

#52

COMPLETE

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Page 1: Welcome to the 2020 Legislative Candidate Survey

**Q1**

Name & District

Name	<b>Stephanie Stahl Hamilton</b>
Legislative District	<b>LD10</b>
Office Sought	<b>Arizona House of Representatives</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.**
  - 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.**
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**Q4**

**Yes**

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?

**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)

The solution to racial injustice is complex and multifaceted. To begin, we must acknowledge that there are families and places in this state that are still stuck in the 20th century in that not everyone has access to running water and electricity. Families living on the Navajo Nation, for example, have just been granted access to install running water to their homes. I was born in 1968 and spent my childhood years on the Navajo Reservation; I am appalled that it has taken over 50 years for laws to be amended so that families on the reservation can have running water. With electricity comes broadband internet. Ensuring all our rural areas have access to the internet will help increase employment opportunities, wages, and access to education and the ability to work from home. Arizona must address the historical implications of redlining and how it has shaped our communities and created barriers to education and economic opportunities for persons of color. The move to privatize education by defunding our public schools, the inequitable distribution of tax credit dollars, and school vouchers creates the effect of segregating our schools once again. Eliminating apprentice programs and defunding our CTE and JTED programs also limits job readiness for our students graduating from high school. Our state is not investing its resources in the communities that need it the most, thus creating a greater divide and a larger wealth gap.

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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)

Raising the minimum wage to at least \$15 dollars an hour would be a good place to begin. Removing barriers such as childcare and safe, stable housing is critical for opening pathways for employment opportunities. JTED, apprenticeship, and internship programs should also be addressed. Arizona's young adults are moving to other states for better employment opportunities. Job training programs will increase our workforce and keep our young workers in Arizona.

We must ensure everyone has access to broadband internet so that all will have a chance at finding employment, education, or increased wages. Higher education is a must for many white-collar jobs but many individuals have to take out loans to pay for their education. We must make secondary education affordable and accessible to all.

Creating opportunities for adults in low wage jobs should be a priority. JobPath in Pima County is a program that moves adults from low wage jobs to high wage jobs through education, skills training, and social support. The average wage increase for a JobPath graduate is \$36,000 per year. Because this program is supported by funds from the city of Tucson, Pima Community College, and state funding, it provides the support necessary to ensure over 97% of the students in the program graduate. JobPath is the perfect example of what happens when resources are invested in our most vulnerable communities. Many of the graduates not only increase their wages, but they have a more stable home life and share how their success often affects the success of their children. And many of the graduates reinvest in JobPath to help guarantee its future success.

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