



JOSHUA M. HUCKABA

State Representative, District 57

Prior to running for office, Joshua Michael Huckaba has worked in grassroots campaigns for Ron Paul and currently works in banking and maintains a blog about cryptocurrency.

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

The economy. Phase out/abolish state income tax.

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

If it's from income tax revenues it should be apportioned back to the people. Otherwise, it should be utilized to encourage business development, educational goals, and improving infrastructure (bridge/road repair).

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

Public safety is a responsibility of all citizens, it starts at home, teaching children how they can stay safe. It grows from there to neighborhood watch programs and ultimately with peace officers working alongside community leaders to show a united front against violence.

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

Non-violent drug offenders should not be locked up in penitentiaries, further propagating the for-profit prison industry. This matter should be investigated further by a non-partisan third-party group so that unbiased recommendations can be made to the General Assembly.

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?

Unlike most politicians I'll speak candidly, I unfortunately do not have enough information on this subject to respond appropriately. I would however, be willing to learn about it and look into it if elected.

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?

Addiction and mental health is NOT a reason to be incarcerated. Funding should be shifted to helping these individuals within our state, to assist them whenever possible.

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?

Any juvenile charges less than murder/manslaughter/rape should not be readily available to arresting officers, a person should not be treated differently as an adult for mistakes made as a minor. That said, repeat offenders do show a level of recidivism which must be appropriately confronted, especially violent crimes.

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?

Perhaps, this is another issue which should be further studied and investigated to determine an appropriate course of action.

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

Again, on this issue I would like to know more about the situation of how parole operates in the state prior to answering succinctly.

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?

It probably should be reduced, however the issue I think our prisons face is overcrowding which places individuals in closer confines which can cause more direct conflict with other prisoners. This issue should be more thoroughly investigated and compared to what has and has not worked in other states.