

COMMITTEE FOR COUNTY PROGRESS
2008 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE
MISSOURI ATTORNEY GENERAL

Candidate Name: **Margaret Donnelly**

Campaign Committee Name: **Donnelly for Attorney General**

Campaign Address, Website and phone: **P.O. Box 16050
St. Louis, MO 63105
www.donnelly08.com
(314) 225-2440**

Office Seeking: **Attorney General**

Campaign Treasurer/Deputy Treasurer: **Julian Hess**

Education

**Saint Louis University, Bachelor of Science in Social Work
Saint Louis University, Master in Social Work
St. Louis University School of Law, J.D.**

Current Employment

Attorney in private practice.

Civic and Political Experience

**Missouri House of Representatives 73rd District – 2003 to present
Ferguson/Florissant School District – 1986 to 1992, one year as president
METRO Board of Commissioners – 1999 to 2002
Chair, Committee for Shelter for Abused Women & Children, St. Louis County –
1991
Member Regional Airport Governance Task Force – 1997to 98**

Previous elective office sought

**School Board
State Representative**

Addresses for the last 5 years:

**68 Lake Forest
St. Louis, MO 63117**

Anticipated Campaign Budget

\$2 million - primary and general

1. What is the Attorney General's role in ensuring all Missourians are covered by health care insurance?

I would use the power of the office to:

- 1. Enforce state contracts with providers in the Medicaid system to ensure that recipients are receiving the health care services they are entitled.**
- 2. Continue Nixon's efforts and aggressively crack down on Medicaid fraud.**

The Bush Administration has repeatedly clamped down on state's ability to use federal tax dollars to expand health care coverage in their states. Like the attorneys general in other states, I will defend any health care expansion efforts from federal interference.

2. What health care reforms would you support? Please provide specifics.

The state should first restore the 2005 Medicaid cuts. 100% FPL should be the floor for eligibility and all the services that were cut should be restored including dental and vision. We can then begin expanding coverage to children and the working poor.

3. Have you ever supported abstinence only sex education in public schools? If yes, please explain.

No.

2. What is your position on the use of state resources for the apprehension of undocumented immigrants?

I do not object to having a coordinated response within the state highway patrol to check on the status of individuals apprehended for crimes. What is troublesome is when local law enforcement is forced to divert scarce resources from crime fighting to check on immigration status.

3. Would you continue the practice of distributing information from the AG's office in both English and Spanish?

Yes.

4. What do you propose to do regarding the growing concern among many about forced labor, domestic servitude and/or exploitation of undocumented immigrants, particularly in the context of human trafficking?

Exploiting undocumented workers undermines our system of wages and benefits and is unfair to law-abiding businesses. Stopping this exploitation of workers is one area where the state could be effective. I would use the AG's office to assist in investigating and prosecuting businesses and individuals who exploit undocumented workers.

I worked with Senator Joan Bray to pass the human trafficking bill in 2004. The other area besides employment where we need to be concerned is human trafficking for sexual exploitation.

5. There is a well known fear among undocumented immigrants of reporting crimes and predatory practices against their community, lest they face deportation. How do you propose to reach out to those communities to reduce this fear and target those who victimize undocumented immigrants?

I would work with immigrant community leaders on the best ways to educate their community about the rights of all residents to be safe, whether documented or not. I would also work to ensure that my staff is diverse so that there is a level of trust and comfort with the AG's office. I would use that staff to work with local law enforcement and prosecutors.

6. Do you support reform of the current campaign finance system? Please explain.

Yes. I support our system of individual campaign contribution limits. I believe we should place the same limit on contributions from legislative district committees to avoid the abuse of the system which we have seen.

7. Do you support the right of public employees to collectively bargain?

Yes. As a school social worker, I was a member of a public employees union. During each of the six years I was a school board member, I bargained with the local teachers union.

8. Should prevailing wage laws be enforced for public financed projects?

Yes.

9. Do you support spending tax dollars to support vouchers for private and parochial schools? Why or why not?

No. I have always been committed to improving and supporting our public schools. My first elected position was as a school board member. I am

opposed to vouchers because I don't believe you improve our public schools by taking away their resources and sending them to private schools, where there is no accountability for how the money is spent.

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

Yes, I support reinstating family planning services that include Planned Parenthood as a provider.

