

2020 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire

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LD 8

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): **Free job training programs programs to retrain out of work people that can put them to work in jobs immediately needed such as tracing or other public health employment. Also offer training in the building trades or healthcare professions.**

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 need a serious review/audit of all previous tax cuts.**

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: I would look to institute a micro loan program for new POC who want to start a small business. Also look to how small businesses can be helped in communities of color, poor and racially mixed communities. We must target these communities to lift them up. We must also target these schools for STEM programs, encouraging students in these communities to look at STEM careers of the future, encouraging them to choose that path and offering funding for further education to make that dream a reality. We would target those who would return to their community of origin. Example: a rural Latina Physician Assistant, after graduation, returning to her hometown to practice medicine, giving back and inspiring children in her community that they too could achieve a career in medicine. A win win, helping to solve our rural provider shortage and helping to solve racial inequality.

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: Our workforce begins at birth. We have neglected early childhood education. In Arizona we must prioritize early childhood education for all children, no matter their economic beginnings. Children must get a good start to learning. We must then move on to full day kindergarten for all. We have neglected education in Arizona and wonder why we have built an economy on minimum wage jobs. The only way Arizona will be prepared for the economy of the future is to be educated for the future. Arizona must prioritize education, from birth to the university and beyond We must care for the toddler as much as the adult learner. When every Arizona child is given the same start in life from the same starting line, only then will all children win. We cannot risk losing a child's potential. Each child deserves the very best Arizona has to offer and we have let so many children down already. I call on all of us to put children first because we only have a few years of their life to get this right.

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We cannot shortchange their education or cut corners. We must continue to fund education and work to fully fund to the 2008 levels and beyond. Now is not the time to cut any education funding.

Many children are left behind because they do not have access to broadband. This is a hinderance to learning. We must expand broadband to rural Arizona.

After school we then must look to offering job training for the future. Healthcare and building trades. Our world will be different after Covid-19. People may work from home more and travel less. Technology will be more important. Arizona can be a leader in solar. We must look to economic leaders to guide our way. The legislature must be adaptive and receptive. There will be many changes this year as we change business practices. There may be less minimum wage jobs as restaurants do not recover and small businesses do not make it. Those who lost jobs need to be retrained and will find better paying jobs in a more lucrative field. We should also look to tipped workers and find a way for them to have regular wages instead of basing their wages on tips.

Legislators must be flexible, pragmatic and willing to listen, learn and think out of the box. Arizona can have a very bright future ahead but there will be quite a bit of change. Change is good.