

STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 99 – BERKELEY, CHARLESTON

EXPANDING/ENHANCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORTING EFFORTS

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

YES

Jen Gibson, Democratic

NO RESPONSE

Mark Smith, Republican

“Promoting community education and strengthening individual knowledge and skills can enhance existing methods. Survivors need more information about and access to support services. A holistic approach can increase reporting rates, so police and healthcare workers need additional training to help survivors report crimes and access services.” – J. Gibson

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

Jen Gibson, Democratic

NO RESPONSE

Mark Smith, Republican

“We must also focus on preventing sexual violence before it happens by treating it like a public health crisis. A statewide plan focused on creating a culture of equity, consent, and safety that shifts society’s perception of what defines domestic and sexual violence.” – J. Gibson

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

Jen Gibson, Democratic

NO RESPONSE

Mark Smith, Republican

“The best way to deter abuse is to stop people from becoming abusers in the first place. Children who are victims or witness domestic or sexual violence need mental health counseling. A state education campaign aimed at children can help teach children to understand boundaries and express emotions without violence. Create policies in government that allow women to achieve pay equity, obtain health insurance independent of their partner, and receive fair divorce settlements that account for lost economic opportunity. Lastly, we must increase funding for support programs, create more affordable housing, and expand Medicaid in South Carolina. Too many domestic and sexual violence survivors sacrifice their safety for food and shelter security, and we need to change that.” – J. Gibson

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SUPPORT ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICE PROVIDERS

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

YES

Jen Gibson, Democratic

NO RESPONSE

Mark Smith, Republican

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

YES

Jen Gibson, Democratic

NO RESPONSE

Mark Smith, Republican

“The economic cost of domestic and sexual violence is high. Federal and state dollars invested in support services will ultimately save us money and improve our community’s quality of life. Accepting federal funds for Medicaid expansion will increase access to healthcare for survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Investing in affordable housing and dedicated shelters for women will enable survivors to leave their abusers. Community policing strategies can integrate support services, including mental health counselors, into domestic and sexual violence calls. Alcohol and drug abuse are often a contributing factor in violent attacks. Alcohol and drug rehabilitation for people who commit violent acts must be part of the rehabilitative process. While these policies are not traditional support services, they would play an essential role in prevention and protection.” – J. Gibson