

# 2020 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire

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LD 24

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): **Providing comprehensive health care coverage, increasing the minimum wage, and offering free in-state college to every Arizonan is essential to our economic future.**

**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: In 2019 alone, Arizona lost over \$18 billion to tax credits and incentives. We need to scale back on tax credits and incentives and invest in education, healthcare, and economic development for marginalized groups of people.**

**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): We are doing a disservice to our state with so many unnecessary tax loopholes draining the state revenues at a time when we need to help our communities. Unlike my opponent, who takes money from big corporations that benefit from these tax incentives and loopholes, I am running as a clean elections candidate focused on voters, not donors.**

**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: Public officials and police officers must treat all communities fairly, with respect, and earn their trust. Communities across Arizona should work closely with law enforcement to implement best practices in policing and build cultures of transparency, accountability, and respect. Additionally, we need to invest heavily in our marginalized communities, offer small business grants, expand health care, lower housing costs, and provide pre-k and after school programs. Unlike my opponent, who continues obtaining endorsements from law enforcement political action committees, I am refusing to accept such endorsements since they have failed our communities and perpetuated racial inequalities throughout the state.**

**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 as a state lawmaker are to increase education funding, combat racial injustice with substantive criminal justice reforms, rebuild our economy through small business grant funding, lower housing costs, enact health care coverage for all Arizonans and increase the minimum wage. We have so much work ahead of us, and I am ready to fight for everyone in my district to make these issues a top priority.**

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