

# STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 115 - CHARLESTON

## EXPANDING/ENHANCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORTING EFFORTS

**Would you support efforts to enhance/expand methods for reporting in South Carolina?**

**YES**

Josh Stokes, Republican

*"I would be willing to help formulate new legislation or adapt/support current legislation to address the methods for reporting domestic violence and the protections available for those victims of domestic violence who do report. No person should be subject to abuse and South Carolina needs to have system available that appropriately investigates claims of domestic violence, imposes appropriate sanctions for domestic violence, and protects the victims of domestic violence throughout the process." – J. Stokes*

**YES**

Spencer Wetmore, Democratic

*"Definitely. Expanding reporting is one of the first ways we can support and protect victims of domestic violence. I would support statewide investment in a text-message based system to minimize victims' fear of being heard on a phone call to the police and give frightened victims another option to document and report abuse." – S. Wetmore*

## SUPPORT FOR GOING BEYOND CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE

**Would you support the creation of a statewide plan to effectively address the issues of domestic and sexual violence beyond the criminal justice response?**

**YES**

Josh Stokes, Republican

*"My typical stance is that less government is better but I do not believe this is an issue of too much regulation by government. This is an issue related to the creation/improvement/promotion of services available to perpetrators and victims of domestic violence both before and after any event of domestic violence has occurred. As before, I would be willing to help formulate new legislation or adapt/support current legislation to create, improve, and promote those services statewide." – J. Stokes*

**YES**

Spencer Wetmore, Democratic

*"In addition to the prevention and treatment programs discussed below, effectively addressing these issues requires that the state provide far more support for victims: counseling, safe sanctuaries, and education." – S. Wetmore*

# STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 115 - CHARLESTON

## INCREASED FOCUS ON PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Do you believe our state needs to increase its focus on the prevention of domestic and sexual violence?

YES

Josh Stokes, Republican

*"This response is essentially the same as my response to question 2(b) above. Policing and prosecuting of domestic violence and sexual violence will unfortunately always be necessary but our focus should be on preventing as much domestic and sexual violence as possible." – J. Stokes*

YES

Spencer Wetmore, Democratic

*"Too often, domestic violence is a result of the abuser's own past trauma or substance abuse, and counseling programs targeted to domestic violence can help address these cycles. While these programs can't solve every situation, in my experience as a prosecutor, mandating these programs can be an important first step to addressing underlying causes of violence." – S. Wetmore*

## SUPPORT ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICE PROVIDERS

Would you support additional state funding be allocated to victim service providers?

MOST LIKELY

Josh Stokes, Republican

YES

Spencer Wetmore, Democratic

*"It is very difficult to address state budget funding issues in isolation but I do believe additional financial resources are necessary to appropriately address and educate our citizens on the issues of domestic and sexual abuse." – J. Stokes*

Do you believe additional federal funding should be allocated to victim service providers?

YES

Josh Stokes, Republican

*"As mentioned in question 4 above, COVID-19 has made it difficult for many organizations to fundraise in an effort to address a myriad of important issues. The State cannot solely fund them all but I believe this is an excellent opportunity for the State to look at public/private funding options and additional incentives for individuals or entities that contribute funds to these causes." – J. Stokes*

**ELECTION 2020**

**DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY  
QUESTIONNAIRE**



# STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 115 - CHARLESTON

**SUPPORT ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICE PROVIDERS**

**Do you believe additional federal funding should be allocated to victim service providers?**

**YES**

Spencer Wetmore, Democratic

*“Reviewing the requirements and programs supported by each jurisdiction’s Victim’s Advocacy Fund may be one option; unspent funds can be contributed to service providers, and this could be one option to supplement last year’s lost funding.” – S. Wetmore*