



For Arizona State Senate

League of Women Voters of Arizona Questionnaire – submitted 9/23/2020

Q. Voting: What legislation will you propose or support to ensure election integrity and guarantee that every Arizona citizens' right to vote is protected?

A. Arizona is one of the better states on this issue. We allow permanent vote-by-mail and we allow mail-in ballots to be handled prior to election day to facilitate a smoother count. Our state provides public information through ballot pamphlets, clean elections information and a Secretary of State who believes in ballot access for all citizens. There is more to do.

I would support the repeal of legislation that made ballot “harvesting” illegal. We are waiting for a court case that might solve that issue. However, we now know that with the pandemic there is a real need to allow the political parties to organize to help get vote-by-mail ballots to the polls. I would still outlaw third parties doing such activities for monetary remuneration. I would also support same-day voter registration and making the default for new registrations or changes that the voter is added to the Permanent Early Voter List unless they opt out.

Q. Economy: With the loss of tax revenue due to COVID-19, how would prioritize the distribution of revenues to support public services?

A. Public school education comes first. Then revenues should be disbursed based on what impacts local communities the most. For example, making sure that local government budgets can sustain employment of first responders, hospitals, and mental health services. State government jobs also need to be protected. Our state government is already “hollowed out”. Without a doubt there should be no new tax cuts or tax credits contemplated or enacted until after we return to a state revenue level of 2019.

Q. Education: What will you do to provide adequate funding for instruction and support services to ensure quality education for all Arizona students, including K-12, community colleges, and universities?

A. I support adding a new personal income bracket for earners over \$250,000 (\$500,000 for joint filers) the rate would be 5.5% rather than the current top rate of 4.5% for incomes over \$159,000. I would support raising the top bracket corporate income tax rate from 4.9% to 6%. I also would support rolling back the Corporate School Tuition Organization (STO) tax credit which I think has been abused. I believe that many special interest tax credits should be rolled back as well.

Q. Healthcare: What legislation will you propose or support to provide affordable and quality healthcare for all?

A. It is important to support full funding for Medicaid (Access) and KidsCare at the state level. I will support having a state insurance exchange for Affordable Care Act insureds rather than the federal exchange which gets no support from our state government. We must also look at how the rural population is underserved by our healthcare system and rural hospitals do not get enhanced funding from the state for services they provide.



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Q. Water: What actions and policies do you support to protect Arizona's ground and surface water?

A. Get the science right! Give the ADWR (Arizona Dept. of Water Resources) the statutory authority to monitor industrial agriculture user's wells throughout the state. Change rules for INA (irrigation non-expansion areas) to make it easier to limit well drilling. Allow rural areas that counties declare as threatened to opt in to metering well in groundwater basins.

Do more research and funding for recharge basins which are not a complete solution but will help mitigate groundwater draw down.

I will lobby for a revision back to EPA rules that were discarded by executive order of the Trump administration.

Q. Financial Security: Helping Arizona workers and family recover from the economic crisis cause by COVID-19 is one of my top priorities.

A. Yes. I Support efforts at the federal level to provide additional funds for extended and enhanced unemployment insurance benefits, as well as direct help to state and local governments. If elected, I would work with the Arizona congressional delegation to continue to evaluate and support the need for additional funding until we get past the crisis.

At the state level we should reform unemployment insurance and consider raising the maximum weekly benefit at \$240 which is the 49th lowest in the country! It is important to stop treating those that need unemployment insurance as deadbeats unwilling to work.

Q. Criminal Justice: Criminal justice reform to address racial disparity is a high priority in 2021.

A. Yes. In 2018 I was asked about criminal justice reform at a local candidate forum. I was woefully uninformed on the issue. The intervening 2 years and all that has happened this year has been the impetus for me to get educated on this complex issue.

At the state level there is work to do on sentencing reform, allowing judges more flexibility in handling nonviolent offenders, cash bail, and time-served maximums. This has had some bipartisan support in the past and I believe I can work with members of both parties that are looking for solutions rather than sound bites. We should also begin to transition from private prisons back to state run institutions where we can provide better oversight as well as eliminate the profit motive from incarceration.