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COMPLETE

Page 1: Welcome to the 2020 Legislative Candidate Survey

Q1

Name & District

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Legislative District	9
Office Sought	House Rep.

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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):

In 2020, I proposed bills during the regular session (pre-COVID19) to raise the monthly allotment for TANF and increase TANF to the full five years. Only 6% of Arizonans who are eligible for TANF actually get it-- besides the fact that we have stingy TANF. I also proposed a set of tenant/landlord changes in my Truth in Renting bill. Even before COVID19, too many Arizonans were living in poverty... while Legislators gave tax breaks.

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):

Our money is tied up in the tax giveaways. That is where I would start. It's time to end the multi-billion-dollar transfer of state funds to corporations.

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)

For children of color, the inequities begin before birth. When we talk about equity, I believe that we should start with maternal and child health. Many moms of color don't get adequate (or any) prenatal care in Arizona. This results in poor birth outcomes and sometimes lasting developmental problems. All Arizona moms deserve quality pre- and post-natal care to increase health and wellbeing and decrease premature death of moms and infants. Arizona is in the high 40s for nearly every child welfare benchmark, and we are dead last for Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) in the US. Before they ever enter public school, far too many students -- particularly students of color -- experience food insecurity, housing insecurity, violence, loss of a parent, or addiction of a parent. That's not fair. COVID19 has smashed open the broken systems in our society and forced us to look at the widespread discrimination and dysfunctionality. The color of your skin or your ZipCode should not determine your healthcare, education, housing, and job opportunities.

Education is one of those broken systems-- thanks to decades of underfunding and discriminatory funding. The technology gap between students of color and white children is shocking. Out of 1.1 million students in Arizona, 200,000 don't have the Internet connection and/or the necessary hardware to do online learning. Unfortunately, online learning is the safest option during the pandemic. Students need hardware, Internet connections, engaged teachers, and support for their parents during these difficult times.

I support both prison reform and police reform. I support changing earned release time; ending mandatory minimum sentences and dismantling the private prison system raising wages for prisoners; legalization of marijuana and the release of low-level cannabis users from prison; and other reforms proposed by LUCHA and the American Friends Service Committee. I support release of some categories of prisoners during the pandemic. I also support body cameras for law enforcement, a database of law enforcement officers that can be used to check references and past behavior, de-escalation training, independent investigation of police use of excessive force, and diversification of the AZ Post board.

We should fully fund public education, eliminate educational funding disparities that favor wealthy schools, and end mass incarceration, but we also should help these children lead happier, healthier, more successful lives by giving them and their parents the help they need at the beginning of life.

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)

Economic Reform. This includes elimination of revenue drains like tax giveaways, unnecessary lawsuits, and sweetheart deals for specific corporations, funding the People's To-Do List (education, infrastructure, healthcare, safety/security), and creation of a state public bank. (The public banking part depends upon having a sane state government that cares about the people.)

Equality, Opportunity, and Paycheck Fairness, particularly for women and minorities, including the LGBTQ community. This includes worker protections, support for unions, the ERA, affordable college, job training, and issues related to discrimination.

Ensuring Public Health. This includes fighting for expanded access to affordable medical, dental and mental health care and ensuring that the state appropriate funds the opioid epidemic, the COVID19 response, maternal and child health, AHCCCS, adverse childhood experiences, housing trust fund, rural health, and other worthwhile programs that promote healthy lifestyles and prevent unnecessary death and disease.

<https://powersforthepeople.net/2019/02/17/speaker-bowers-its-time-to-hear-the-peoples-agenda-video/>