



MASW

Missouri's Voice for Social Justice Since 1901

Bob Quinn began his 6th year as Executive Director of the Missouri Association for Social Welfare on August 21, 2011. He describes the organization this way:

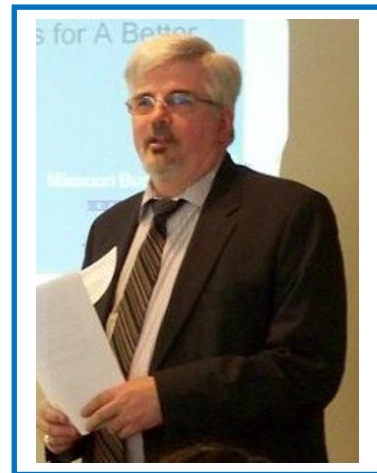
In 2011 we are, as we have been for more than a century, a voice for people without homes, for people without jobs, for people without healthcare, for people without hope.

MASW continues to do research, to educate the public, to lead coalitions, and to advocate to opinion leaders and policymakers on behalf of the downtrodden and the dispossessed, the disenfranchised and the displaced.

Missouri's political culture often trends in the direction of "you are on your own," as opposed to "we are all in this together." Such a state needs a hearty band of idealists, who are not daunted by the struggle, who are dedicated to the welfare of the people...

In other words, Missouri needs MASW.

Bob has been a regular presence in the State Capitol for a quarter-century, having served in the Missouri House of Representatives, in the executive branch under Gov. Mel Carnahan and Gov. Bob Holden, and as a lobbyist and advocate for progressive causes, including the Missouri chapter of the National Education Association and, since 2006, MASW.



In addition to being the face of MASW for state policymakers and the public, Bob amplifies the reach of the organization's resources by representing MASW on the governing boards of several key coalitions.

A founding board member of the Missouri Health Advocacy Alliance, Bob has served as Vice Chair of the Alliance Board since 2008, and chaired the executive search committee. He is also a founding board member of the Fair Energy Rate Action Fund, and currently serves as Secretary of the FERAF Board.

Bob served on the statewide steering committee which established Missouri Immigrant & Refugee Advocates, and recently completed a term on the MIRA Board. He continues to serve on the Executive Committee of Missourians for Tax Justice. Among the many other coalitions at which Bob represents MASW are Missourians to End Poverty and Missourians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty.

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Bob Quinn was born July 23, 1956 in St. Louis, and grew up in the North St. Louis County community of Ferguson, where he graduated from McCluer High School in 1974.

After earning a bachelor's degree in political science from Butler University (where he served as Student Body President) in 1978, Bob returned to Ferguson. He was a graduate teaching assistant at the University of Missouri – St. Louis while earning his master's degree in political science, which he completed in 1980.

That same year he challenged a seven-term incumbent in his party's primary for the Missouri House of Representatives, falling 261 votes short of winning the nomination. The next year he was appointed to the Ferguson Planning & Zoning Commission, and in 1982 was appointed to a vacancy on the Ferguson City Council.

Bob's fulltime work during those years was helping the unemployed through the federal job programs known as CETA and JTPA; he was employed by local agencies.

After being elected without opposition to two full terms on the Ferguson City Council (in 1983 and 1985), the people of his hometown and surrounding North County communities elected him to the Missouri House of Representatives in 1986, winning 62% of the vote in the general election against the incumbent.

His colleagues among the newly elected legislators chose Bob for the leadership position of Secretary of the Freshman Caucus. Bob Quinn was the first among those newly elected in 1986 to present a bill in committee, to present a bill on the House floor, to pass a bill in the House, and was one of only two to pass a bill into law in 1987.

Re-elected in 1988 with 81% of the vote, Bob was named Vice-Chair of a committee and became the first of his cohort, now in their second terms, to preside over a committee hearing and the first to preside over a session of the House.

Bob Quinn was the lead plaintiff and spokesperson in the case of *Quinn v Millsap*, in which his team won a unanimous victory in the United States Supreme Court in 1989. He was also a participant in the Leadership St. Louis program, Class of 1989-1990.

Given the then-rare honor of chairing a House committee in only his third term, Bob was named to chair two committees after being re-elected with 78% of the vote in 1990 – Elections, and Congressional Redistricting. In 1991, he passed the first congressional redistricting bill in Missouri to be upheld by the federal courts in 40 years.

In 1992 Bob Quinn sought the nomination of his party for the office of Missouri Secretary of State, falling 5% short of winning. Mel Carnahan asked Bob to become part of his campaign for Governor, which Carnahan won that fall.

Bob and Kellie, who were newlyweds at the time, moved to Jefferson City at Christmas time, 1992, so that Bob could work in Carnahan's new administration. Bob served as Legislative Liaison for the Department of Mental Health in 1993.

From 1994 to 2000, Bob was Legislative Director for the Missouri National Education Association. During the administration of Gov. Bob Holden (2001 – 2004), Bob Quinn served as Executive Director of the Missouri Public Service Commission, which regulates electric, gas, water and telecommunications utilities.

In 2002, Bob completed an executive seminar at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard.

Bob is the proud father of two teenagers, who attend public school in Jefferson City.