

1. Please provide some basic information about yourself.

Name: Jerry Stogsdill

Position you're running for: KS House of Representatives, District 21

2. Please briefly tell us why you are running for public office.

I am running for my 3rd term in the Kansas House of Representatives. I was initially elected in 2016 on a platform of doing away with then Governor Sam Brownback's disastrous "tax experiment". I also ran on my support for fully funding our public schools, colleges and universities, both for the benefit of our children but also because I believe it is also the state's number one economic development issue and resource. I also ran because I felt like my leadership skills developed as a United States Naval Officer and my extensive background in both education and economic development would be extremely relevant in helping to develop and implement public policy that would again make Kansas a nationally recognized center for educational excellence. That national recognition would in turn attract modern 21st Century companies to locate and remain in Kansas. I remain committed to those goals.

3. (State & Federal) Over the past decade, Kansas City has started to become recognized as a midwestern technology hub. There are multiple programs in place to allow this to happen, which should lead to high quality, high paying jobs. If elected, what types of policies would you support or advocate to continue the creation of startups, growth of the industry, and/or attraction of technology companies looking to relocate or expand to the Kansas City area?

I was directly involved in this for seven years as President of the Silicon Prairie Technology Association, which was the trade association for all the High Tech Industries in both Kansas and Missouri. I think the reinstatement of such an industry run trade association would be an invaluable resource in making sure a bistate effort is made to expanding the KC Metro as a technology hub. I believe industry wide efforts, rather than individual companies, would be far more efficient and effective with working with both the Missouri and Kansas Legislatures in helping to develop legislation, in a variety of areas, that would facilitate the development of the KC Metro into an international Tech Hub. There are far more policy ideas that could be

developed that we have room for here, but I would be more than happy to meet with tech leaders to discuss what we did at Silicon Prairie to start that Metro Hub effort.

4. (State Only) During the past few legislative sessions, education funding has been prioritized through new reforms to computer science and STEM education, allowing qualified courses to count as a high-school graduation credit. Due to COVID-19, funding proposals for computer science and STEM initiatives are in jeopardy. What, if anything, do you think needs to be done regarding education funding? How would you fund your ideas?

I am in favor of retaining the program to allow qualified courses in STEM, from a variety of new and creative educational resources, to count as high school graduation credit. As a four year member of the House Education Committee, i have been a strong voice and solid vote for such programs. Unfortunately, representatives from the other side of the aisle have been more concerned with cutting educational funding for these and other programs. We need stronger support from industry to apply pressure to the Republican leadership to support, not limit, our ability to provide and expand funding to support our much needed educational endeavors.

5. (State & Federal) Finding talent is one of the most critical challenges that Kansas City technology companies face. Workforce development programs and STEM education are two ways in which the state can help address this concern. What do you believe can be done to fill the void to ensure companies can find the qualified workers they need?

We need a specific Labor Committee in both the Kansas House and Senate that will work with leaders from business, Chambers of Commerce, public schools, colleges and universities, organized labor and the Kansas Department of Commerce to make sure we have sufficient funding and a sound economic plan to develop a workforce that will be sufficient to attract and retain business to Kansas.

STEM education is vital to the future success of our students and we need to work with the University Regents and the Kansas Board of Education to make sure that our students, at all levels, have access to the STEM resources that make them competitive in an increasingly complex economy and society.

6. (State Only) COVID-19 significantly changed the budgetary landscape we faced at the beginning of 2020. Though we are all hopeful for a speedy economic recovery, funding will have to be prioritized in the meantime. What are your top three budget priorities, in order of importance to you? Please include a brief description of each priority.

A total review and restructuring of our tax system which is now far too reliant on property taxes and sales taxes, food sales taxes in particular.

We absolutely must retain full funding for our public schools, colleges and universities. Our educational infrastructure is vital to the future of our children but it is also the key economic stimulus program funded by the state.

