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Page 1: Welcome to the 2020 Legislative Candidate Survey

**Q1**

Name & District

Name	<b>Randall Friese</b>
Legislative District	<b>9</b>
Office Sought	<b>PO Box 64925</b>
City	<b>Tucson</b>
ZIP/Postal Code	<b>85728</b>
Country	<b>@DrRandyFriese</b>
Email	<b>rsfriese@gmail.com</b>
Phone	<b>(520) 603-6651</b>

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Page 2

**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):

paid sick leave for all state employees (including part time employees)

**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**

**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 Employment Non-Discrimination Legislation (ENDA) which would prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. I also support Fair Share legislation which, by raising corporate income tax rates for companies that pay CEO's more than 30 times the average worker pay, would begin to address income inequality.

Additionally, I believe ensuring equality of opportunity within our public-school system, K-12 and post-secondary education, will enhance diversification of Arizona's workforce. Ensuring equality of opportunity means each public school has access to the same resources. Each public-school student should have equal opportunity to access a pathway to a career through Joint Technical Education Programs, Community College programs, or a four-year University degree regardless of their zip code or socioeconomic status. The choice of which path to take belongs to the student. A student's choice should not be limited by the school they attend. I support creating a state funded low interest student loan program to help those students who wish to pursue community college or a four-year University program (Arizona does not yet have such a program).

Finally, I also support fully funding and expanding safety net programs such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), which provides resources to families working their way out of poverty and the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP).

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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)

My main priority as a legislator will be to protect education funding (K-12 and post-secondary) from budget cuts. Public education funding was sacrificed during the Great Recession. Arizona still has not completely reversed those cuts. Arizona has only recently gotten our public K-12 schools funding to the 2008 level, when considering the effects of inflation. Funding for our state university system has also been dramatically cut during the Great Recession. These cuts have also not been fully restored. We cannot allow our K-12 and university public education system carry the burden of balancing our state budget in this current fiscal crisis.

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