Q1 Your information

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Q2 Physical and sexual abuse of children often capture public and media attention, but it is child neglect that prompts the majority of reports to the Department of Child Safety and is the leading cause for the removal of children from their homes into foster care. Neglect occurs when a parent or other caregiver puts a child in danger by failing to provide needed food, clothing, shelter, medical care, or supervision. Neglect can cause long-lasting damage to children's health and learning. To prevent child neglect and reduce the need for foster care, do you support more focus on strategies like parent mentoring, child care assistance, domestic violence intervention and substance abuse treatment? Yes

Q3 KidsCare now provides affordable health care coverage to nearly 29,000 children in working families in Arizona, connecting them with the check-ups, immunizations, treatment and prescriptions they need to grow up healthy. Current state law has a trigger that immediately freezes KidsCare enrollment when federal funding dips to a 90% match in October 2019. Do you support eliminating the automatic freeze and investing a small amount of state funds to keep KidsCare enrollment open after October 2019? Yes
Q4 Business CEOs, parents, and teachers across the state are calling for increased investments in public education. The Arizona Joint Legislative Budget Committee data show a 13% drop in total state funding for K-12 education per student – a drop of $1,331 per student from 2008 to 2018. More than $800 million in annual funding is still missing from our schools since the recession, due to budget cuts in full-day Kindergarten, building repair and maintenance, career and technical education, and general classroom support. Between 2015 and 2017, Arizona’s national ranking dropped from 40 to 43 in fourth grade reading proficiency and dropped from 18 to 25 in eighth grade math proficiency (National Assessment of Educational Progress). Do you support reinvesting more state funding in our public schools?

Maybe. It depends on the revenue projections, the state of the economy, and other priorities.

Q5 The Invest in Education Act is a ballot proposition that dedicates new resources to the Classroom Site Fund for teacher salaries, lower class sizes, full-day Kindergarten, raises for other personnel who support students and specific classroom operations. It raises the state income tax rate for the income above $250,000 for individuals and for income above $500,000 for other households. Do you support the Invest in Education ballot proposition to raise new resources dedicated to public schools?

No, Comments: I believe we need to find funding within the system first. For example, 65 school districts only have one school yet pay for a superintendent. Salaries for those 65 superintendents add up to nearly 4 million dollars. I believe School consolidation is step one.

Q6 Empowerment Scholarship Accounts give parents vouchers to use public dollars at private schools. There is no requirement for private schools to publicly report test scores, graduation rates, student retention, or financial audits. The Arizona legislature first created these vouchers in 2011 to expand educational options for students with special needs. Since then, the legislature has continued to add new categories of eligible children and the newest law passed in 2017 expands ESA vouchers to every student in Arizona. The number of new vouchers is allowed to grow by 25,000 over six years. Proposition 305 gives voters the chance to approve or repeal this universal expansion of Empowerment Scholarship Account vouchers. Do you support or oppose the expansion of vouchers?

Yes, I support this expansion of vouchers and a Yes vote on Proposition 305.
Q7 The Arizona Education Progress Meter recognizes that children with access to quality early learning opportunities are more prepared for kindergarten. As they go forward in school and life, they are less likely to need special education or be held back a grade, and are more likely to graduate high school and go on to college. But many children start Kindergarten already behind their peers; children living in low-income families have heard 30 million fewer words in their young lives. Only 21% of Arizona preschool aged children today benefit from quality early learning in child care and preschool compared to the progress meter goal of 45% by 2030. Will you support using state and federal child care funds to connect more young children with quality early learning in preschool and child care to move Arizona toward the progress meter goal? **Yes**

Q8 The rates that the state of Arizona reimburses to child care centers and homes to teach children in low income working families are 18 years out of date and the lowest in the nation, according to the National Women’s Law Center. Just as being last in K-12 teacher pay leaves our students behind, being last in child care rates leaves many children out of quality learning in child care and preschool. It also means many child care businesses simply can’t afford to open their doors to low-income children, parents are forced to leave children in unsafe situations or cut back on their work hours, and employers have a much less stable workforce. Earlier this year, President Trump signed a budget that allocates a large increase of federal dollars to every state to improve child care assistance. Arizona’s share of the new funding is $56 million. But Governor Ducey and the legislature failed to adjust the state budget to allow the state agencies to spend these federal dollars. Do you support using the federal child care dollars as soon as possible to raise the reimbursement rates for child care and preschool education and strengthen early learning options for Arizona children? **Yes**
Q9 In Arizona, over 130,000 children are being raised by grandparents and other relatives when their parents are absent due to illness, abuse, or other crises. These kinship caregivers keep families together, reduce trauma on children, and save taxpayer dollars. More than one-third of the children in foster care -- 5,700 children -- are placed with relatives by the Department of Child Safety. Due to bureaucratic barriers, fewer than one in four get the financial support that should be provided by the state. Many more kinship families who are not involved with DCS struggle to provide stability to children without any formal support – their financial assistance was eliminated through state budget cuts. Would you support knocking down bureaucratic and statutory barriers so that kinship families can get financial support to provide more stability to the children they are raising? Yes