ELECTION 2020
DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY QUESTIONNAIRE

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
ELECTION 2020
DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY QUESTIONNAIRE

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

“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

YES
Spencer Wetmore, Democratic

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

South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (SCCADVASA)
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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