

2020 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire

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LD 22

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):

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:

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.

2020 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire

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: Creating a more equitable and inclusive economy has to start by ensuring everyone contributes their fair share to building a sustainable economy. Continually cutting taxes of the wealthiest corporations and earners does nothing to encourage equity, and further starves our social services like education and public health to the point we are at today. We must fix our education funding once and for all and make a permanent commitment to stop fixing our problems on the backs of our children! Additionally, rural broadband must be addressed so that education can be accessed by all in our current COVID-19 environment, so that people of color enter the work force with a more equitable chance of success.

It should not require the Supreme Court to recognize the all LGBTQ employees have the same employment rights as everyone else, but here we are. Bad actors must be held to account for their unethical, and discriminatory business practices. This will require building intergovernmental relationships between city, county, state and federal coalitions so that turf wars don't impede progress.

Finally, the Arizona unemployment technology system must be immediately updated and eligibility amount should be permanently doubled.

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: Give the amount of sunshine available, and the pollution levels in Maricopa County, it makes sense Arizona should move towards renewable energy for both health and economic reasons. We have some of the brightest minds in the country at our universities, who's intellectual properties can be rewarded and kept here. It is unfortunate that New Jersey currently produces more solar energy than Arizona.

Our young people of color deserve opportunities in careers that have not yet been imagined. That starts by providing access to whatever path they desire, as close to free as possible; be it trade school, community college or university, or directly into a career path. These opportunities must include access to affordable housing, healthcare and childcare.

2020 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire

Finally, since I am a person of privilege, I will always hold a space at the table for people of color to help me understand their needs.