

From the Desk of Sue Magruder

An Open Letter to the Truman and Kirksville Communities:

In times of economic crisis the character of our public figures is tested. Many leaders fail miserably. A select few pass with flying colors. Our community is fortunate to be home to two legislators who consistently make the grade, no matter how tough times get.

Senator Wes Shoemyer and Representative Rebecca McClanahan both have a long record of integrity, truthfulness, and outstanding service. Time and again, they have proven themselves as people possessing a clear vision of how things ought to be, coupled with a firm grasp of the challenging realities we face. These traits are expressed daily in their interactions with constituents, and also in their resourcefulness solving problems in Jefferson City.

Wes Shoemyer remains an active farmer, still depending on his business for his livelihood. With his father and son, he manages a business that has been in his family for 100 years. The connection to the land he works on reminds him every day how challenging changing circumstances - from weather to the economy - can be to the fortunes of ordinary people. His dedication to education springs from a long line of teachers in his family, including dozens of relatives who have called Truman home. For Wes, Truman is an extension of his family heritage.

Today Wes fights for Truman parents and students alike, defending public funding for education, and resisting policies that threaten support for ample and equitable student financial aid. Wes will do everything he can to support education at all levels - especially Truman State University.

Before she joined the state legislature, Rebecca McClanahan's respect for the value of higher education was demonstrated by her long career on the Truman Nursing faculty. A caring, compassionate, mother of two, and a former foster parent, Rebecca is keenly aware of the issues facing Missouri's families - including education, health care, and current and future employment opportunities. She has made economic development through the protection of education and health care a cornerstone of her public platform. At a time when retaining what schools have seems to be getting harder and harder, Rebecca aims to expand educational opportunity for all - from K-12, to technical and vocational, and the full range of higher education experiences.

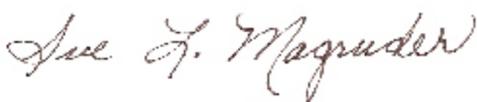
Both Wes and Rebecca supported legislation to equalize the Access Missouri Scholarship for students attending public and private universities, recognizing that the common good is best supported when everyone - regardless of income - has an equal access to an affordable education. They also both spoke out against attempts to consolidate the governing boards for K-12 and higher education, a move which would have subordinated the control of Truman's affairs to a state-wide system.

Yet, while Wes and Rebecca have upheld these values with steadfast determination, they've had to work with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to make tough choices and protect the most vital needs of families from all over Missouri. They've defended causes we all know are important while still making challenging cuts to the state budget. They know what it means to set priorities that reflect the common good. Whether you're from Kirksville or St. Louis, from Shelbina or Kansas City, chances are, your families have been touched by decisions Wes and Rebecca have made. I am certain all our families are better for their service.

It is a mark of integrity when you know a leader will answer hard questions with directness and honesty. Senator Shoemyer and Representative McClanahan do not waffle on what they believe. We need them to return to the state legislature to continue working toward their shared goal of our common good. Based on their past service, they deserve your vote.

Please re-elect Senator Wes Shoemyer and Representative Rebecca McClanahan and help us to continue to enhance the quality of life for our current and future citizens.

Cordially,



Sue L. Magruder

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