



D. MICHAEL GILL

State Representative, District 12

Prior to running for office, D. Michael Gill has worked as a truck driver.

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

The most acute problem facing Arkansans today is one beyond our control: corruption of the money supply. Inflation is an unlegislated tax and is an increasing burden as one slides down the wealth/income ladder. We cannot fix this without sound economic education ([Mises.org](https://mises.org)) which has been absent in government education for at least forty years, ending the Federal Reserve, and returning to a sound monetary system.

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

A natural disaster "rainy day fund," supplement highway repairs/expansion due to population growth, and increase school voucher funding.

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

Public Safety is both knowing that one can go about their business unmolested as a matter of course, and that justice will be swift for the tiny fraction of the time that some one slips through the cracks of civil society. Changes to further that goal start at self-responsibility and community engagement. I'd wager that in 1922 a majority of homes were unlocked and businesses had only enough security "to keep the honest, honest." What changed in the last century? On top of that, crimes are overwhelmingly stopped when a potential victim has taken the responsibility for their own safety by being armed and trained. A society of armed victims stops being victimized rather quickly.

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

Decriminalization of drugs, deprioritize drug enforcement, and increase prosecution of violent crimes.

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?

This certainly sounds like a good idea, but I need to study the issue more.

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?

Decriminalize all drugs to start. Issues of mental health need to be addressed by charitable means and shouldn't be the government's task. The last thing we need is the government in charge of institutionalizing individuals.

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?

Juvenile crime starts when the fathers aren't in the lives of the child. Reform family courts to give men a chance in the lives of their kids, reform communities to promote responsible men, and give kids places to be kids.

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'm not sure. I'd like to know why our young adults are less able to be upstanding people than 75 years ago. Then maybe we'd know what needs to be changed first.

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

We have an over-incarceration problem due to too many victimless or non-violent crimes being the purview of the government. The entire judicial system is built upon a monopoly of violence. Another avenue of punishment must be explored. I do not believe in parole for violent crimes, but I also don't believe in lifetime punishment through revocation of rights after the sentence is served. Restoration of all rights, including firearm ownership, should be part of any incarceration reforms.

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'd need to learn more about it first, though i'm inclined to believe its overused. If a single inmate is a danger to the other inmates (who are the wards of the State and rely on the government for their well-being), then that inmate should be separated until not dangerous. How this is best done in a different way than it is now should be studied to produce a humane outcome.