Infrastructure funding, particularly in the areas of broadband expansion and clean energy development, must be maintained in order to attract and retain 21st Century businesses and the jobs they create.

7. (State & Federal) Regarding the economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, how important is the technology business community to economic recovery, and which measures can speed the positive impact of this industry on the economy?

I think it is very important. These are 21st century businesses and we should be doing all we can to make sure they grow and flourish. In Kansas we need a thorough review of our tax structure, educational systems, Kindergarten through Graduate School, transportation infrastructure, funding resources and workforce development capabilities in order to make sure Kansas can be a leader in attracting, growing and retaining tech companies and industries. This will be particularly important as we emerge from the pandemic.

8. (State & Federal) If the federal government makes additional funds available for infrastructure, where would you prioritize that spending? Alternative energy, repair bridges, increase freeway capacity, increase airport passenger and freight capacity, smart infrastructure, public transportation, or other?

All of the above. In Kansas there is a particular need to improve our broadband capacity and access. We are also continuing to recover from the Brownback administration's stealing from

our transportation funds to cover general fund shortfalls. Funds for our transportation infrastructure should be off limits to any other use other than transportation repair, maintenance and expansion. Kansas is a leader in alternative energy production and I support doing everything necessary for Kansas to retain that position and expand our clean energy industry.

9. (State Only) In 2019, the California general assembly successfully passed the California Consumer Protection Act. This legislation regulates how companies can collect, store, and sell consumer data. Federal pre-emption is looming and will likely mirror similar legislation to the General Data Privacy Rights passed by the European Union in 2017. If more states continue to pass similar legislation, compliance could become a difficult and expensive task for any online business. Do you support state legislation on this issue or would you prefer a Federal privacy law to preempt states' laws and to cohesively protect American consumers and businesses? If you prefer a Federal law, do you support giving the FTC the resources and authority it needs to be the enforcer of the federal law, or do you believe plaintiffs' attorneys should be empowered to bring class-action lawsuits against companies?

I don't like to speculate on legislation that I have not seen in detail but only in conjecture. I am very sensitive to the misuse of consumer data but I am also in favor of companies having legitimate and safely guarded access to that information to develop better relationships between their company and their consumers. I would keep a very open mind in examining and potentially supporting such legislation. As to federal or state control, it would again depend on the legislation.

10. (Kansas Only) The Kansas Angel Investor Tax Credit program was not renewed in the 2020 legislative session and must be renewed in the 2021 session to continue. The return on this investment has been exceptional and provides the necessary capital to grow new companies and attract outside investors to Kansas companies. What is your view on the Kansas Angel Tax Investor Credit and other economic development incentive programs?



As the former President of the Silicon Prairie Technology Association, I worked with a myriad of Angel Investors and investors at every level. Access to Angel Investors is a critical component to helping fledgling companies get off the ground. At Silicon Prairie I held quarterly meetings between Angel Investors and entrepreneurs to help facilitate introductions between the two and, hopefully, raising interests among investors in investing in many of these young companies. My only concern in supporting reenactment of the Angel Investor Tax Credit Program is making sure that inexperienced entrepreneurs are protected, by statute, from the very small percentage of predatory Angel Investors seeking to take advantage of these entrepreneurs. I believe this can be easily accomplished and I look forward to supporting the renewal of the Angel Investor Tax Credit Program.

11. (Missouri Only) In the last legislative session, funding for the Missouri Technology Corporation (MTC) was significantly decreased - allocating just \$1 million in this fiscal year. In 2016, MTC funding totaled \$17 million. MTC programs include MissouriTechLaunch (co-investment program), Seed Capital Co-Investment, and the Missouri Building Entrepreneurial Capacity program (MOBEC Grants). These programs will struggle to remain, if at all, with the cuts in necessary funding. Would you support future funding increases for MTC, or do you have recommendations for policies the state of Missouri can adopt to support the future of new tech businesses and startup support organizations?

N/A