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COMPLETE

Page 1: Welcome to the 2020 Legislative Candidate Survey

Q1

Name & District

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Legislative District	28
Office Sought	State Senate

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Q3

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?

- **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.**
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Q4

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?

Yes,

Other (please specify):

I think we need to think critically about the way our tax system is set up. Hard-working Arizonans are bearing a sizable portion of state taxes because of regressive taxation. I believe we should not raise taxes on Arizonans but instead look closely at current tax breaks for corporations and other loopholes and carveouts.

Q5

Which of the following do you support to create a fairer tax code for all Arizonans?

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.

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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).

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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.

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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.

Q6

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)

There are countless ways in which racism has impacted the way our economy is set up and who gets to participate in it; some of the ways the state legislature can help improve economic standing for BIPOC in Arizona include reforms in labor rights, education, and housing.

First, we need to improve workplace protections and strengthen the power of labor unions in the state of Arizona. Unions have been a large part of decreasing racial wealth gaps, but our legislature has made it harder and harder for workers to organize and bargain collectively. Additionally, as COVID-19 sweeps through our state, hitting workplaces that employ BIPOC hard, the ability of labor unions to stand up for workplace protections is even more important.

Second, we need to change the way we fund education in our state. As public schools across the state get defunded in every single budget, students of color are hit particularly hard. Instead of basing what limited improvements get made in education funding on results, which disproportionately assist wealthier, whiter schools, we should be investing in Title I schools which serve low-income students and have the potential to close racial gaps in economic status in the future.

Finally, we need to be investing in affordable housing and giving our cities and towns stronger incentives to set inclusionary zoning laws. BIPOC have faced discriminatory housing laws and a shortage of affordable housing for too long. The legislature should be taking steps to change that.

Q7

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)

My first priority would be to fund our state's education system in a robust and equitable way. Right now, the schools which educate our state's kids aren't given the resources they need to ensure students live up to their full potential. Additionally, being at or near the bottom of almost every education funding metric has taken away opportunity after opportunity to bring in more companies and, with them, more jobs to our state. The COVID-19 crisis has made it particularly clear how dire the legislature's underfunding of our public schools year after year has been, as our classrooms are overcrowded for us to reopen schools safely. We need to take meaningful steps to reduce class sizes, solve the teacher shortage, and the inequities those shortages create and reverse the disinvestment that our community colleges have faced.

Second, we need to develop solutions to help Arizona move forward on healthcare. Right now, too many Arizonans face the burden of prohibitively high insurance and treatment costs. If someone is sick, they should be able to access the healthcare they need; we can start to alleviate costs that harm Arizonans by implementing a buy-in to AHCCCS and expanding KidsCare.

Third, we need to assess which tax cuts, breaks, and loopholes are serving their stated purpose of helping Arizona's economy, and we need to eliminate those that don't. Our budget priorities should reflect our values. We need to build a strong economy in Arizona that will give Arizonans more opportunities.
