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 Page 1: Welcome to the 2020 Legislative Candidate Survey
**Q1**

Name &amp; District

Name	<b>Kirsten Engel</b>
Legislative District	<b>10</b>
Office Sought	<b>Senate</b>

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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.**

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Other (please specify):

Expand eligibility and funding for AHCCCS/Medicaid to ensure people who lose job-attached health insurance are not forced into a decision between no insurance or not being able to afford food, rent, etc.

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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?

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**Yes,**

Other (please specify):

Arizona has been on a path to insolvency for a while and this pandemic only tells us what we already know: we need to raise revenue and it needs to come from Arizona's most prosperous.

**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.**

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**Other (please specify):**

Any changes to the tax code cannot be approved in midnight budget sessions or other ways the Legislature does business that obscure information from the public

**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)

Ending discrimination against Black, Latinx, and Indigenous Arizonans will require serious changes to all of our systems, including legal, policing, education, and healthcare. We need to examine our curriculum and require schools to teach real history, not the current curriculum that covers up the deep racism embedded in our country. We need to repair historic injustice through dedicated investments in communities of color to ensure affordable housing, wealth building, and strong public education. We need to look at the way our economic and finance systems discriminate against people of color through higher interest rates and lack of access to capital, as well as the way corporations do business and preserve Good Ole Boys' networks that structurally exclude marginalized people from positions of influence in companies. We need to do a lot to address the violence from law enforcement along with examining why we are requiring police for so many problems they are not effective at solving, such as homelessness and substance abuse disorders. By diverting funding we typically put into policing and incarceration from those systems toward constructive systems like education, mental health services, and social work, we can meaningfully reduce the violence faced by communities of color while building stronger communities.

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**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)

It's the common answer, but we must fund education better. While there are many obstacles to opportunity even beyond education, a high-quality public education system can go a long way toward both equipping Arizonans to take advantage of opportunities and to attract companies and foster small businesses through a strong labor force. We also have to change the ethos of taxation at the Legislature away from supporting those who need support least (big corporations) and toward supporting small businesses and especially businesses owned by people who have been underrepresented in the business community. We also need to address the role healthcare costs play in destroying opportunity and sending people into bankruptcy.

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