectively with a strong no strike clause?

Yes No

2. Current law provides that teachers shall be paid according to a uniformly-applied salary schedule based on experience and educational and professional attainment. Would you vote to allow districts to make arbitrary changes to teacher pay, such as so-called "merit pay," special hiring or retention incentives for selected teachers or differential pay for selected subject matter or grade level categories?

Yes No

3. Other public employees can appeal any dismissal to an administrative hearing officer; tenured teachers can appeal, but only to the school board that dismissed them. School board members are forced to conduct these lengthy hearings if issues are not resolved and must often make a no-win choice between acting impartially to protect a deserving teacher or preserving the working relationship with the superintendent and adopting the recommendation to dismiss a teacher. Would you vote to give teachers and school boards each the right to refer a teacher dismissal case to an independent hearing officer for a preliminary hearing?

Yes No

4. Efforts have been undertaken in several states to change the "defined benefit" structure of public school retirement systems, such as the Missouri PSRS, and replace that system with a "defined contribution" system similar to a 401(k) investment fund where the risk is borne by entirely by the member. Would you support efforts to change PSRS benefits from defined benefit to defined contribution?

Yes No I would need to see additional information on how each works

Additional Comments:

Why not make these surveys available in a downloadable word file so we can give you legible comments?

I hold a BS from the USAF Academy, + from ConSU, and an MBA through MU. I have 21 years USAF service + now run a Bed + Breakfast.

Name William Truman (Bill) Wayne

Home Address 431 SE County Rd Y
Warrensburg, MO 64093

Campaign Committee Name - NOT yet established

District Number 121 SE legislative dist

Office/Campaign Phone Number 660-747-5724

Signature Wa [Signature]

***** Questionnaire must be signed by candidate to be considered. *****

Return by April 18, 2006 to: - your cover letter says 4/24?
Missouri NEA
Government Relations Department
1810 East Elm Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101-4174

Please include a campaign flyer with your signed questionnaire.