

# 2020 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire

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LD 2

Senate

**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.**

**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).**

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**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:

**"On May 29, 2020, House Democratic Co-Whip Reginald Bolding released a statement on behalf of the Arizona House Democratic Caucus; I thank my friend Representative Bolding for his leadership and clarity he has shared.**

**On May 31, 2020, Democratic Leader Representative Charlene Fernandez released a statement condemning the violence and vandalism but noted that the Governor did not mention or address the issue of police brutality. I pray that the family of George Floyd finds peace in these most troubling times. Do not lose sight of why these demonstrations are taking place; let's work together to address the concerns. Let's take this opportunity to join in civil discourse and make reforms necessary to prevent this from happening again. As a Hispanic woman, I feel angry, and I understand the frustration felt by those who peacefully protest. As a mom, I will not condone violence or vandalism of any form, and I encourage only peaceful and meaningful demonstrations. I stand with those who peacefully protest and show us that the life of George Floyd has meaning. I encourage those in law enforcement to continue to show restraint and understanding. Before us is our opportunity to work together, for civil discourse, and lasting reform. I encourage the citizens of our State to rebuild public confidence through reform of our existing system. What is needed is laws that require Independent reviews of police conduct, a national definition of abusive force, and more transparency of police officer's prior conduct. Also, Arizona must fund our public education system fully; by reforming our educational system, we can address poverty and inequality. I ask all people of our State of Arizona to focus your energy on working with your lawmakers, and let's take this opportunity for change. Please also keep in mind that we are still in a pandemic that has not reached its peak here in Arizona, and I respectfully urge you all to keep your health and the health of others in mind."**

**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:

**Leadership, Experience, and Integrity; it is an honor to take ideas from Southern Arizona to the State House of Representatives because that is what Arizona needs; a little common sense and straight from the heart. As your Arizona State Representative for Legislative District 2, I put my efforts toward creating opportunities and prosperity in our community by supporting and encouraging public education and economic development efforts. I will continue to work diligently to protect Arizona's unique environment and to protect our most vulnerable. I am known for my work with the local stakeholders, school boards and business partners to bring together successful opportunities for growth and public education.**