



RICHARD MCGREW

State Representative, District 85

Representative Richard McGrew currently serves as an Arkansas State Representative for District 22 and was a Justice of the Peace in Garland County and served as a board member with Champion Christian College and the Salvation Army before holding office.

What is the biggest issue facing the state of Arkansas and how would you address this problem if elected?

We have many, the division of are citizens, crime, inflation , rising cost especially those on fixed incomes and others

What would be your top 3 priorities for utilizing the surplus budget in Arkansas, if you had full power over the surplus?

#1 make certain we fully funded the budget. #2 crime making sur our communities are safe. #3 work to return to the taxpayer.

How do you define public safety and what changes would you make to keep all communities safe?

Doing our best to create a safe environment for people to live. Getting tougher on crime while also providing programs to rehabilitate allowing them to become contributing citizens .

What (if any) changes do you believe are needed to the criminal legal system in Arkansas?

I believe we need some judicial reform. We need to stop releasing known criminals back into the community .

The Arkansas Public Defenders Commission has been underfunded for many years. Would you support increasing funding to help bring the department in line with American Bar Association recommendations which cap caseloads at 150 felony cases per attorney? Why or why not?

I am not knowledge on this I would have to gather more information to make a decision.

It has become common knowledge across the state of Arkansas that those facing health conditions concerning addiction and mental health are located at an increasing rate in the state prisons and local county jails. What solutions do you feel should be explored in this area?

Creating a task force to evaluate the existing programs and finding a way to make them more successful. Possibly changing the way we are funding these programs with emphasis on being successful. The existing programs are to short and not enough accountability.

Research indicates that juveniles that encounter the justice system in their youth will have a higher likelihood of entanglement with the adult criminal justice system. What strategies do you support to decrease this likelihood?

More education within the schools and stronger deterrent

Neuroscience research has indicated that the human brain is not fully formed until approximately age 25, meaning that impulse control and long-term thinking can be impaired. Would you consider reclassifying how Arkansas young adults are treated in the adult system? Are there specific adjustments that should/could be made?

Not sure

Do you think we have a “parole problem” and how would you address it?

Yes parole is a revolving door.

The Arkansas Department of Corrections identified reducing solitary confinement —a practice labeled torture under international law— as a major objective in their 2021-2022 Strategic Plan, however the number of people held in isolation continues to grow. Do you agree with the need to reduce solitary confinement in our state? Why or why not?

I believe there needs to be a deterrent for bad behavior in prison but extended solitary confinement is cruel and i would not support it.