

2020 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire

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LD 28

House of Representatives

Q1 The COVID-19 pandemic has created an economic crisis with many Arizonans losing their jobs or dealing with a reduction in income. What strategies would you support to help Arizona workers and families recover from this economic crisis? (Answers in bold)

Increase Arizona's weekly unemployment benefit (which at \$240 is the second-lowest in the U.S.) to closer to the national average of \$490 per week.

Eliminate barriers to enrolling in and maintaining food support benefits through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Replenish and create a designated funding source for the Housing Trust Fund to assist low-income residents and those at risk of eviction or experiencing homelessness.

Increase state-funded childcare subsidies to enable more parents to return to the workforce.

None of the above

Other (please specify): **We need to increase the amount of the income disregard as well from \$30 to closer to \$300.**

Q2 When the new legislature convenes in January, it is very likely lawmakers will be facing a significant revenue shortfall in order to maintain current ongoing funding of state government. If that is the case, would you support raising new revenue by raising taxes or reversing past tax cuts – like previous tax cuts for corporations or the wealthy – in order to avoid making budget cuts to things like public education, healthcare and other priorities? (Answers in bold)

Yes

No

Comment: We really have no ability to raise taxes at the legislature because of the requirement of a super majority to do so. For that reason, these are questions that are best left to the voters. I would support reigning in special deals and corporate carve outs to ensure we have a fair and equitable tax system.

Q3 Which of the following do you support to create a fairer tax code for all Arizonans? (Answers in bold)

Repealing targeted, special interest sales tax exemptions for certain luxury items like country club memberships, fine art to out of state purchasers, and private jets.

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Enable legislators to evaluate whether tax credits are providing the desired return on investment by requiring corporations who claim tax credits to provide sufficient information on the jobs and economic benefits they are providing in exchange for the tax credit.

Increase the minimum corporate tax that large corporations must pay no matter how many tax breaks they claim from \$50 to \$500 (73% of Arizona corporations currently pay \$50 or less in state income taxes).

Establish one formula for determining how multistate corporate income is taxed rather than allowing corporations to choose the formula which results in paying the least (Arizona is the only state in the country that allows this).

Repeal the special tax treatment individual taxpayers receive on long-term capital gains which an analysis shows that 83 percent of the benefits of this tax break went to the top 5 percent of wealthiest incomes in Arizona.

Requiring a sunset date for all new tax credits and sales tax exemptions to require the legislature to review each tax break every five years to evaluate whether Arizona is receiving the desired return-on-investment for the tax giveaway.

Other (please specify): I would need to learn more about the impact of increasing the minimum corporate tax and what is the treatment on long-term capital gains before I could support those measures.

Q4 The effects of discrimination against Black, Latino and American Indians have lingered and manifested as racial inequalities in Arizona's economy today. What steps would you take as a state lawmaker to create a more racially equitable and inclusive economy? (500 words or less)

Answer: First and foremost, all Arizonans should feel safe when they encounter police, and we can and should move forward the reforms proposed by Rep. Bolding, including Body Cameras for DPS officers, sensitivity training for all officers, and other common sense measures. Ultimately, we need to increase our investment in efforts like early childhood, our public schools, and our community colleges and universities to help create a more racially equitable and inclusive economy.

Q5 Please share what your priorities will be as a state lawmaker to strengthen Arizona's workforce and economy so that all Arizonans have better opportunities to move up the economic ladder? (500 words or less)

Answer: My priorities are for the state to increase their investment in areas we know ultimately make more Arizonans successful in school and in life. These include the items I listed above: increased investment in early childhood education and support for families, increased investment in public schools (with the goal of reducing our class sizes) and increasing investment in our universities and community colleges to make them more affordable for all Arizonans. We know these investments actually pay for themselves in the long run in the form of more productive Arizonans!