

Johnson County Public Policy Council
2016 State Senator/State Representative Candidate Questionnaire

Name: *Jerry Stogsdill* **Political Affiliation:** *Democrat*

District: *Kansas House of Representatives, 21st District*

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Email: *jws4414@aol.com* **Campaign Website:** *JerryforKansas.com*

Campaign Video Link: *N/A*

Occupation/Work History (last five years – 25 words or less):

Owner, JDB Real Estate Investments and J. Stogsdill Fine Arts Photography and Digital Imaging (sales through art galleries and jstogsdillphotography.com)

Other Recent Political/Community Experience (25 words or less):

I have served in leadership positions on the boards of a wide range of business and education organizations (see “JerryforKansas.com” for specific details),

If you are or have been affiliated with a chamber of commerce or other business organization please list which organization(s) and any leadership positions you have held:

I have had affiliations with the Overland Park Chamber and the GKCCC where I served on the Federal Affairs Committee.

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

- 1. Assuring excellence in our public schools throughout Kansas*
- 2. Providing health care through Medicaid expansion to ALL Kansans*
- 3. Developing a broad based tax code to promote economic development*

What are your views on state tax policy? (100 words or less)

The present “fiscal experiment” forced on Kansans by the Governor and his loyalists in the Legislature has been a disaster. As a small business owner, entrepreneur and former President of the trade association for the high tech industries in Kansas and Missouri I know from experience what it takes to attract modern, high paying, 21st century companies to Kansas. I will work with business people, the Chambers, educators and community leaders to develop a fair, broad based and stable tax structure that will create economic growth and stability in Kansas.

If Kansas faces a significant revenue shortfall in meeting its budget, how would you propose to balance the budget? Please be specific. (100 words or less)

I would support Medicaid expansion which will bring hundreds of millions of dollars into the state economy. Unfortunately, the Governor's plan to take 330,000 businesses off the tax rolls has been the genesis for the financial disaster in Kansas. Inclusion of those businesses, in the development of a fair, balanced and stable tax code, that includes all sectors of the economy, will be essential. The new tax structure must be developed in conjunction with input from business leaders, business organizations, community leaders and educators to make sure it is structured to support economic development and expansion.

What are your views on K-12 school funding? In anticipation of a new funding formula/process, what are your priorities? (75 words or less)

We must reverse the 2012 tax cuts in order to provide the funds necessary to make our public schools nationally recognized for excellence. This is not only an investment in our children's future it is a critical investment in our economic future. Companies heavily invested in intellectual capital are not coming to a state with substandard public schools. Returning our schools to national prominence must be a top priority.

What are your views on the state's role with respect to access and affordability of public higher education? (50 words or less)

Putting the cost of tuition increasingly on the backs of students, in order to cover general fund shortfalls, is morally indefensible, educationally detrimental, and economically insane. Kansas must explore every avenue for reversing spiraling tuition costs, and for making post-secondary education financially possible for every student who seeks a college education.

What is your position on individual tax credits and other voucher-like programs for private school tuition (50 words or less)?

I will strongly oppose voucher plans, tuition tax credits, "scholarships" and ANY other legislative guise to divert public tax money from our public schools and put it into the hands of private schools, religious schools, or home schools. Taxpayer money should be used for public schools, period!

What types of economic development policies will you support to encourage job growth and business expansion in Kansas? (50 words or less)

I will support legislation that creates excellence in our public schools, colleges and universities, that supports Medicaid expansion and that supports the development of a stable, broad based tax structure which includes all segments of the economy and will be attractive to current and prospective businesses.

Do you support or oppose maintaining the current dedicated sales tax transfer to the state highway fund for the purpose of funding transportation projects, or should transportation be subject to the appropriations process where legislators determine funding levels entirely? Explain. (75 words or less)

I will support using tax money dedicated for highway and bridge projects solely for that purpose. Robbing KDOT funds to cover general budget shortfalls should be strictly off limits. Diversion of KDOT funds robs the state of good paying construction jobs which are key in helping to revitalize our economy. I will also support the inclusion of local input for project that impact local business and government.

What is your policy position on the state's role regarding immigration and do you support employment-based immigration reforms to assist with workforce shortages in specified industries such as engineering? (50 words or less)

I support immigration laws and enforcement being best handled at the federal level. I believe the state should create an economic environment that will encourage the use of legal immigrants in the workplace to help eliminate workforce shortages in industries where those shortages are an issue.

What role should state government have in determining workplace employment practices and benefits offered to employees? (50 words or less)

The state should require safe working conditions for all employees in all industries. The state should support due process rights for all working people. The state should support wages and benefits that are competitive nationwide in order to attract and build an adequate, educated and productive workforce.

What do you believe is the most pressing issue or challenge facing Kansas today and how would you address it? (75 words or less)

The most pressing issue facing Kansas is the deteriorating state of our public schools, colleges and universities. Our educational systems provide the bedrock on which our economy will rise or fall. Education has, until recently, been a major asset for Kansas in attracting and growing business. No region has benefited from outstanding public schools more than Johnson County. We must return our schools to a level of excellence in order to create a robust economy.

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

Experience, maturity and leadership. Unlike either of my potential opponents, I have an exceptionally strong, proven and successful background in both education and economic development. I have led both education and business organizations. I am an experienced Naval Officer, educator, businessman and entrepreneur. Unlike my opponents, my leadership skills come from experience, a record of success and a lifelong commitment to public service and private enterprise. I am the right person for the 21st District.

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