

Committee for County Progress  
2008 Candidate Questionnaire  
Missouri Treasurer

**Candidate Name:** Andria Simckes

**Campaign Committee Name:** Friends of Andria Danine Simckes

**Campaign Address, Website & Phone:** PO BOX 411311, St Louis, 63141;  
[www.simckesfortreasurer.com](http://www.simckesfortreasurer.com); 314-878-1408

**Office Seeking:** Missouri State Treasurer

**Campaign Treasurer/Deputy Treasurer:** Barbara F. Berger and Doron Berger

**Education-** Brown University, BA in American Civilization, with a focus on race, gender, class and ethnicity; Washington University Law School-Juris Doctorate.

**Current Employment-** Affiliated with the law firm Kodner, Watkins, Muchnick and Weigley (7800 Forsyth, Ste 700, Clayton, MO 63105)—However, mainly campaigning full time.

**Civic and Political Experience- (see attached resume for more detail)**

Comptroller- 1996 Coordinated Campaign

Governor Mel Carnahan's office (Legal Aide specializing in Extradition and legislative lobbying)

Board Member- Solomon Schechter Day School; Jewish Family and Children Service; Care and Counseling—Advisory Committee

**Address for the last 5 years-** 139 Ladue Oaks Dr., St. Louis, MO 63141

**Anticipated Campaign Budget-** Primary \$300,000-\$500,000; General- \$1.5-\$2 million

**1.) What three most important jobs of the Missouri State Treasurer**

-To be the government's chief financial officer, this includes managing annual state revenues, banking services and investments.

-Overseeing the Missouri Most 529 College Savings Program, the Link Deposit Program, Missouri's Unclaimed Property, and the Missouri Housing and Development Commission;

-Using the aforementioned positions to represent the tax-payer and stand up for fiscal accountability within the state. The most important thing a treasurer should do is be the voice of the tax payer when it comes to financial decision making. It should be the treasurer's responsibility to analyze and report the fiscal impact of policy decisions, to control wasteful spending, and to ensure our investments are sound.

**2.) How can the Missouri Treasurer promote financial literacy?**

The State Treasurer is uniquely positioned to reach out to the community to ensure that everyone is equipped with the tools necessary to make financially sound decisions. As in states like Ohio, Texas and Vermont, the Treasurer, as the representative for and voice of the tax payer can not only reach out, but can do so with authority to make a difference within the state.

-This begins with outreach to Middle and High Schools. It is important that our children know how to balance a checkbook, how to save and budget, how to deal with all of the financial implications associated with credit cards and debt. DESE (the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education) and the Secretary of State have initiated programming around financial literacy. As Treasurer, I would work to expand the program, raise awareness about the program, and make it uniform statewide.

-Adult financial literacy also needs to be addressed. Workshops should be provided to the community on many of the same ideas, as well as, the dangers of things like payday loans, and adjustable rate versus fixed rate mortgages. It is also important in these sessions to reach out and educate the community on how to keep information safe and secure to prevent against things like identity theft.

**3.) How should the treasurer address the fact that Missouri does not allow for tax deduction of contributions made to non-Missouri 529 plans? How specifically should this be addressed?**

While it is important that we give our children the best opportunity to save for school, there are a number of ways to do this. I feel that the tax deduction for investing in the state's 529 program provides a worthwhile incentive to ensure that we keep a large investment in the state's 529 program. This investment helps maintain the program's viability, in order to help ensure that all families, including working families have a chance to save towards their child's education.

In truth what needs to be focused on is not tax deduction, but the added overhead by the present administration. Under the present Treasurer, we have seen what once was considered one of the best college savings programs in the country become one of the worst, as far as the return on our investment dollar.

**4.) Would you continue the practice of distributing information from the Treasurer's office in both English and Spanish?**

Yes.

**5.) What is the Treasurer's role in fighting identity theft?**

The Treasurer could fight identity theft by getting out into the community and schools and educating Missourians about how to safeguard their private information (through the financial literacy program). The Treasurer could also represent and lobby on behalf of the tax payer to make sure that the legislature and the other state-wide elected officials are working to protect the interests of the people of the State of Missouri.

**6.) What changes would you make to the Missouri Treasurer's Investment Policies?**

It is the job of the Treasurer to be the voice of the taxpayer. The Treasurer has a responsibility to ensure that Missouri's investments are fiscally sound and giving us the best return on our dollar. It is also important to use that investment power to infuse economic and workforce development all across the state, to create jobs at all levels.

**7.) Do you Support spending tax dollars to support vouchers for private and parochial schools? Why or why not?**

No. In order to ensure that every child is given the opportunity to succeed, we must fully invest our dollars into the public school system, rather than create unfunded national mandates that target schools in the highest need of attention, and essentially make it impossible for them to meet certain standards.

**8.) Do you support continued state funding for Planned Parenthood to provide subsidized family planning services?**

Yes.

**9.) Do you support using public money to help pay for birth control measures for women who go to health clinics?**

Yes.

**10.) Do you support a woman's lawful right to terminate a pregnancy?**

Yes.

**11.) Do you or have you ever supported placing limits on a woman's right to choose?**

No

**12.) Do you or have you ever supported school vouchers or any system which allows for school choice or open enrollment?**

As previously stated I do not support using federal and state tax dollars to go to private and parochial schools in the form of vouchers. As for open enrollment, I would need more specificity. If we are talking about students moving among public schools either within a school district or through a desegregation program, I could be open to such a form of open enrollment. Under the correct circumstances school choice or open enrollment are acceptable.

**13.) Do you, or have you ever supported cutting benefits for Missouri citizens on Medicaid?**

No.

**14.) Have you ever endorsed a republican for office? If yes, please designate which candidate(s)?**

No.

**15.) Do you or have you ever supported placing limitation on stem-cell research beyond those placed in the constitution in 2006? If so please explain.**

No.

**16.) Do you or have you supported making changes to the Missouri plan for selecting Judges? If yes please explain.**

No, I firmly believe in the Missouri Non-Partisan Court Plan.

**17.) Do you or have you ever supported limiting an individual's right to trial by jury, including putting artificial caps on the damages?**

I believe that the right to a trial by jury should be preserved with out influence from third party interests.

**18.) Prior to this campaign please identify the Democratic campaigns in which you have been involved and describe your role?**

-In 1996 I was Comptroller for "WIN '96" the 1996 Coordinated Campaign for the Democratic Party where I helped develop the \$1.6 million dollar budget used to reelect Gov. Mel Carnahan and President Bill Clinton. I was responsible for balancing the checkbooks, and coordinating all the contributions. I paid all the bills, and was responsible for all the expenditures, for the entire state. I was responsible for the

Missouri Ethics Reports and for the Federal reporting requirements. It was also my responsibility to ensure all the bills were paid and that all reporting and fiscal responsibilities were satisfied at the close of our election.

-In 200(2?4?) I was actively involved in Sam Pages first run for State Representative. I specifically had the responsibility of developing the organizations' "Women for Page", just one of many facets of his very successful fundraising campaign.

**19.) Please list and explain your top three priorities if elected**

-Voice of the Taxpayer--Representing Missouri's taxpayer and ensuring that Missouri makes fiscally responsible investments that keep money in the state and provide the best return on the taxpayer's investment.

-Statewide Focus on Economic Development--Ensuring that the investments are being used to create jobs and infrastructure throughout the state.

-Financial Literacy- Making sure that Missouri communities are provided with the tools in which to make financially sound decisions