



# Margo McNeil

**for State Representative, 78th District  
Bridgeton, Florissant and Hazelwood**

Paid for by Margo McNeil for State Representative - Carol Stroker, Treasurer

## **Missouri needs Energy Self Reliance and Responsibility**

Missourians care about their environment. They care about the air they breathe, the water they drink, and the effect of carbon fuels on this planet. Missourians want to act responsibly and be energy self reliant.

Missouri has three major issues that are currently intersecting which present a compelling reason for action. They are:

1. The need to reduce our carbon footprint and slow global warming.
2. The need to reduce our dependence on imported oil.
3. The need to develop new jobs for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

By focusing our energies on reducing our dependence on oil, we can help achieve all three goals. In looking for ways to create green jobs and grow our economy, we begin to act in a responsible, energy efficient way. One way to become energy efficient is by building with green materials.

St Louis Community College has a model for energy efficiency at its Wildwood campus, which is an LEED gold certified building. As a Trustee for the college, I am aware of the money saved and the healthier environment created. I would like to see Missouri encourage green building construction and aid in the renovation of existing buildings to make them more energy efficient. I propose that Missouri create a department of energy conservation to aide business and homeowners in making wise investments in energy efficient appliances, equipment, and building materials. Businesses manufacturing these products could be given incentives for locating in Missouri thus growing jobs and having a convenient and ready market for the industry. Missouri colleges and universities can help in this effort by developing incubator projects around alternative energy product development thus placing Missouri on the cutting edge of new development in this field. Creating new materials and equipment for wind, solar, hydroelectric energy production will invigorate Missouri's economy and give us low cost energy for our homes and businesses.

We can also reduce our oil dependency by encouraging the purchase of energy efficient vehicles. Encouraging the purchase of these vehicles stimulates interest, conveys the importance of this action and encourages the development and production of such vehicles.

A third avenue for reducing dependency on oil is in the building and use of public transportation. Missouri needs to expand its public transportation system, which will reduce our need for cars and gas.

**Statement by: Margo McNeil, Candidate for State Representative, HD 78**

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