The Affordable Care Act (ACA) has served Arizonans well. It is unfortunate that it has become a limited resource to our residents as a result of Trump. I maintain that it needs to be funded in the same manner as when it was Obamacare, and even strengthened when we elect Joe Biden.

Medicaid is a major source of federal funds in Arizona, with every dollar of state investment drawing down $3.20 in federal funds. The Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) projects a major state budget shortfall in the next state fiscal year (FY2021). Would you support cuts to Medicaid provider rates, member eligibility, or covered benefits in order to make up for state budget shortfalls?

I am a firm believer that it is time for tax reform in Arizona. Government was created to serve the common good. As a result of successive Republican Governors and State Legislatures, so many of our programs for people have been decimated.
The Invest in Education Act is a ballot proposition that restores hundreds of millions of dollars annually in K-12 education funding to solve the teacher-shortage crisis, lower class sizes, hire aides and counselors, and expand career and technical education. It raises the state income tax rate for income above $250,000 for individuals and for income above $500,000 for households. Do you support the Invest in Education ballot proposition to raise new resources dedicated to public schools?

Yes

Comments on Invest in Education

As a retired teacher, counselor and principal I am extremely concerned about the decimation of public schools for the past 40 years. Tax Reform is necessary as over $18 Billion per year are tax giveaways to corporate power. It is past time for these entities to pay their fair share in taxes in order to fully fund public education, social services, healthcare and other initiatives that help our children and families. We must invest in educational initiatives to move our schools into a system where children can thrive and grow.

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 in life, they are less likely to need special education or be held back a grade. They are more likely to graduate high school and go on to college. But many children start kindergarten already behind their peers. Only 21 percent of Arizona preschool-aged children today benefit from quality, early learning in child care and preschool compared to the progress meter goal of 45 percent 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
Research is clear that Early Childhood Education successfully launches children's emotional, physical and academic success. I am appalled that most schools in AZ are not funded for Kindergarten. In my mind, we must fund children in learning settings from age 3 forward. If we examine date, research and best practices from state who adequately fund early education it is clear that children gain tremendously. This is one of my major platforms: we must fund Pre-K - 16 education in Arizona.

In 2018, 13 percent of children in Arizona (204,363) were being raised by their grandparents or other relatives. In many instances, these relatives have stepped up to care for children who were being abused and neglected, keeping them safe and out of the foster care system. Nationally, informal kinship caregivers keep millions of children out of the overburdened child welfare system and save taxpayers more than $4 billion each year. Even prior to the COVID-19 crisis, these families faced barriers to securing adequate food, clothing, shelter, and medical care. Before the Great Recession, kinship caregivers were able to access “child-only” benefits through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program (TANF), also known as cash assistance. These benefits helped these families meet the critical basic needs of the relative children in their care. Do you support restoring access to “child-only” TANF benefits for children who are being raised by kin?

Yes

It is right and humane to do so. Most Arizonans have a difficult time making ends meet. Grandparents who are raising their grandchildren need the support from our state government so their nutritional, emotional, physical, social and learning needs can be addressed.
The events over the last few weeks have brought widespread focus on the systemic racism that is deeply embedded in our society. If elected, would you hold your colleagues and other elected officials accountable to specific criminal justice and police reforms for systemic change.

Yes

Definitely. I have always maintained a sense of fairness. This originates from being raised by very racist grandparents. From the age of 6, I routinely exerted my opinions that the way they treated persons of color was unfair. As I grew older, I called out friends and schoolmates who treated others unfairly. As an educator, I always chose to be in schools where students were marginalized because I knew that is where educators can make the greatest difference. I was awarded Teacher of the Year, Staff Member of the Year: Counselor and Administrator of the Year as a result of this dedication. It has been a lifelong conviction of mine that I must do all I can to provide support for all types of persons.

To receive a record of your responses please provide your email

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