

## **2012 JCPPC Senate or State Rep Candidate Profile**

**Response for: Scott Gregory**

Name: Scott Gregory  
Work Phone: 913.384.1099  
Home Phone: 913.831.3244  
Address: 3507 West 48th Street  
Roeland Park, KS 66205

2 Political Affiliation: Democrat

3 District: House District 25

4 Campaign Chair &/or Treasurer: Cam Williams, Chair and Waynell Gregory, Treasurer

5 Phone Number: 913.384.1099

6 Committee Name: Scott Gregory for Kansas House

7 Campaign Website: [gregoryforkansas.com](http://gregoryforkansas.com)

8 Campaign E-Mail: [info@gregoryforkansas.com](mailto:info@gregoryforkansas.com)

9 Occupation/Work History (last five years - 50 words or less):

Scott Gregory, CPA, LLC - CPA furnishing tax and consulting services - 1992 to present

Cherokee Nation Tax Commission - Commissioner - 2003 to present

Johnson County Community College - Adjunct Professor teaching Tax, Accounting and Economics - 1992 through 2010

10 Most Recent Political Experience (50 words or less):

Roeland Park City Council - 1999-2011

Roeland Park City Council President - 2001-2005

Roeland Park Planning Commission - 2011 to present

Represented Roeland Park on:

Johnson County Stormwater Management Council(SMAC)

MidAmerica Regional Council (MARC)Bike/Pedestrian Committee

47th and Mission Road Committee (KCK, Roeland Park and Westwood)

East Gateway Committee (Mission, Roeland Park and Fairway)

Commissioner - Housing Authority of the Cherokee Nation 1978-1981

11 Most Recent Community/Civic Experience (50 words or less):

Shawnee Indian Mission Patriots, Inc., Director and Treasurer, 2005-2010

Shawnee Indian Mission Task Force (aka Wysong Commission) Roeland Park Representative - 2005

MAINstream Coalition PAC, Treasurer, 1997-2001

CrossCurrents Culture Unlimited, Inc. - Director and Assistant Treasurer, 1995 to present

All Souls Unitarian Church, Board of Trustees and Treasurer, 1990-1992

12 Are you, or have you been, affiliated with a local or state chamber of commerce? Please list chamber(s) and any leadership positions held:

Northeast Johnson County Chamber through Roeland Park city membership

13 Are you, or have you been, affiliated with any other business organization(s)? Please list organization(s) and any leadership positions held:

American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) 40-Year Honorary Membership (Life Member)

14 As a candidate, what are your top three policy issues (10 words or less per issue)?

Public School Funding - Comply with Statutorily Mandated funding level

Tax Fairness and adequate revenue to fund education

Jobs - Good schools, tax fairness and public works will create jobs

15 What are your views on state tax policy (75 words or less)?

Kansas has relied too much on regressive taxes - sales tax, sin taxes and, to a lesser degree, property taxes. (It should be noted that the sales tax is riddled with too many special-interest credits.) Fairness must be restored to the income tax, and the income tax must raise enough revenue to adequately fund education and social services.

16 If Kansas were to face a significant revenue shortfall in meeting its budget, how would you propose to balance the budget? Please be specific (75 words or less).

This is a non sequitur for me. As stated above, I would work and vote to ensure adequate revenue. Any budget cuts resulting from the recent tax cuts will be borne by our students, disabled and elderly. With adequate revenue no budget cuts would be necessary.

17 What are your views on the possible imposition of a sales tax on professional services, such as architects, lawyers, engineers, doctors - a significant economic base in Johnson County (75 words or less)?

An awful idea. In 50 years of tax practice touching 20 different states and an Indian Tribe, I have never seen a sales tax on services. Kansas comes closest, bundling labor and material in cases such as auto repair, pest control and appliance repair. Experience and instinct tell me that sales taxes are meant to apply to the sale of tangible property. We can imagine that such a tax would drive some Johnson County professionals back across the state line (or, for multi-office firms, their billing nexus would move to Missouri.)

18 Do you support or oppose limiting by law how much state or local governments can tax or spend each year, such as requiring a "supermajority" 2/3 voting requirements to approve state or local tax increases? Why (75 words or less)?

I oppose it. Speaking as a former city official, such a law would hamstring local officials. Nothing would get done. Control of tax increases is ultimately at the ballot box. Let me add that I ran for the Roeland Park Council in 1999 because of a foolish, outrageous tax increase. In 12 years on the Council, I was instrumental in seeing to it that we cut the tax rate in 10 of 12 years.

19 What are your views on fundamental reform of K-12 school funding (75 words or less)?

The issue is not reform, but adequacy of funding. Oh sure, tweak around the edges, but, if the State met its responsibility in meeting the STATUTORILY MANDATED BSAPP level, we would not be beating around for the umpteenth time issues like Local Option Budget.

20 Do you support expanding local funding flexibility and control over how education funds are raised and spent (75 words or less)?

No. As stated above, (more than once) adequate funding of education is the State's responsibility. If the State met its responsibility, we would not be arguing over local-funding schemes that would increase Johnson County property taxes and hang western Kansas rural districts out to dry.

21 What are your views on Kansas' current toolbox of economic development incentives (75 words or less)?

Kansas and its local governments rely too much on tax abatement to lure business, which pits local governments against each other and relies on bogus projections of job creation and economic impact. Overall improvement in the tax climate, the education system and infrastructure would attract more businesses and create more jobs.

22 What types of tax and/or economic development policy will you support to encourage job growth and business expansion in Kansas (75 words or less)?

Adequate funding of public schools, a fair tax structure and public works projects to improve infrastructure.

23 What kind of measures would you support to help control or reduce key business costs (75 words or less)?

I assume that "key business costs" refers to items such as workers' comp and unemployment insurance, in addition to the tax climate in general. Kansas' unemployment tax cost per employee is the same as

the national average. Reforms in workers' comp since 2001 have saved \$131 million. Kansas ranks 44th in workers' comp cost. Continued vigilance will control these costs and occasionally disclose additional opportunities for cost reduction.

24 Do you support or oppose the diversion of dedicated state highway funds for any use other than the funding of the transportation projects for which it was created? Explain (75 words or less).

I oppose it. I take very literally and very seriously the covenant made with citizens with words like "dedicated funds."

25 What is your policy position on immigration mandates, such as requiring all employers to enroll in a federal government program known as E-verify to check the immigration status of all potential new hires (75 words or less)?

E-verify is a good idea. I would support that. However, If "immigration mandates" began to edge over to Kobach-inspired, Arizona-style unconstitutional abridgement of rights, I am adamantly opposed.

26 What do you believe is the most pressing issue or challenge facing Kansas today (75 words or less)?

Quality public education, which will not be achieved without adequate funding, which presupposes fair taxes and adequate revenues.

27 What do you believe most distinguishes you from your opponent(s) in this race (75 words or less)?

Education, credentials, qualifications and experience.

Rice University is ranked 17th among American universities by US News and World Report. My Rice degree is in Economics and Business Administration (Accounting), not fine arts.

I have 50 years in financial management of business and government. My CPA practice specializes in tax and consulting to small business.

I taught Tax, Accounting, Economics and Governmental Accounting and Finance at the college level for 24 years.

I have served on the Cherokee Nation Tax Commission for 9 years.

In 12 years on the Roeland Park City Council, I was instrumental in reducing the City tax rate in 10 of 12 years. My opponent has always voted for higher taxes.

I crafted the ordinance that created city-wide trash service, saving residents \$180,000 per year and making recycling available to all.

Education is the key to our quality of life. Fair taxation is the key to funding education. My experience centers on taxes.