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COMPLETE

Page 1: Welcome to the 2020 Legislative Candidate Survey

Q1

Name & District

Name	Felicia French
Legislative District	6
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.**
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- Eliminate barriers to enrolling in and maintaining food support benefits through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).**
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- 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.**
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- Increase state-funded childcare subsidies to enable more parents to return to the workforce.**

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):

The last thing we should cut from our state budget is public education and healthcare, both of which are my top campaign priorities. We need to fully fund public education and expand access to quality healthcare to all Arizonans. I support eliminating special interest and corporate tax loopholes. Rather than relying on regressive forms of revenue generation though (e.g. increasing Arizona's sales tax), which disproportionately impacts working families, the state legislature should audit and rethink Arizona's annual budget as a whole and put an end to unnecessary spending and waste of taxpayer dollars.

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)

I support reallocating state funds from our corrections budget to public education (from Pre-K through high school), childcare, afterschool, neighborhood, and community programs, which have been proven to reduce crime and incarceration rates that disproportionately impact communities of color.

I also support updating Arizona's general education funding formula to eliminate the current overreliance on property taxes as the primary source of revenue for public education funding. Instead, Arizona should transition to an education funding model where a dedicated budget is set aside to support the needs of a general education fund. The formula for that funding should be calculated from the number of students in our state, and adjusted for specific student needs, to ensure equitable access to quality academic resources across all school districts.

I support making it easier for every Arizonan to vote and to eliminate the barriers that have long been used to suppress the voting rights of our communities of color and Native Americans.

I support all efforts to end private, for-profit jails and prisons, and I will support legislation that helps to eliminate the monetization of incarceration and institutional racism.

I support strengthening the Clean Elections program and making it mandatory for all candidates. Doing so would help eliminate financial barriers for marginalized, minority, and socio-economically disadvantaged candidates to run for office.

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)

As a state Senator, my top priorities will be to fully fund public education from Pre-K through college and invest in certified trade schools for our rural communities, expand access to affordable quality healthcare and make our state government accountable to all Arizonans, so that every child and young adult has the opportunity to succeed.

We need to reduce local unemployment, create jobs with stable, livable wages, and support small businesses and entrepreneurial job creators in Arizona, by providing smart incentives and subsidies that serve our most marginalized and underserved communities.

I will prioritize expanding broadband access in Arizona's rural, tribal, and underserved communities to decrease the digital divide that currently prevents all Arizonans from gaining equal access to healthcare, life-saving public safety and emergency services, educational resources, and stable, high-paying local job opportunities.

I also support creating stable high wage job opportunities by shifting low-wage jobs to higher-paying careers in the rapidly growing renewable energy sector. Arizonans deserve clean, safe jobs, marketable skills, more employment security and lower-cost electricity bills.
