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COMPLETE

Page 1: Welcome to the 2020 Legislative Candidate Survey

Q1

Name & District

Name	Kelli Butler
Legislative District	28
Office Sought	State House

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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.

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):

It would be an enormous challenge to raise revenue at the legislature because any revenue increase must be approved by a 2/3 majority of each chamber. However, we must work together to ensure we maintain ongoing funding and even increase certain critical areas to meet the challenges we will face. Many tax cuts and loopholes have been established over the years that divert potential revenue away from our General Fund. We should reevaluate all of these giveaways to determine if they are working to strengthen and grow our economy, or if those dollars would be better invested in educating our children and improving our healthcare system and infrastructure.

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)

In order to create a more racially equitable and inclusive economy, we must first recognize the broad range of disparities and barriers that exist today, and we must commit to make needed change. I've advocated for increased funding for childcare and education at all levels, distributed in a way that helps all students and also addresses greater needs in underserved communities. I've introduced measures to improve access to quality, affordable healthcare to reduce health disparities. I've worked to provide more opportunities for affordable housing and more support for small businesses.

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)

We must ensure that all Arizona children have access to a high quality education, from pre-K through postsecondary or trade school. Even before the current health crisis, there were too many inequities in our education system – disparities that will be magnified and could create an even larger achievement gap unless we take bold action now. As we plan for a return to school during this time of the Pandemic, we have an opportunity to reimagine education in Arizona and ensure that we meet the needs of all our children. I am eager to work with educators, experts and parents to re-evaluate our current systems and seek meaningful improvements at all levels. We will grow and strengthen our economy when children enter school ready to learn, then enter the workforce ready to succeed.

We must also recognize that overall health is incredibly important to a strong education system and a robust economy. Investment in our health system and improvement in access to quality healthcare will pay dividends in productivity, will strengthen our economy and improve overall quality of life. I have worked to introduce measures to expand access to quality, affordable health care and to critical health services. I will continue to prioritize these important measures because every family should have access to care.
