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COMPLETE

Page 1: Welcome to the 2020 Legislative Candidate Survey

Q1

Name & District

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Legislative District	26
Office Sought	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.

Other (please specify):

The goals for recovery include: keeping people from being homeless; ensuring children have safe affordable care; and food security. To help workers and families get back to work, child care is a priority. Subsidies for the family I think are part of the solution. The child care providers also need assistance for their business to survive. Keeping people in their homes through affordable rent and available affordable housing units is a priority for this state. Currently, there are partnerships with housing, health insurance and AHCCCS that have helped people experiencing homelessness; expanding those opportunities should be looked at. Incentives for cities to increase housing could be examined and expanded. An economic safety net, such as UI which can be applied to rent, is a recovery strategy. In lei of political will to keep up UI needs and trends, we need to have a safety net for those unemployed, if not UI then where does this gap get closed? That is the question that needs an answer. I would like to see additional strategies from leadership around above mentioned goals that are available across the state and that empower local governments.

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):

An overall analysis and assessment of taxes is needed. There is no blanket response that says raise taxes or reverse tax cuts. The resolution is most likely a combination of temporary measures. The goal is do no harm. The priorities are many. We can not cut funding to systems that are critical for our state. We can not cut funding to education, health, jobs, safety net programs, and real economic and wage growth work. We need to promote equity and do impact studies on suggested remedies. It is important to note that education is an economic driver as is healthcare.

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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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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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.

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Other (please specify):

On the surface, as presented, special interest tax exemptions for luxury items seems to be an area for improvement. My only concern is that of arts and jewelry because I don't know how this would impact the art community income; I would need more information. For minimum corporate taxes, large corporations, it seems that \$500 divided by 12 months would not be significant for the corporation; I would like to know the tolerances for more and impact on industries. I like the sunset date for all new tax credits and even an evaluation on previous tax credits would be helpful in decision making. For the other choices, I would like more information. The end take away is that we do need tax reform with the decision lens of how our taxes impact the budget, economy and the value of fairness/equity.

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)

Education of our youth is key to busting through cultural barriers, racial inequities, building marketable skills/knowledge and developing confidence and resiliency for dealing with those who can not change. Let me start with my personal experience. I am a Latina who grew up in an area and era where systemic investments were not made in students like me. I was able to go to college on the GI Bill I earned; my education and Veteran status opened doors in a system that recruited underrepresented. I had to perform a job to expectations and learn the cultural of people who were not like me to continue to work and advance. Key components to my story is education that is accessible and affordable for all; jobs for a diverse work force; development opportunities for people in the work force to change with emerging situations; a pathway for advancement, process to management work inequities (EEOC); and resiliency. As a state lawmaker, I would participate with leaders in framing goals and objectives towards a racially equitable and inclusive economy. Until that work happens, I would support a budget, legislation, policy that works towards accessible, affordable education and skill acquisition opportunities that invests in all levels of education from youth to those changing careers. I support wages that are fair and representative of the industry. I support incentives for hiring a diverse workforce. I support methods/systems/unions for employee employer conflict resolution and other work contracting.

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)

Investing in education has to be a priority for our current and emerging workforce. The direction that takes, course of study and skills, depends on where we want to go as a state. Economic analysis by professionals who can give credible data will help guide decision making that is needed in partnership leadership. As a former strategic planner, my thoughts quickly go to systematic planning. We need leadership at a Governor's and University level to help look at where we want to go economically for our state. Where the inputs are to make that happen and examine what we have today, risks associated with status quo and how to fill in gaps. We need to be inclusive of all our resources we have in our state, starting with people who live here. And, we need to be aware and purposely inclusive by making decisions with an equity lens. The short answer is, prioritize education in conjunction with an inclusive economic plan.
