

2020 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire

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LD 23

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 should look at the average of our neighboring states. We also want to make sure that folks aren't left out of unemployment benefits if they get the opportunity to accept part time work. This economy we are in may provide work less than full time but we cannot and should not pull the safety net out from under them.**

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 will not be able to get 2/3 of each chamber within the current reality. It will be incumbent upon us to bring all players to the table and refer a measure to the ballot. That would take 50%+1 and is more doable. We absolutely need to look at every credit and loophole out there to decide if we are getting the "bang for the buck"...the majority party has been derelict in that duty.**

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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.

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 think we need to look at all the school tax credits but specifically the private school credit. Those were funneled through after being ruled unconstitutional by going through third-party vendors (STOs). Couple that with the fact that private school enrollment has remained flat this is really nothing more than welfare for the well off.

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: I would bring groups to the table and listen. What we think vs what others live needs to be ferreted out. I do believe there is an opportunity to set up loan services for minority groups that are under represented. But, ultimately, we must fund our education system. Being at the bottom of the funding barrel works against minorities and continues a cycle of inequity.

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:

All paths to a strengthened workforce and a prosperous economy comes through education. We have heard from too many job creators that our educational infrastructure is a deterrent to relocating their companies in AZ.

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We need to fund early childhood education, fully fund K-12 education, re establish funding for our community colleges and work toward our Constitutional duty to fund higher ed "nearly as free" as possible. We also need to invest more in our universities for innovation. We have to take a hard look at the revenues we bring in. I believe we have one of the smallest budgets per-capita in the US. That means we pull together all the players and have a robust process to decide on what we want our state to have in 20 years. We can lower sales tax and some personal income taxes and increase other revenues. That will take much of the steep lows we see during down economic phases. We need to have a vision of the future so that we can put together the plan for today. I am excited for the opportunity to move past the partisan bickering and do the people's work.