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

Yes.

12. Do you support a woman's lawful right to choose to terminate a pregnancy?

Yes.

13. Do you or have you ever supported placing limits on a woman's right to choose?
If yes, please explain.

No.

14. Do you support a constitutional amendment to secure the right of early stem cell research?

Yes. I was a strong supporter of Amendment 2 and as the Attorney General who is charged with investigating "cloning" in Amendment 2, I would fight for the right of researchers to conduct their research in peace.

15. What is the most challenging issue facing Democrats today?

Bringing about real change, when given the opportunity to govern. Many voters do not see a difference between Democratic and Republican Administrations. We have to be ready to lead and provide real solutions if given the opportunity to govern in Washington and Jefferson City in November.

16. Should Democratic candidates and officeholders address issues of faith?

It is important for candidates to share with voters issues that define them and illustrate their views on government. Democrats should not be afraid to share how faith may have formed their views.

17. What is the role of faith for elected officials?

For many elected officials, faith forms their views on various issues. Faith may guide how a public official makes certain decisions, but it should never be used to dictate public policy.

18. What can Democrats do to stem the erosion of support from labor unions? From suburban and rural communities?

The challenge is the decreasing union membership. Democrats need to actively support the growth of unions wherever possible. We should demand that state agencies not impede the certification of public employee unions and we have to resist laws which interfere with the ability to organize. This activity will have a two-fold effect: convince union members that we care about their well-being and grow a larger base of votes.

In suburban and rural areas we have to talk about the issues that voters care about and connect public policy to their lives in a meaningful way.

19. Do you or have you ever supported school vouchers or any system which allows for school choice or open enrollment? If yes, please explain.

No.

20. Do you currently accept or have you ever accepted contributions from PACS or individuals who advocate for school vouchers, school choice or open enrollment? If yes, please identify those individuals.

No.

21. Do you or have you ever supported cutting benefits from Missouri citizens on Medicaid? If yes, please explain.

No.

22. Do you or have you ever supported the sale of MOHELA assets? If yes, please explain.

No.

23. Do you or have you ever supported the elimination of contribution limits to political campaigns? If yes, please explain.

No.

24. Do you or have you ever supported the elimination of funding for the UMKC Pharmacy School following Sen. Justus' filibuster of the sale of MOHELA assets? If yes, please explain.

No.

25. Have you ever endorsed a Republican for office? If yes, please designate which candidate(s).

No.

26. Do you or have you ever supported right to work laws? If yes, please explain.

No.

27. Do you or have you ever supported the right of public employees to collectively bargain? If no, please explain.

Yes.

28. Do you or have you ever supported placing limitations on stem cell research beyond those placed in the Constitution in 2006? If yes, please explain.

No.

29. Do you or have you ever supported making changes to the Missouri Plan for selecting judges? If yes, please explain.

No.

30. Do you or have you ever supported eliminating the power of local governments to regulate the placement of confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs)? If yes, please explain.

No.

31. Do you or have you ever supported limiting an individual's right to a trial by jury, including placing artificial caps on the damages? If yes, please explain.

No.

32. Prior to running for office, please identify the progressive interest groups in which you have been involved and what legislation or policy issues the group(s) advocated.

Women's Political Caucus – advocating for the election and appointment of progressive candidates and laws promoting progressive issues.

I have been active in my township Democratic clubs in Ferguson Township and Clayton Township.

33. Prior to this campaign, please identify the Democratic campaigns in which you have been involved and describe your role.

I have been an active Democrat for 30 years. The following are a few of the campaigns in which I have volunteered: Governor Mel Carnahan, Governor Bob Holden – fundraising, Senator Jean Carnahan – fundraising and field, Senator Claire McCaskill – fundraising and field. I have also worked on a number of state legislative races doing fundraising and campaign management.

Please list and explain your top three priorities if elected:

- 1. Consumer Protection and Advocacy. Examples include: Advocating for laws to make product recalls mandatory and creating a Senior Citizen Consumer Fraud Hotline.**
- 2. Environmental Protection. I will fight to restore the balance in our laws after four years of tension with DNR over compliance issues.**
- 3. Protecting women and children against violence. One area where I would focus immediately is to convene a task force to determine loopholes in our sexual predator laws. I would also establish a fugitive unit to help track sexual predators.**