

# 2020 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire

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LD 4

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 also should prioritize paid family medical leave, and more support for food banks, among other measures proposed by the Democratic Caucus in response to this crisis.**

**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: **I want to focus on raising revenue from corporations and the richest Arizonans have received tax cuts since 2011, not working-class Arizonans struggling to make it through these tough times.**

**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):

**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:** People of color make up a larger share of hourly and lower skilled jobs than their overall population. For example, Legislation that helps workers take time off to get to the doctor and care for their families, will have a greater impact for Black, Latino, and American Indians. I support agendas around economic justice including paid family medical leave, worker rights, and workplace safety. We can't just stop there though, we need to support minorities' ability to climb the economic ladder, including starting their own businesses and expanding them. That's why I support measures to promote minority own businesses such as lending and permitting streamlines. These measures will not fully address discrimination, but they will help curb some symptoms as it relates to economic growth.

**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:** The first thing we must do is invest in education from kindergarten all the way through college. There is no better investment to build the economy than investing in our people, and that's shown in study after study. Additionally, we invest in other workforce development programs for skilled, non-college degree required fields, and further invest in infrastructure. Finally, strengthening our workforce requires taking care of them, and we know that allowing leave for people to care for themselves and family members when needed, produces a more productive employee in the long term. So investment in people and then keeping those people healthy and productive is the best way to improve every Arizonans opportunities to move up the economic ladder.