

**Committee for County Progress  
2008 Candidate Questionnaire  
Missouri House of Representatives**

Candidate: Mary Cosgrove Spence  
Campaign Committee Name: Friends of Mary Cosgrove Spence  
Campaign Address, Website, & Phone: 626 Huntington Rd.  
Kansas City, MO. 64113  
816-361-0127  
www.mary-spence.com  
Treasurer: Mike Spence  
Education: Diploma, Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School – Chicago, IL.  
BS, Regis University - Denver, CO  
MA, University of Missouri – Kansas City

Current Employment: I have recently resigned from my position as program director of the Second Presbyterian Early Childhood Learning Center in order to campaign full time for State Representative.

Civic and Political Experience: This is my first experience running for a political office. I have served as the Public Policy Chair of the Missouri Association for the Education of Young Children for the past two years, the secretary for three years and the Public Policy Chair for the Mid America AEYC for eight years. My job has been to educate the membership on the legislative issues facing children and families at the state and national levels, and to mobilize the membership when action was required. I also participate on the Visitation Church Local Organizing Committee, a group whose main focus is to work with the Kansas City School District promoting parent and community involvement.

Address for the last 5 years: I have lived in the same home for the past twenty-three years. (address above)

Anticipated Campaign Budget: \$30,000

1. I opposed Gov. Blunt's recent Medicare cuts and the fact that there was a budgetary surplus made it even more unacceptable.  
The State Legislature should:
  - Reinstate the more than 100,000 elderly, disabled and children who were cut from the program.
  - Focus on preventative measures through education, including but not limited to, physical education programs for school children.
  - Research other state and national systems in order evaluate successes and challenges.
  - Appoint a Medical Cabinet made up of professionals in the health care field to advise the state legislature.
  - Set budget priorities that support the people of Missouri with affordable health care.

- Provide outreach services to assist families in accessing the available services.
2. See #1
  3. I would prefer to study this further before commenting.
  4. I think that it is the duty of all Americans to assist our fellow Americans who are in need.
  5. Initially, I would focus on prevention and education. Specifically, programs that assists families in getting well child exams, immunizations, vision and hearing screenings, and dental checkups. No one should have to choose between taking their child to the doctor and putting food on the table. I would support continued legislation for public health programs that assist adults in getting family planning information, cancer screenings, and general health services. Prevention is a more cost-effective approach. Children who are ill, cannot go to school and adults who are ill, cannot work.
  6. I support campaign contribution limits, running a political campaign is becoming cost prohibitive for the average citizen.
  7. I support the right of public employees to collectively bargain.
  8. Yes, wage laws should be enforced for public financed projects.
  9. I do not support spending tax dollars to support vouchers for private and parochial schools. Vouchers in my opinion will not solve any problems associated with public education. We need to focus our efforts on offering the highest quality public school system for our children.
  10. I do not believe that the changes in damage limits and venue will make it harder for Missourians to have access to the courts.
  11. I am comfortable with the legislation surrounding tort reform.
  12. I support continued state funding for Planned Parenthood to provide subsidized family planning services.
  13. Yes, I support using public money to help pay for birth control measures for low-income woman who go to county health clinics.
  14. I support a woman's lawful right to choose to terminate a pregnancy. However, it is necessary to focus on prevention and education, in an effort to reduce the need for this procedure.

15. Yes, I support the Missouri Plan for judicial appointments and I am pleased that the changes in the plan were voted down in the House this past week.
16. My main goal is to represent the people in the 44<sup>th</sup> District of Kansas City and I will work to make sure the 44<sup>th</sup> District gets the funding and support it needs, but equally important will be the ability to build consensus among the communities of Missouri.
17. I voted “yes” on Amendment 2 and will continue to support the research efforts of our science community to find cures for life threatening diseases.
18. The most challenging issue facing Democrats today is finding ways to provide affordable and accessible health care for all Missourians.
19. Issues of faith should not be included democratic campaigns, nor should current office holders make decisions based on their personal faith.
20. As I have never been a member of a union, I would need to study this issue in more depth.
21. As stated in #9 I do not support vouchers for school choice and I do not believe that this is the way to solve the problems of the public schools. I would encourage community involvement, partnerships with local businesses, high quality early childhood programs and health care for, all as beginning steps to help schools. Education is the core to successful communities. Poor education systems effect every one of us. Children and families need the support of the community in order to succeed. I have not accepted contributions for organizations that support vouchers.
22. I am opposed to any measures that would hinder the ability of students to have access to an affordable education. I do find it interesting that a percentage of the gains made in the sale of Mohela were dedicated to a health science research and education center and more ability to recruit researchers.
23. I have never supported the elimination of contribution limits to political campaigns. The amount of money needed to become a public servant is entirely out of control.
24. I have never endorsed a republican for office.
25. I believe that it should be an individual choice whether or not to join a union. I have not supported, nor have I opposed right to work laws.
26. See #7
27. I do support ethical scientific research to help save lives, however, I do not support human cloning, or the sale and purchase of human eggs.

28. See #15

29. I do not support limiting the right to trial by jury, but I do support caps on damages.

30.

- Missouri Association for the Education of Young Children – Public Policy Chair
  - Mid America Association for the Education of Young Children – Public Policy Chair
- In these positions I have worked for increased funding for:  
Federal: Head Start, Child Care and Development Block Grants, Higher Education Act  
State: A state-funded quality rating system, increased subsidies for child care, and universal prekindergarten
- Member of the Women’s Political Caucus
  - Visitation Local Organizing Committee

31. Volunteer for Claire McCaskill

My three priorities if elected:

1. Increased availability of high quality early education programs
2. Affordable and accessible health care for all families
3. Building consensus across party lines in order to meet the needs of all Missourians.