



JOHN J. PACK

State Representative, District 71

Prior to running for office, John Pack has served in the U.S. Army National Guard since 2010 and works as a Regional Fleet Manager at MasTec Network Solutions.

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

I think the biggest issue is taxes. Arkansas pulled in 1.6 billion dollars in surplus this year. That alone tells a story of needing to get money back in the pockets of our citizens.

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

Roadways and infrastructure, helping teachers and schools, putting the money into things to help with public safety and crime.

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

Public safety is the responsibility of public leaders to ensure there are enough options available to have matters taken care of promptly, and quick response times. I would push to have camera systems put up to help with deterrent and also to help in identifying vehicles and people that are suspects. These would also help in investigations and accident identification.

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

I believe the power the lawyers have to make deals is too much. Sometimes it forces people to take deals due to circumstances that are unfair. We need to put the judgement, sentencing, and any deals made back on the judges where it belongs.

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?

Absolutely I would. Too many case loads leads to poor representation due to over work. This is not fair to the defendants in their right to fair trials.

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?

I would like to explore the possibilities for this before I give an answer. But it definitely needs to be addressed.

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 money needs to go into neighborhoods like low income and such. Jobs need to be readily available because right now it's hard for some to get a decent job without precious training. The better we can make neighborhoods, living conditions, and decent jobs for people the better off our people will be.

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?

I would like to get more knowledge on this before I answer.

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

I do think there is a parole problem here in our state. This is a matter I am looking into and don't want to answer until I truly understand the ins and outs of it.

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?

Yes I do. It can lead to mental issues and is used as a way a lot of times to just temporarily get rid of a problem they don't want to deal with.