

Johnson County Public Policy Council  
2018 Kansas State Representative Candidate Questionnaire

**Name:** Jerry Stogsdill

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**Political Affiliation:** Democrat

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**District:** 21

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**Address/City/State/Zip:**

**Campaign Video Link:** N/A

4414 Tomahawk Road

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

I have a real estate investment business and a fine arts photography business. I also serve as a member of the Kansas House of Representatives.

**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 been a member of the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce and served on their State and Federal Committee

**Other recent political/community experience** (25 words or less):

I am currently serving as a member of the Kansas House of Representatives. I have also served on boards of several local and state organizations.

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

Full funding for our public schools, colleges and universities. Medicaid expansion. A fair tax structure spread out across all sectors of the Kansas economy which supports sustainable economic development.

**What are your views on state tax policy, being as specific as you can?** (100 words or less)

I will support a tax structure that is balanced between income, property and sales taxes. I believe these taxes should be spread fairly across all sectors of the Kansas economy. I am in favor of working toward the elimination of our very regressive food sales tax. I would support tax incentive programs designed to grow our economy and create new jobs as long as an incentive or credit is responsibly tied to the promised results of the entity requesting the incentives. I am in favor of as much local control of tax policy as is possible.

**With record low unemployment rates, what would you do to grow and develop the state's workforce?** (75 words or less)

Fully support our public schools, colleges and universities. Support more vertical integration of job training opportunities and education between our public schools, community colleges, colleges, trade schools and unions. Develop a quality healthcare system that workers would trust to be available and affordable for their families. Work on supporting quality of life programs that would make Kansas an attractive place to bring a family, get an education and start a business.

**What are your views on funding K-12 education?** (75 words or less)

Fully supporting our public schools is not only the number one issue for our children and their future in Kansas, it is the number one economic development issue facing our state. We must develop a fair and sustainable school finance formula that will provide the financial base to support our schools but will also provide a method of fair distribution for those funds to all areas of the state. We are not there yet.

**What would your priorities be in any new statewide transportation plan?** (50 words or less)

No longer allow KDOT funds to be swept to cover General Fund shortfalls and making sure that any funding sources used for transportation projects are used for that purpose. Full support for the Transportation Task Force. Support projects that will provide maximum job creation in the areas of greatest need.

**Do you support maintaining the current dedicated sales tax transfer to the State Highway Fund for the purpose of funding transportation infrastructure, or should transportation be subject to the appropriations process where legislators determine funding levels entirely?** (50 words or less)

I support maintaining the current dedicated sales tax transfer to the State Highway Fund. I also support looking for ways to catch up on projects that have been delayed due to the Brownback administrations years of sweeping KDOT funding.

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

Full funding for our public schools, colleges and universities. Full funding and staffing of the Kansas Department of Commerce. Splitting the current ineffective House Commerce Committee into 3 committees, Commerce, Economic Development and Labor. We need to have three effective committees to focus on each of these important issues

**What are your views on the state's role regarding immigration and do you support employment-based immigration reforms to assist with workforce shortages in specified industries?** (50 words or less)

Kansas could not fully operate its economy without its current immigrant workforce. We should do everything we can to make sure we have access to these workers and to see that they are treated fairly. We also need to insist our national representatives work to develop a workable immigration plan.

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

If we are to develop a modern, 21st century economy in Kansas we must fully fund our colleges and universities. We must develop a public / private funding plan that will keep tuition costs reasonable and affordable for any of our young people seeking higher education.

**What are your views on healthcare policy and Medicaid expansion?** (50 words or less)

I believe it is critical that we expand Medicaid in Kansas. I voted for Medicaid expansion in the House and voted to override the Governor's veto of that bill. I will continue to be a strong advocate for Medicaid expansion for both economic reasons and for humanitarian reasons.

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

The state should monitor employment practices and benefits to make sure they are fair, affordable and responsible for both employees and employers. The state should also develop policies concerning these issues that makes Kansas a desirable location to work and to do business.

**What do you believe is the most pressing issue or challenge facing Kansas today and how would you address it?** (50 words or less)

Reestablishing our K-12 public schools to a position of national prominence. We have to fully fund our public schools, distribute those funds fairly across all districts and look for more ways to attract and retain the best teachers available. We also need to better advertise those improvements across the nation.

**What project have you been most proud to work on?** (50 words or less)

I worked hard on helping design and implement the tax plan which replaced the failed Brownback tax "experiment". I voted for the new plan and to override the Governor's veto of that plan. I am continuing to work with my colleagues to improve our tax policies in the 2019 session.

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

I do not have an opponent for this election cycle. I hope that reflects my work ethic in providing the best representation possible for my constituents. I think my extensive background in economic development, education, entrepreneurship and small business would set me apart from most opponents who would challenge me in an election. My willingness to work across the aisle to solve problems would also be a proven positive in a contested race.